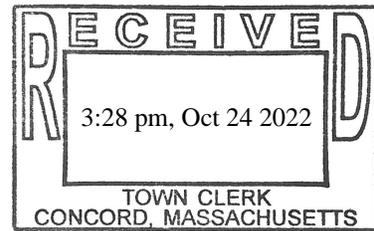


July 7, 2022
Commission on Disability
Minutes



Present: Jean Goldsberry, Chair, Janet Beyer, clerk, Meryl Schwartz, Karen Young, Jennifer Brooke

Guest: Dorrie Kehoe, Linda Escobedo

Dorrie Kehoe spoke as follows about the upgrades and status of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT).

Monday night the selectman will vote on Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Because there has been discussion about bikes and skate boards on the trail the Selectmen will discuss the issue of safety. The Concord Commission on Disabilities wrote a letter concerning that issue.

Last fall the BFRT committee voted to be the body to decide what to do about accessibility on the trail to all people. The bridge over Route 2 is about to open. When it is open it will draw people from Lowell to Sudbury. The BRFT has noticed an increase in bikes.

BFRT made recommendations including an entrance for bikers from Junction Park. However, bikers use the Club Car Café entrance, which has no guards such as fences. Bikers could walk their bikes through the area by the pocket park.

In 2008 Green Thumbs, which maintains the gardens in West Concord Center, was created to beautify West Concord. They had heard about the rail trail and asked the engineers about this and the engineers were not concerned.

The area is used by a variety of people. It is well used space but needs to be safe.

A short-term solution would be a sign over the park that asks people to be considerate of others using the park area. Another solution would be directions around the park.

The area needs to be safe for anyone using it in a wheeled vehicle.

The police say that unless it is written law they cannot enforce sanctions.

Green Thumbs has learned the term Tactical Urbanization: an area used by people on various means of transportation.

One possibility is placing a group of items that people have to go around. It has to be wide enough for a vehicle like a wheelchair, but a bike would have to go slowly.

One possibility is round planters.

Bicyclist Phil Posner is helping do the design.

Green Thumbs doesn't want to wait until there is an accident and hopes the commission will help make it safe. They believe signs don't work.

Jennifer: We have to think of all types of disabilities including hearing loss.

Jean: I am happy to speak to the issue at the Selectmen's meeting.
The bridge opening has been delayed until November.

Meryl: I move that we support the Green Thumbs effort to make Junction Park safe for all people.

All voted in favor.

Membership renewal, Jean: If a person brings something special to the committee they can remain as members. I move that Meryl and Janet serve another term.

It would be good to get someone on the committee who has hearing loss or vision loss.

Karen: Accessible bikes. There is a bike share bike rack near Brookside apartments.

This week i noticed a recumbent bike. There is also one in Concord center.

Linda: I guess there were some grants that had to be spent within a short period of time. The person to contact is Beth Williams at the visitor's center.

Meryl: Transportation committee I brought up the subject of making the Concord center train station accessible. They want information from us.

Meeting adjourned 6:16