

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee  
Thursday July 8, 2020  
Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting called to order 7:05pm

Committee members present: Jim Lyon, Kent Carlson, Carol Steele, Richard Fahlander and John Soden

Also in attendance: Marcia Rasmussen, Terri Ackerman, Nat Welch, Nancy Stone, Stephen Goodman, Philip Posner, Carmen Jaquier, Barbara Pike

Recorder: John Soden

1. Minutes approved as read.
2. Phase 2A, 2B, 2C update:
  1. Phase 2B Update: MassDOT has not scheduled any update meetings. I am assuming that work has begun and will proceed in a timely manner. I will be setting up a Zoom meeting to discuss the interpretive historic marker that needs to be finalized for Phase 2B with former residents of the Commonwealth Ave. neighborhood. Former BFRT Advisory Committee member Suzanne Knight also volunteered to help with any research as needed. I want to use the painting (right) provided by Jim Moran back in 2017, along with various photographs of life in the neighborhood in the 1930's and 40's.
  2. Phase 2A Update: This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
  3. Phase 2C Updates – The installation of doors as part of the ‘Go Out Doors’ exhibition envisioned by artist Nancy Lippe has begun (see below)! The first three doors and the banners were installed on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>; additional doors will be added each week for three weeks (there will be 10 or 11 doors, total) and the doors will remain in place until November 2020. Nancy and I rode the trail in June (checking out the additional locations identified by BFRT Advisory Committee members at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting) and met to discuss the doors and various locations identified on June 26<sup>th</sup>.





During the site walk for Phase 2B, I was able to talk with MassDOT landscape architect Stephanie Smoot about replacement of the dead trees along Phase 2C. She was going to follow up with the contractor about replacing the trees since they are under warrantee, but this may have been delayed due to the pandemic.

Given the unexpected costs of the additional work related to renewing the Notice of Intent/ Order of Conditions and bringing the 100% plans up to final construction plans for the last 1/2 mile of Phase 2C, I have delayed any additional work along Phase 2C until I have the estimate in hand since there are limited funds remaining from the Community Preservation Committee 2018 allocation. Some of the work anticipated included additional plantings, signage, fencing and planters. See Phase 2D second paragraph, below.

4. Phase 2D Sudbury: The 25% design public hearing on Phase 2D of the BFRT has been scheduled by MassDOT for Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be a pre-recorded Design Public Hearing webinar which will be posted to the MassDOT website and will present the proposed Bruce Freeman Rail Trail project in Sudbury and Concord, MA. The web address is: <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>.

I had a follow up discussion in early June with MassDOT project manager for BFRT 2D Eamon Kernan regarding the additional work and information needed for the last 1/2 mile of Phase 2C to be included in the construction of Phase 2D. I was advised that Concord will not only have to renew the Notice of Intent/Order of Conditions, but will also be responsible to complete the plans from 100% design to PS&E level of design. I have requested an estimate from Greenman-

Pedersen, Inc. for this additional effort and am awaiting this information, which is expected to be finalized next week.

### 3. Operations & Maintenance

It was noted that the entrance to the trail at the Powder Mill Rd culvert is becoming a drop off/pick up zone with potential traffic problems.

Barbara Pike noted that the Friends have been receiving complaints about lack of masks by trail users. John noted that the same issue had come up at the Chair's Breakfast in June.

There is an increase in people coming off the trail at White Pond. Trail users are using White Pond as a destination point for day trips. Seeing multiple people with loaded bikes on hot days, riding down to pond and setting up shop for the day illegally.

Barbara Pike shared an email with Jim from Isaac Webb asking if a train car could be located by the trail parking lot near the prison. Barbara shared information where these railroad cars could be purchased and suggested as a possible Eagle Scout project for Grady Snarr.

### 4. Concord Bikes

Philip Posner from Concord Bikes pointed out that coming off the trail at Main Street and heading east there is a bike lane. However that ends abruptly when the road narrows at the bridge requiring cyclists to move into the car lane. This is a definite safety issue and there have been incidents of rude and dangerous behavior from drivers. He asked the committee's support for the Town to put up appropriate signage in both directions on Main Street. While outside the Committee's mandate, we support all actions that improve bicycle safety in the Town, especially around the BFRT.

### 5. Membership

Jim announced that this would be Kent's last meeting as a member of the committee. Several people expressed appreciation and thanks to Kent for his 9 years service on the committee, which included countless meetings, public forums and trail walks all for the greater good of the BFRT. Jim also announced that Richard Fahlander has been appointed to the committee and that Nat Welch and Nancy Stone will be joining the committee in the Fall.

### 6. Member Comments/Committee Liaisons/Correspondence

Jim attended the White Pond Advisory Committee meeting and expressed support for the emerging enforcement issue at the pond. Jim stated that the BFRTAC has long supported the WPAC efforts and feels the town needs to address the illegal use of White Pond with police and ranger enforcement. John attended the monthly Chairs Breakfast.

7. Next committee meeting: the committee decided to cancel the August meeting as it has in prior years. The next scheduled meeting will be September 3, 2020, likely by Zoom.

8. Public comment:

Stephen Goodman asked about the trees being taken down as clearing for Phase 2B has commenced. Marcia responded about the selection of trees to be removed and that preservation of trees is a priority. Stephen also expressed concern about dead trees along Phase 2C of the trail and them being replaced while still under warranty.

Carmen Jaquier from the White Pond Advisory Committee expressed concern about overuse of Sachem Cove. She noted also that rangers have not been hired for the summer yet. There are also many algae blooms this summer including a third variety that has more toxicity than the others. There is a continuing and increasing enforcement issue at the pond.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.