

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2022

Meeting Held via Zoom

- Members Present:
 - Marybeth Barker, Dorcas Miller, Nat Welch, Deborah Adleman, Sam Stearns, Richard Fahlander, Tracy Hansen (Recorder)
- Attendee:
 - Marcia Rasmussen Ara Avakian, Terri Ackerman
- Meeting called to order at 4:04pm
- Meeting Notes from June 14, 2022 approved anonymously by roll call vote
- Marcia Rasmussen provided her update which is posted on the website
 - Cedar fence to be installed along length of state police property
 - Phase 2C recommendations approved and posted to website
 - Cochairs Met with Select Board in July to discuss Junction Park recommendation
 - Meetings to be scheduled with public works to discuss JP
 - Expect bids for 2D phase by the fall
 - Sudbury feasibility study of the extension from the MCRT to Framingham has been approved
 - Community Connections Grant – missing panel on roof has been installed – now complete
 - Concord Prison Cemetery – no update
 - MA Office of Travel and Tourism has grant application with Town of Acton, will likely gain some wayfinding signs as a result
- Nat noted good news on Sudbury and Framingham
- New Leadership – Nat and Richard have been co-chairs since 2020 and committee needs to vote on leadership
 - Richard offered to step down as cochair and be replaced by someone else
 - A Motion was made to appoint Adrienne Boardman to replace Richard as cochair and to reelect Nat as cochair, their terms ending on last day of the month of the town meeting.
 - The motion was seconded, discussed and passed unanimously by roll call vote
 - Deb Adelman noted our gratitude towards Nat and Richard for their leadership
 - Nat enjoyed working with Richard and looks forward to leading with Adrienne
- Deb Adelman reported
 - Safety is about attitudes and behaviors and creating a safe space – comes through awareness and education, takes time, needs to be easy for the public to understand
 - To create a safe space for people to walk and ride, rules should be accessible and easy to understand – rail trail runs through many towns, therefore there could be confusion when coming from one town into another
 - Opportunity for community involvement and engagement
 - Can recommend practical measures as part of safety assessment
 - Use of rail trail is only increasing – more types of vehicles, bigger population

- Next step is to begin a subcommittee to recommend short-medium-long term recommendations around safety and to have the members attend Friends of the BFRT meeting for multiple towns on this topic on Sept 15th at Fowler Library 2-4pm
- Safety Subcommittee
 - A motion was made to form a Safety Subcommittee with Deb Adelman, Dorcas Miller and Marybeth Barker as its members. The motion was seconded.
 - The motion to form the Safety Subcommittee was passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- Safety Subcommittee next steps
 - Subcommittee will need to post agenda, take minutes, hold meetings on zoom or in person
 - answer questions individually
 - Suggested meeting before Sept 15 to prepare for meeting – or after to discuss after have discussed with others from other towns
- E-bikes
 - Usage is wider now, older people, parents with kids, people with changing abilities, people renting a bike
 - Issues – do they know how to ride the bike, will the bike break down, safety issues
 - E-bikes can be discussed when discussing safety and awareness
 - MA did not have clarification around what was an e-bike and what rules are
 - August 1st legislation passed by MA legislature to note 2 classes:
 - Class 1: pedal, if pedaling, can go up to 20 mph
 - Class 2: don't have to pedal, can go up to 20 mph
 - If have an e-bike, must have sticker on bike if in one of these classes
 - Suggested to discuss e-bike under safety subcommittee
 - Nat asked if there was a requirement to make guidelines consistent time to time
 - E-bikes so far not allowed on unpaved trails.
- The request to hold a Storybook Walk on the BFRT was withdrawn by the person who asked that it be on the agenda.
- Terri Ackerman, Select Board Liaison, had no issues from Select Board to raise here
- Marcia Rasmussen reported on an incident on the trail – a person ran into splitter/curb island in the middle of the path, minor accident, transported to Emerson Hospital, believe was due to not seeing the island clearly because of lighting and shadow. This had been an issue, was an issue in Acton, installed flags can drive over to add to the island so people know to avoid it
 - Marybeth Barker asked if flags would be placed at all of the intersections or just the one where it occurred.
 - Deborah Adelman asked how you can't see the curb island – Marcia said this has happened before. Nat added that people do need to pay attention. Confirmed that we are talking about raised curb islands
- Public Comment Period
 - Arra Avakian - 501 Powder Mill Rd - commented appreciated us for being stewards of a beautiful resource, we can see the southern entrance to the Culvert Tunnel from our property – recently wife Susan noted objectionable graffiti addressed to an individual on the tunnel – police looked at it – then asked if town is responsible for taking care of problematic graffiti? When would clean up happen? Marcia responded Concord Public

Works is responsible for maintaining, there was an anti-graffiti coating, and they plan to fix, but they are short staffed.

- Richard Fahlander asked can the committee do something? The longer it sits, the more people will relish the opportunity to do more
- Dorcas Miller asked if something could be done to prevent graffiti, to which Marcia Rasmussen responded that a coating had been applied
- Next meeting Sept 8
- Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm