

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee  
Thursday, September 5, 2019  
Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Meeting called to order 7:00pm

Committee members present: Jim Lyon, Suzanne Knight, Carol Steele, and John Soden

Also in attendance: Barbara Pike, Marcia Rasmussen, Terri Ackerman, Ken Perrin, Judy Perrin, Margot Kimball

Recorder: John Soden

1. Minutes approved as amended.
2. Phase 2A, 2B, 2C update.

Phase 2A Update: This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!

Phase 2B Update: All exhibits required from Concord and Acton were submitted in time and the First Amendment to the Lease Agreement was completed by the end of August, which allowed MassDOT Right-of-Way to certify the project was ready for advertisement!

I found it interesting to note that the target substantial completion date is expected to be November 25, 2021! How exciting!

Phase 2C Updates –final details have been or are being addressed. A letter from the State is expected soon, transferring responsibility for the trail to the Town.

- a) Keolis has completed its work activating the signal arms and installing the fence between the commuter rail tracks in West Concord.
- b) I believe we are still awaiting the installation of the signs on three granite post signs (Flanger, Semaphore and Whistle Post) and three historic interpretive panels.
- c) The informational/directional sign and map that was to be featured in the wood kiosk at Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. was not included in the contract. It is expected that next week Planning Division staff will be revising the information for the informational/directional sign and request a quote from the sign fabricator to prepare this sign for future installation.
- d) Three property owners initially approached Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and me with concerns about the need for additional plantings to screen their properties; however, we have not been able to follow up during the summer due to work load and vacation scheduled. Delia and I hope to work with these three property owners to prepare planting plans and order materials for planting later this fall. Previously approved CPA funds is available to fund this work.
- e) The owner at 38-42 Williams Road has observed some confusion and unsafe behavior by people in vehicles when they approach the intersection of their driveway and the rail trail. Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and I believe installation of additional wood fencing will help define and delineate the rail trail, which we'll work to have installed this fall. Previously approved CPA funds would be used for this work.

- f) The 100 feet of chain link fence along the CMS/Sanborn School site was included in the contract, but is too urban a material for this woods trail and isn't a useful addition when there's actually 500 feet of school frontage along the trail. The Town intends to remove this fence once the trail has been transferred from the State.
- g) Additional private property signs have been requested in several locations. Natural Resources summer crew may have time to make and install these signs. Previously approved CPA funds will be used for this work.
- h) Eagle Scout Nolan Roberts is working to raise funds needed for his proposed project to install a bicycle Fix-It station in West Concord.
- i) I'm still awaiting delivery of the updated Concord-On-Tap signs from proponent Janet Rothrock. She asked if there were an alternative way to mount the signs, since it is difficult to update the map in the current signpost located on Thoreau Street. Once I have the signs, I'll be able to explore posts and mounting systems. Previously approved CPA funds would be used for this work.
- j) If there are funds remaining after the above-noted planting, fencing, posting of Concord On Tap signs and private property signs, we'll look at additional bicycle racks, shelters, and maps. Additionally, yellow 'flag posts' have been installed on the raised islands at street intersections in the Acton portion of the BFRT; Concord may want to do the same. It has also been suggested that a sign be added along the trail from the Powder Mill Road sidewalk alerting people to use caution because of the steep slope.
- k) Ribbon cutting date is scheduled for Friday, September 27th at 2:00 p.m.: MassDOT event coordinator Dan Fielding and Concord Public Information Officer Erin Stevens are in communication about the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. MassDOT officials have been invited and State/Federal Legislators have been invited to participate. The location will be the small BFRT parking area (looking toward the Nashoba Brook).

4. Phase 2D Sudbury: Sudbury resident Len Simon provided the following information in mid-August – After a long delay the field work to acquire the necessary geotechnical data to complete the 25% design on the BFRT in Sudbury has resumed. Crews from Jacobs, the design consultant, and New England Borings, the drilling people, are out at 3 locations on the rail trail getting the necessary samples and data. That work should be done by early September and then processed by Jacobs and sent to DOT for comment. That should permit the scheduling the Design Public Hearing, possibly by the end of this year. In sum, the 25% design is now moving toward completion, though there is still more work to be done. This progress was reported by Len Simon with Tom Michelman at the August 15 MPO meeting in Framingham.

I will be following up with MassDOT Project Manager David Shedd regarding the construction funding for completion of the rail trail between Powder Mill Road in Concord and the Sudbury Town Line (Phase 2D) later this month.

### 3. Operations & Maintenance

Update on Eagle Scout project bike repair station. [pedros.com](http://pedros.com) has offered to supply the tools for the repair station as a donation. Nolan has applied to the Friends for a \$2,000 grant that is on hold pending clarification of the Pedro's donation. At last count the GoFundMe page had raised over \$1,100.

Some trimming has been done by the Town along the trail. Marcia explained that only 2 feet of the trimming was done so that the wild flowers had the opportunity to go to seed for next year. The remaining trimming will be done soon.

There is a request from CTPS to participate in the semi annual audit of trail usage. The committee expressed interest in participating.

#### 4. Phase 2C Trail Map

The latest iteration of the map was shared with the committee. Comments including those received by email from Barbara Pike will be incorporated in the next version.

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

No liaisons or correspondence to report.

#### 6. Next committee meeting: Thursday, October 3, 2019.

#### 7. Public comment:

Margot Kimball from the West Concord Junction Cultural Committee attended a priority setting meeting with the Department of Public Works for over 60 projects to be undertaken over the next 5 years. She requested the committee's support for projects near the BFRT getting a higher priority than currently given. Concerns were of safety in West Concord, especially bridge over Route 2. Curb extensions were suggested for Beharrel Street and possible relocation of some parking. Jim will email DPW stating the Committee's support.

In her Arts capacity, Margot reported that the owner of 30-40 Beharrel St has agreed to have a mural painted on the side of the building. The committee supports it.

Barbara Pike requested a speakers slot at the Ribbon Cutting for the Friends. She also asked for volunteers to help with the cake and ice cream. Jim and Carol volunteered to help. Barbara was able to secure some nice raffle prizes for the ribbon cutting and the Friends had bandanas made as well.

Dean Sullender mentioned several of the recently planted trees appear to be dying. The number may be 4 to 8 trees. Jim to follow up.

Dean also mentioned seeing dogs blocking trail when people stop and talk. We should continue to educate users of the trail whenever possible.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.