

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2020
Site Walk of “Last Half Mile” of Phase 2C

- 1) The attendees to the site walk met around 8:00AM At Stone Root Lane
Committee members present: Richard Fahlander, Nathaniel Welch, and Carol Steele
Also in attendance: Marcia Rasmussen (Director of Planning & Land Mgmt), Delia Kaye (Director, Division of Natural Resources), Tom Laage (White Pond homeowner)
- 2) A site walk of the last half mile of BFRT Phase 2C was conducted with the attendees walking from the Powder Mill Road culvert to the approximate location of the Sudbury town line. A copy of the 75% Plans was available for review.
- 3) During the walk, the locations, types, and length of various proposed fencing was explained, Currently there are 4 types of fencing present in the last ½ mile plans including a short section of chain link fence on top of a high bank, a 42” two rail wooden fence, a 48” three rail wooden fence, and a 6 foot ornamental fence protecting the length of trail that is open to White’s Pond.
 - a. There was brief discussion about the length of the ornamental fence and where it should begin/end.
 - b. The question of two rail vs three rail fences was raised and Marcia will get information on the reasons for one or the other.
- 4) The plans show locations for proposed gate openings in the proposed fences. Any abutter may request a gate opening and many have. The cost to purchase and install the gate is born by the property owners.
 - a. A suggestion was made to remind abutters (including those that have moved in recently) of this option and to come up with a way that the gate purchased by the property owner could be installed by the contractor during construction. Marcia will work on this.
- 5) Two locations were pointed out as areas where erosion on steep banks was a potential issue
 - a. In one location, between the trail right of way and White Pond the armoring of the steep bank was described. One comment was that instead of using rock fill perhaps there are alternative ways to protect the bank from erosion. The location of the armoring is behind the planned ornamental fence as seen from the trail.
 - b. It was also noted that the trail grade would be constructed to ensure that runoff did not flow away from the steep banks adjacent to the pond.
 - c. In another location closer to Powder Mill Road, the committee noted erosion and it was pointed out that abutters appear to be dumping leaves.
- 6) Some of the landscaping options were described including the locations of plantings designed to sit between the paved trail and the ornamental fence.
- 7) Three proposed interpretive signs are indicated in the plan
 - a. It was suggested that perhaps only two are needed: one describing the ecology of the vernal pool located between Powder Mill Road and White Pond and a second describing the geology of glacial kettle ponds.

- b. A committee member inquired as to the need to consider a third interpretive sign that described the indigenous peoples that lived in the lands passed through by the BFRT. So far as is known, there are no such locations near the trail. Nat Welch offered to do some research on this topic and share any findings with the Committee at a later date
- 8) Construction timing and coordination with Sudbury
- a. According to Marcia, the timing of construction of the last ½ mile will depend on Sudbury. Currently only their 25% plans have been submitted and there is a lot of work to be done still. The best guess is that the earliest the trail could be ready is 2023
 - b. Marcia explained that each town is responsible for their own section including having their own construction firm and contracts, and that each Town's engineer will approve their own sections of the trail.
- 9) It was suggested that the Committee hold a meeting at a future date and invite all abutters to attend to review the plans and schedule for the last ½ mile. The timing of such a meeting will be determined at a later date.

