

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
Thursday October 4, 2018
Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Meeting called to order 7:00pm

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

Also in attendance: Bob Armstrong, Barbara Pike, Dean Sullender, Marcia Rasmussen, Carmen Jaquier.

Recorder: John Soden

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

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

Phase 2B Update: GPI submitted plans at the end of June; they have been posted on the BFRT Advisory Committee's website at <http://concordma.gov/980/Bruce-Freeman-Rail-Trail-Committee>. The Phase 2B 75% design is listed on the left side of the page. Many comments from State agencies have been received and a public hearing is likely to be scheduled for late November/early December 2018.

Special Town Meeting approved Article 13 by well over the requisite 2/3 vote, which is related to the grant of easements needed from the State for the construction of Phase 2B. This was additional vote was necessary because of a small portion of Dept. of Corrections land needed for drainage.

Planning Director Roland Bartl and I have a meeting on Thursday, October 11th in Boston with MassDOT Rail and Right-of-Way sections to discuss the easements for Phase 2B.

Phase 2C Updates:

a) MassDOT project engineers were following up with Keolis Commuter Services (under contract to the MBTA) regarding installation of the crossing gates and paving the path over the rails. No update yet available.

b) After several email messages and phone calls from concerned residents and business owners regarding the redesign of the Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. intersection were received by Town staff, a site meeting with the Contractor, MassDOT, Greenman-Pedersen and Town officials was held. After that site visit, all determined that revisions were necessary and the Town was asked to task the Town's design engineer, Greenman-Pedersen (GPI), with preparing revised construction drawings. GPI worked with Concord Public Works Engineering staff to provide the required revisions, which were submitted to MassDOT on October 3rd with a request for an expedited review. At this morning's construction update meeting, Contractor D.W.White

indicated they were preparing their estimate and would lay-out the location of the pedestrian traffic signals for review before relocating them.

Additional items included what to do about the existing traffic signals due to the concerns with drivers unable to see the existing signals on Main Street. The Contractor is working with the subcontractor to get the new signals operational, which will alleviate some of the problem, but the subcontractor is not ready to move. Also, the hydrant near 24 Commonwealth Ave/ Woods Hill Table restaurant, which location is in the middle of the sidewalk to avoid underground utilities of gas and water, needs to be relocated. The Fire Department would prefer not to eliminate this hydrant due to the development in the area, the location near two restaurants and the location of the fire station.

Fence installation and final paving is expected to begin next week, behind MCI Concord and then from Powder Mill Road heading north. The hope is to complete paving by the end of the season, which is typically November 15th. MassDOT has requested a final inspection at the end of the construction season with the punch list generated at that time (including the next item of landscaping). The Town will then be responsible for maintenance of the trail after the winter season.

c) The change order requesting additional landscaping at the Main St./Commonwealth Ave. intersection (both sides of Main Street at the Junction Park extension and area opposite Junction Park plus an area near the Assabet River bridge behind 72 Cottage St.) was submitted on July 25th, but with proposed revisions to the Main Street/Commonwealth Ave. intersection this work has been delayed to the spring 2019.

MassDOT and Town of Concord staff continues to remind residents and visitors that the trail continues to be a construction zone in 2018; neither residents nor visitors should be walking on or using the trail, especially during the week when construction activity is underway.

4. Phase 2D Sudbury: Complaint received from Sudbury staff that heard from a resident that lives just north of Route 117 about cyclist using the dirt path southerly from Powder Mill Road then cutting through their yard and driveway when the vegetation is too thick on the trail. Signage and fencing was intended to discourage such use going south, but there was no intent to completely block access for pedestrians. Concord's help was requested to address this situation.

In addition to the above update, Marcia shared a concept illustration for the recently Town acquired property at Warner Pond.

3. Special Town Meeting Update

Article 13 was passed at the Special Town Meeting.

4. Phase 2B November Public Forum Status

The public forum will likely be held in late November or early December. We will have a better idea by the next meeting.

5. Operations & Maintenance

Safety issues were discussed. There are valid concerns of trail usage on the closed trail. Citizens are using unmarked trail crosswalks in an unsafe manner and traffic signs and lighting are not yet

in place warning drivers. Marcia will contact contractor and see if something temporary could be put in place until the spring. Last day of paving will be around November 15th. Jim mentioned that he might not be able to attend the Effective Government Workshop at the Town Meeting Hall October 20. John will be backup attendee. October 20 is also West Concord Day and it was decided that the committee would participate by disseminating information about the rail trail to the public. Changes will be made to previous handouts that will reflect current status of the trail. Kent will lead with assistance from Carol.

6. Phase 2B 75% Design Plan Review

The BFRTAC has reviewed the Phase 2B 75% Design Plans and made their comments. Jim will package these comments including June LaRocca's from the 25% design and send to Marcia.

7. Member Comments/Committee Liaisons/Correspondence - No committee reports. There was committee correspondence in support of the CPA funding and Article 13 at the Special Town Meeting.

8. Next committee meeting: November 1.

9. Public comment:

Dean Sullender mentioned 3 concerns: Speed of vehicles where the rail trail crosses Old Marlboro Road; the tight turn at the 99 Restaurant and the challenge of accessing the Phase 2B bridge with the soccer fields.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.