

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee Meeting - Nov 7, 2019

Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Clock Tower Room

Attendees: Jim Lyon, Suzanne Knight, Carol Steele, John Soden

Members from the public: Buddy Bates, Candice Bates, Barbara Pike

Recorder: Carol Steele

Call to order: 7:01

Review Minutes from September 5, 2019. Minutes approved as amended.

_____Marcia Rasmussen's Update_____

1. **Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
2. **Phase 2B Update:** I learned that MassDOT's advertised projects list included BFRT Acton-Concord with bids due on January 14, 2020! I found it interesting to note that the target substantial completion date is expected to be November 25, 2021.

This Saturday, November 9th at 11:15-ish, I will be leading Senators Michael Barrett and Jamie Eldridge on a tour of Phase 2B. We'll meet at the small Commonwealth Ave. parking lot opposite MCI-Concord and walk to Route 2. If time allows and there is interest and I am able to coordinate with State Police, we can return to the parking lot and drive to the Mounted Police Horse Barn off Wetherbee Street. Members of the Advisory Committee are welcome to join us.

3. **Phase 2C Updates** - An AWESOME celebration to open Phase 2C was held on Friday, September 27th. Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen!
 - a) Planning Division staff is busy preparing the artwork for the final interpretive panel to be installed at the intersection of Main Street and Commonwealth Ave. I previously reported that this had not been included in the contract, but I was wrong. Once the artwork is finalized, it will take the fabricator approximately 20-days to prepare and return to the contractor, who will then be responsible for fastening it to the Kiosk.
 - b) Delia and I hope to work with the three property owners over the winter to prepare planting plans and order materials for planting in the spring. Previously approved CPA funds are available for this work.
 - c) 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 in the spring. Previously approved CPA funds would be used for this work.
 - d) 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. We will be coordinating with the Town's Facilities crew or CPW crew to remove this fence.

- e) Additional private property signs have been requested in several locations. Previously approved CPA funds will be used for this work.
- f) Eagle Scout Nolan Roberts is working to raise funds needed for his proposed project to install a bicycle Fix-It station in West Concord. He has installed the foundation for the fix-it station.
- g) I received the updated Concord-On-Tap signs from proponent Janet Rothrock. I will be researching posts and mounting systems over the winter for installation in the spring. Previously approved CPA funds would be used for this work.
- h) 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.
- i) I've heard from Concord residents that there needs to be additional pavement between the existing trail and the Crosswalk button, otherwise people are stepping on plain dirt or mud when it's wet and there is run-off onto the sidewalk. I hope to purchase a stone slab and work with CPW or Facilities crews to install this fall.

4. Phase 2D Sudbury: I haven't had a chance to follow up with Beth Suedmeyer in Sudbury. I hope to have an update for tomorrow night

Issues discussed by Committee Members

- a. Buddy Bates asked the committee how the \$500 donation from Sandy Wieland's estate should be used. The Friends currently are holding the money. The committee agreed that bike racks and a plaque would be a good use of the money and are very appreciative of the donation.
- b. The committee discussed the problem of trail maintenance, especially the fallen trees. The town is responsible for keeping the trail cleaned. People should call the Concord Public Works Department if they see areas that need attention. Contact information is on the Web site and on the BFRT map.
- c. The issue of people not following rail trail rules came up again. Members continue to report on walkers with dogs off-leash, bikers passing without alerting those in front of them, and walkers parking in the Gun Club parking area.
- d. The Fixit Station is now done.
- e. Marcia ended the meeting with a proposal for an art installation called "Go Out Doors" near the Assabet Bridge. The artists, Nancy Lippe and Margo Kimball, were working with Emerson Umbrella and the Select Board to get funding for the outdoor

show. Their idea was to have a series of doors on which artists would anchor their sculptures. The BFRT committee voted unanimously to support the outdoor sculpture project and Jim will follow up with a letter of support.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05

Next Committee Meeting: Jan 9, 2020 at Harvey Wheeler Community Center at 7 pm