

## **Contacts in other towns**

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### *Westford*

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### *Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)*

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## **Draft Document on the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway Website**

*From Terry Gleason, Bedford Bike Comm*

Here's a link to a useful document. The 3 MM towns received a DCR grant to look at the MM and produce a report of existing conditions/issues/problems after 25 years, and a list of recommendations addressing those items. The goal is for all 3 towns to collaborate over time and implement the desired updates in a consistent manner.

It's still a draft but we posted it on the public MM website, so feel free to share it w/ others w/ the note that is still being reviewed. At this pt all three town bike comm's have endorsed the document as a whole but will be meeting to discuss details.

Toole Draft Report on MM:

[http://minutemanbikeway.org/Media/NavigatingtheMinutemanCommuterBikeway\\_Toole-DRAFT.pdf](http://minutemanbikeway.org/Media/NavigatingtheMinutemanCommuterBikeway_Toole-DRAFT.pdf)

Feel free to contact any of us w/ specific questions. The 3 MM bike comm's are planning a joint meeting in June; Let me know if someone from Concord and/or Bruce Freeman would like to attend and share bike path concerns and solutions.

## **Paving Maintenance**

*From Terry Gleason, Bedford Bike Comm*

Bedford will be repaving its 1 mile this summer after 20+ years. We hope to minimize impact to users and provide well-marked detour routes when needed.

Tree root shields are often discussed as a way to prevent destructive intrusion and pavement cracking; Bedford DPW decided to foregone the shields when we repave since there is no real evidence it works. I agree w/ that.

*From Adrienne St. John, Bedford, Public Works Engineer*

For Bedford's 1 mile section of the Minuteman Bikeway, we have budgeted \$125,000. This will be used to mill off 2" of old pavement and repave with new asphalt. It also includes funds for root removal and striping. This is the first time we've repaved our section, which is about 25 years old.

## **Design Features**

*From Terry Gleason, Bedford Bike Comm*

I know that BFRT decided NOT to include snow plowing in its initial implementation. I would strongly encourage you to design your path so that snowplowing could be done in the future. The trail must permit emergency vehicle access and somehow inhibit motorists from thinking the trail is a road, so the challenge is to find a center post/island that does both. The MM towns

are replacing all the gates and side bollards with a center something that can be fully removed in the winter to allow the plow truck.

## **Dog Poop**

*From Terry Gleason, Bedford Bike Comm*

Our MM towns have diff policies on dog poop - Arl has bag dispenser and barrels; Lex reported poop is a winter problem Bedford DPW says - bring your own bags, pickup and take home to dispose, but it's not working. dog walkers see other poop and figure what's the pt in picking up after their own dog.

## **Maintenance Budgets**

*From Terry Gleason, Bedford Bike Comm*

Bedford - no line items for our (3) rail trails; as you say, a job jar as needed but they normally do 2x's a year mowing/trimming, and are good at responding to user reports eg tree limb down

*From Pat Savage, Westford, Director, Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery Dept*

We have Trail Stewards (volunteers) who walk/bike the path and pick up trash etc on a regular basis and let us know of any issues that need to be addressed, such as a hanging or fallen limb. My Parks crew will do a clean up after the winter to remove debris and in the fall to remove leaves and pine needles. In the summer when time allows we have gone in with the brush mower (Highway) and weed wack along the trail to cut back on encroaching vegetation. There is no separate budget at this time as there has been really no additional material cost just labor.

Westford's portion of the trail is not very long and without the help of the volunteers and users to police themselves it would require much more time for the Parks Crew.

*From Tom Gazda, Chelmsford BPAC*

BPAC did ask for more frequent sweeping (at least once in the spring and twice in the autumn) and mowing at least twice (around June 15 --prior to 4th of July particularly due to Town activities in the Center) and again around August 15th. Actual dates of that work being done are subject to things like weather, other priorities, emergency issues, and manpower/equipment availability.

Items like emergency fallen tree removal are considered a safety issue and will and do get fast response). Other items such as railing repairs are done on a time and manpower availability basis.

All of these tasks are performed under the existing town-wide DPW maintenance budget so do not expect to hear any sort of specific budget/expenditure amounts for these activities as they pertain to the trail.

While BPAC formally requested that the Town Manager create a budget line item in the DPW budget specifically related to the Trail, that has not yet occurred. We also want the Town Engineer and DPW Superintendent to do an assessment of the trail condition to help in establishing such a budget line item but again, it is a time and manpower issue. I am quite sure that BPAC will continue to push this matter.

### **Friends Organizations and Trail Stewards**

*From Terry Gleason, Bedford Bike Comm*

Lexington - uses their Friends group to organize annual trash pickup and brush trimming

*From Pat Savage, Westford, Director, Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery Dept*

I have copied Chris Barrett and Emily Teller as they are Westford's representatives to the Friends of Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. They would know more about the volunteers who take care of the trail and how that was set up. The Friends group has been most helpful in creating a great trail for all the communities and keeping everyone up to date on the progress with Mass DOT for the next phases of the trail. We are currently working on a project to install benches and informational kiosk just waiting to get the go ahead from Mass DOT

## **Ashuwillticook Rail Trail**

*From the DCR Website*

10'-wide trail that is 11.2 miles long

2 restrooms

5 parking lots

*From Kent Carlson*

the crew has regular lawn mowers, rakes, barrels, and a Kubota ATV to travel with.

The also have a high velocity air blower used to remove debris from the trail.

This is used 2-3 times a week during the spring and summer. In the fall, they have found this needs to be done on a daily basis to remove leaves as well.

*From Craigslist*

Kubota's range from \$4000 - \$16500, depending on model, newer/used, attachments

*From Rebecca Barnes, DCR*

Please find attached a list of routine maintenance activities for the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.

This will give you an idea what we do during the recreation season to maintain the trail. I have a staff of two (1) Rec Fac Supervisor and (1) Laborer that begin mid-April and end mid October. With two staff working 40 hrs per week, we can just keep up with maintaining the trail. Keeping the sides of the trail mowed (11 miles) and the surface free of debris and rocks consumes much of their time.

### **Routine Maintenance List**

Daily Duties:

- Open and clean restrooms by 8:30am. Keep restrooms cleaned, wash toilets, empty trash, sweep floor, stock with toilet paper and hand sanitizer as necessary – on weekends check at noon and again before leaving at 4pm. Sign restroom cleaning log.
- Pick up all trash – in parking areas, along trail, at picnic areas
- Clean cobwebs, wasp nests ... from outside entrance of restrooms.
- Keep rail trail, gates and road intersections free from debris, rocks sticks etc.
- Remove geese and dog droppings from trail as necessary.
- Keep brochures in kiosks stocked and info on kiosks current.
- Remove any non-DCR info from kiosks. Flyers for rail trail events can be posted on kiosks.
- Patrol and monitor trail.

Weekly Duties:

- Add wood shavings to Clivus toilets once per week.
- Wash floors and walls in restrooms once per week or as needed.

- Blow the trail – at least once per week during the spring and summer, and as needed in fall.
- Mow and trim sides of trail, gates at road intersections, along brown fencing, parking areas, picnic sites and benches as needed.
- Sweep trail after mowing.

Ongoing Projects or as needed:

- Trim vegetation / trees from growing into trail.
- Keep mowed shoulder of trail free from sticks and trees.
- Keep culverts and beaver deceiver structures free from debris and sticks.
- Dig and break tree roots along the sides of trail that are causing the pavement to crack.
- Paint cracks greater than one inch with fluorescent orange.
- Remove or paint over graffiti on trail, over passes and other structures.
- Maintain signage and fencing along trail and re-stain as needed
- Sweep parking areas.
- Trim vegetation from brick under guard rails at Russell field.
- Weed, mulch and water flower beds / landscaping as needed.
- Repaint mile markers on trail.
- Oil all locks on gates.
- Maintain gates – repaint and apply reflective tape as needed.
- Maintain drainage and culverts along trail. Remove leaves fallen leaves and debris.
- Maintain / clean trail benches, tables and wayside panels.