



TOWN OF CONCORD

Department of Planning and Land Management

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MEMORANDUM

To: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Re: **Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C, the last ½ mile of 2C, and 2D, plus**
Date: June 14, 2022

- 1. Phase 2A Update:** This phase of the trail has been completed and is open for all to enjoy!
- 2. Phase 2B Update:** At the June 8th project update meeting, Town staff learned that the request to extend the completion date to November 30, 2022, to accommodate the extended planting season, has been approved and that the bridge will not be open to the public until the project is completed. The staining has been completed but there has been some delay in application of anti-graffiti material due to supply issues, which are expected to be resolved shortly. Town staff and MDOT staff will walk the trail with the Contractor next week to review final tree trimming needed before the final asphalt course is installed in July.
- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** A draft Junction Park Conceptual Redesign Recommendations was distributed to BFRTAC members last Friday and will be discussed at the meeting on June 14th.

The Willard Service Day project involving 19 5th graders and five adults from Willard School as held on June 2nd. Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and Director Marcia Rasmussen introduced the students to the various invasive plants to be removed (Japanese Knotweed, Black Swallow-wort, Artemesia, Bittersweet and Buckthorn) and divided the group into several teams. To say the students' efforts and energy were phenomenal is an understatement!



Following the removal efforts and planting bed prep, another group of volunteers worked with Town staff on Friday, June 10th to plant 50 native columbine, 50 white coneflower and 50 aromatic asters on the slopes and along the edges of the woodland areas adjacent to the serpentine trail from Powder Mill Road to the BFRT. Funds from prior year Community Preservation grants were used to pay for the plant materials.



- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C:** The revised plans for the 100% design dated April 2022 have been posted on the BFRTAC web page here <https://concordma.gov/2844/Phase-2CD-Plans-and-Information>.

On Friday, May 16th, Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and I met via Zoom with representatives from the Old Pickard Farm Trust 2 to discuss the proposed path and break in the

wood rail fencing that would allow continued access to the OPFT2 land as well as a proposed connection over the State land to the Town of Concord land to the south. We discussed the possibility for future signs provided by the Town to inform trail users of the private land.

Additionally, the contract with design consultant GPI was further amended to increase the budget by \$5,000 for final coordination of contract documents and to respond to any additional questions from the Sudbury consultant team or MassDOT. A contract extension is also being considered by MDOT. Matt Kearney also observed that the proposed Mile Markers and two Interpretive signs appear to be included in the contract as participating items as of May 11th.

5. **Phase 2D Sudbury** – No additional information is available on Phase 2D – we assume all is moving forward with the project being advertised later this summer.

6. **Community Connections Grant follow up:** The work to install the bike shelters and racks was completed by Concord Public Works crews as promised. Thank you, CPW! There's one roof panel missing. The manufacturer was informed of this and will be sending one to the Town to complete the installation.



7. **Concord Prison Cemetery:** No additional information was available for this month's update.

8. **MOTT wayfinding grant awarded to the Town of Acton:** The Town of Acton is soliciting quotes for fabrication and installation of wayfinding signage along the BFRT in Acton and Concord. Quotes are expected to be submitted by Wednesday, June 15th. I've requested that the various signs be priced for individual purchase in the event the BFRTAC wants to use one of the sign elements in Junction Park.