



# Town of Sudbury

## Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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### MINUTES

October 18, 2023 AT 7:30 PM

### VIRTUAL MEETING

**Members Present:** Glenn Pransky, John Drobinski, Kenneth Holtz, Lana Szwarc, John Sugrue, Frank Vitale, and Laurie Eliason

**Others Present:** Marcia Rasmussen, Planning & Community Development Department, Janie Dretler, Select Board Member

**Absent:** None

Community members are advised to stay off the trails until construction is completed. There are concerns especially about children trying to cross incomplete bridges. A report of users on bikes trying to cross Hudson Road. Mr. Holtz suggested that we look at comments about access and correct any misinformation on social media. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Friends have posted that the phase 2D section is closed to the public until construction is complete, and discourage usage. This will be discussed at the construction meeting on November 2, 2023.

There was a report several weeks ago about an assault in Weston on the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail (MCRT); after investigation, the Weston police determined that this was a false report.

There will be a trail walk at 4:30PM on October 30, 2023 with a backup date of November 2, 2023 at the same time, starting at the Diamond. More information to follow.

Fuss and O'Neill provided an update – initial paving is completed in many locations, and the Hop Brook bridge decking is partially installed. The full report will be posted. The Pantry Brook crossing is not yet installed. We requested signage indicating that the trail is closed. Abutters are concerned about unauthorized usage. The next construction update meeting with AA Will is November 2, 2023, and we may get more of a timeline from the contractor then. At Codjer Lane, there are berms in the current plan that separate the trail from the Cavicchio Farms plant staging area.

Ms. Rasmussen provided an overview of her report. There have been productive conversations with TI Sales, and she hopes to meet with them and adjoining property owners to figure this out. There is a plan for installing hydration stations in the spring. Phase 3 – hydraulic analysis is needed because this portion of the trail is within the 100-year floodplain of the Sudbury River. MCRT – communicating with Gerald Auter Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) about possible hydration station at the Diamond. Ms. Rasmussen submitted 2 CPC grant

applications on behalf of the town – one grant application for \$250,000 for completion of the phase 3 design, and another grant application for improvement of the driveway access to Parkinson Field. This might become important if the TI Sales driveway access is closed to public access. Some improvement of the signage there is also necessary.

Concord and Acton are submitting a joint application for a bike share grant, and asked if Sudbury wants to join in. This program places up to 10 bikes in different locations, there's maintenance provided on a regular basis and as needed. These bikes seem to be used frequently in Concord and Acton. This program may have no requirement for a local funding match, at least for the first 2 – 3 years of the program (3-year grant, we might not be ready until 2025, not 2024). The best locations might be the Diamond and the Morse Road parking area. Concord has had a bike share for 2 years, finally installed last year – 2 handicap- accessible bikes were added as well (there were problems with vandalism). Used to travel to historic sites in Concord and other locations. Lots of use in Acton as well. Both towns have data on usage that we can review. Our consensus was that we should investigate this further. In Concord, funding for bike share was 50% from the Rotary and 50% from an enterprise fund. Ms. Dretler Select Board member mentioned that the cost of Blue Bike share might be high (once the grant ends), and suggested that we engage the Andy Sheehan Town Manager before pursuing this.

Chiswick Park is concerned that trail users might impact their parking area, which is quite busy on the weekends.

**Town Forum** – we didn't receive much feedback from residents. We'll conduct a field visit, provide input to Fuss & O'Neill for a preliminary 25% design, then have a public meeting. Of course, public comments at our meetings are always welcome, and there will be opportunities to discuss the preliminary recommendations for the 25% design.

Ms. Rasmussen suggests assigning a subcommittee who will examine the costs, design, and placement of memorial benches, and a mechanism for receiving funds. There is a prior Sudbury memorial bench program that needs to be updated.

**Citizen comments:** Suggest having bike share platforms not just adjacent to the trail.

**Next RTAC meetings at 7:30PM:**

- November 1, 2023
- November 15, 2023
- December 6, 2023
- December 20, 2023

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM**