



# Town of Sudbury

Planning & Community Development Department

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## MEMO

To: Rail Trail Advisory Committee  
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Rail Trails Project Coordinator  
Re: **Update on Sudbury Rail Trail Projects**  
Date: January 31, 2024

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-2D Construction**

- Fuss & O'Neill expects to conduct the next field inspection in the first week of February. Once the Field Inspection Report #14 is submitted to this office, it will be sent to RTAC members and posted on the webpage.
- In December the Sudbury Conservation Commission approved with conditions, the design for replacing an 8-inch pipe under the former rail bed, including headwalls, to address the rising water in the pond at Fairview Farm. MassDOT intends to meet with the contractor to discuss the pipe replacement but this meeting has not yet been scheduled.
- After the unprecedented frequent and heavy rains in early January which caused saturated ground conditions throughout the region, a number of flooding issues/concerns from rail trail abutters were submitted to the Planning Office in the areas of Hudson Road, Morse Road and Haynes Road. A response, coordinated with the Town Engineer, MassDOT, and Fuss & O'Neill, was sent to each person. These areas will be monitored by MassDOT staff on site and possible actions may be recommended by Fuss & O'Neill to address the situations as needed.
- Content for the Historic Interpretive panels and signs was discussed at two meetings held this month with Historical Commission member Jan Costa and resident railroad enthusiast, Steven Greene, along with Richard Conard from Wayland, Conservation Coordinator Lori Capone, and RTAC Chair John Drobinski. Agreement was reached on the information to be presented on the four National Park-style panels located near Hop Brook (the importance of Hop Brook on economic development and Cavicchio Nursery), TI-Sales (the Railroad impacts on Sudbury Center), Broadacres Farm/Morse Rd. (farming in Sudbury) and Pantry Brook/North Sudbury (the brook, the first school, cattle crossings and borrow pits). Individuals will be preparing initial information for further discussion in February.

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design plus**

- The Fuss & O'Neill contract amendment #1 to continue the 25% design of BFRT Phase 3 was finalized on January 12, 2024.
- The second status report for the 2023 MassTrails Grant was submitted on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- An application for the 2024 MassTrails Grant is expected to be submitted by the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline requesting up to \$500,000 in additional funds to support the final design of Phase 3

through Plan, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E). If this grant is awarded to the Town, then an equivalent amount could be returned to the Community Preservation Fund for future allocations.

- Fuss & O'Neill anticipates submitting the preliminary 25% design plans by February 5<sup>th</sup> to MassDOT for review and comment. Once these plans have been submitted to MassDOT, they will be posted to the RTAC web-page.
- Hearing that the Town of Sudbury will have 25% design plans completed by June 2024, MPO/CTPS (Metropolitan Planning Organization/Central Transportation Planning Staff) reached out to the Sudbury Planning & Community Development Office to discuss providing additional information for consideration of construction funding and scheduling in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by the MPO. With assistance from Fuss & O'Neill, that information is anticipated to be submitted by early February.
- At the January 10<sup>th</sup> RTAC meeting, the committee agreed to hold a public outreach/information meeting on the Phase 3 25% design in April (prior to Annual Town Meeting). The Committee may want to select a date and begin to publicize the event.

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Framingham**

- Closing documents for the City of Framingham to acquire the rail road right of way from the Georgetown Highline and Railway Company have been finalized.
- I've connected with Framingham's Planning & Community Development Director Sarkis Sarkisian to request permission from the City of Framingham for access to design and construct the extension of the BFRT Phase 3 over 200-ft. of the former CSX corridor now owned by Framingham. Sudbury Town Counsel will be preparing a draft Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement for consideration by Framingham.

### **Mass Central Rail Trail**

- I haven't yet followed up with Gerald Autler at DCR regarding the potential to install a hydration station near the Diamond intersection with the BFRT and the request to consider four additional bench locations along the MCRT.

### **Miscellaneous items related to Rail Trails**

- The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) considered additional information on the Parkinson Field Driveway Improvement project at its January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and amended the request to \$100,000 for consulting/design work.
- Sudbury resident, Elizabeth Boyajian has submitted a proposal about adding perennial plantings along the rail trail in certain locations. Her proposal will be sent with this update memo.

### **Working with the Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)**

- The Maintenance Survey questionnaire was sent to the seven communities hosting rail trails (Acton, Chelmsford, Concord, Maynard, Natick, Wayland, and Weston) on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The survey was sent to Town Planners/Planning Directors and to DPW Directors in these towns. Three responses were received from Acton, Natick and Weston by the requested date of January 24<sup>th</sup>. A follow-up email was sent to the remaining communities on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The next regular meeting of the RTAC will be on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Updates Sudbury Rail Trails

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