



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 9, 2024

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-2D Construction

- Fuss & O'Neill submitted Field Inspection Report #13 dated December 22, 2023, which will be sent with this update memo.
- The Sudbury Conservation Commission approved, with conditions, the design for replacing the 8-inch pipe under the former rail bed, including headwalls, to address the rising water in the pond at Fairview Farm. AA Will has indicated that they cannot proceed without the plan being approved by MassDOT. A follow-up inquiry was sent to MassDOT on December 20th but there has been no response on what additional information may be needed or when this may be reviewed and approved by MassDOT.
- There has been no response from Mr. Tighe after sending him the latest plan from Fuss & O'Neill illustrating the turning movement for the largest design vehicle per Federal Highway standards.
- The next (virtual) update meeting with MassDOT, the Contractor (AA Will), Town Consulting Engineer (Fuss & O'Neill), and the Town was not held in December; Fuss & O'Neill will be scheduling a construction meeting later in January.
- Following up on the content for the Interpretive panels and signs with the Historical Commission member Jan Costa and resident railroad enthusiast, Steven Greene, along with Richard Conard from Wayland, we'll meet on Tuesday, January 9th to coordinate and compile information for the rail trail interpretive panels and markers. Conservation Coordinator Lori Capone is also expected to meet with us.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design

- Fuss & O'Neill Project Manager Nick Lapointe has submitted the proposal for the 25% design. I will be reviewing and working with other town staff to finalize the contract this week.
- Fuss & O'Neill submitted a preliminary schedule for the next phase of design for the BFRT Phase 3 through Plans, Specifications & Estimates, with a projected completion for design by 2027. This schedule is being reviewed by MassDOT and may be revised depending on the TIP schedule.

- Details for fabrication of the wayfinding signage observed along the BFRT in Acton were received and forwarded to Fuss & O’Neill for possible inclusion in the 25% design submittal.
- Fuss & O’Neill will be sending the latest preliminary 25% design plans next week for the RTAC to view; however, Project Manager Nick Lapointe is not available to attend the meeting. Once the plans have been submitted to MassDOT in February, they will be posted to the RTAC web-page.

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.

Mass Central Rail Trail

- I plan to follow up later in January 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, per his request.

Miscellaneous items related to Rail Trails

- The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) amended the application for the BFRT Phase 3 design to change the requested amount to \$600,000 after receiving additional information on the status of funds currently available (from Community Preservation funds and MassTrails grant) and confirmation from Fuss & O’Neill about the amount needed. The CPC tabled its discussion on the Parkinson Field Driveway Improvement project to the next meeting on January 17th to consider additional information from me regarding the requested \$100,000 for consulting work.
- Public update information provided by Fuss & O’Neill and myself will be prepared later in January and will be posted by the end of the month.
- A Sudbury resident has inquired about adding perennial plantings along the rail trail in certain locations. A meeting is scheduled for January 10th to explore this idea for planting perennials – which perennials, where are such plantings recommended, who will install the plantings, who might pay for the plantings, and how they would be maintained.

Working with the Rail Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC)

- I have been working on an outreach piece for Sudbury Chamber of Commerce and other businesses to provide an update on the BFRT Phase 3 and request that they share their thoughts and ideas for the next phase of design for the Rail Trail.
- The Maintenance Survey questions were sent to the seven communities previously identified (Acton, Chelmsford, Concord, Maynard, Natick, Wayland, and Weston) on January 2nd. The survey was sent to Town Planners/Planning Directors and to DPW Directors in these towns. Two responses have already been received.
- The next regular meeting of the RTAC will be on Wednesday, February 7th.