



# Town of Sudbury

## Rail Trails Advisory Committee

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<https://sudbury.ma.us/bfrr/>

### MINUTES

June 5, 2024 AT 7:30 PM

### VIRTUAL MEETING

**Members Present:** John Drobinski, Glenn Pransky, Laurie Eliason, Lana Szwarc, and Ken Holtz

**Others Present:** Marcia Rasmussen, Planning & Community Development Department

**Absent:** John Sugrue

Chair John Drobinski called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.  
Glenn Pransky volunteered to take minutes of the meeting.

#### **Update from Chair**

Mr. Drobinski gave a brief update on the following:

- A reminder that the rail trail is indeed closed due to the ongoing construction, and asked that residents avoid trail use. There continue to be significant safety concerns about people crossing roads while the rail trail is not yet open with the contractor and the Town taking steps to discourage trail use while its under construction.
- There are two openings for new members on the Committee. Interested residents should submit an application through the Select Board (<https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboardsoffice/application-for-appointment-to-a-town-board-or-committee/>).

#### **Review of Written Update from Fuss & O'Neill:**

The Committee discussed the May (#17) Fuss & O'Neill Field Inspection report.

- The Diamond intersection now has pervious pavers for the rest area; a wetland replication area is being prepared near Hudson Rd; tree installation and other landscaping is starting to take place. The retaining wall on the west side of the trail, north of Morse Rd, is completed, and is very attractive. The nearby parking lot / pavilion area is cleared and prepared, with work progressing rapidly. An overlook and info plaque will be located at the Hop Brook crossing. A wetland replication areas S of Morse Rd is nearly complete, as is the bridge over Pantry Brook. The full report should be posted on Town website by 6/12.
- Flooding at Morse Road observed in May could be due to construction debris clogging the pipe under the road. Once this is evaluated, the contractor will propose a solution, if needed.

- A pathway from the northwest corner of the Featherland field area to the rail trail seems to be popular, but is not well developed. Several other paths along the BFRT also get a lot of use, and may be options for further development in the future.
- Phase 3 – Fuss & O’Neill is on track to submit the 25% design to MDOT on June 18. Test pits were dug and samples taken at the site of the proposed parking lot off Nobscot Road to confirm water table levels and soil composition. Fuss & O’Neill also met with the Sudbury Water District to review concerns regarding the rail trail near public water supply well #7. A planned rest area will shift 300-ft. south of the current well location; and public access via the existing driveway from Nobscot Road will be discouraged. There will also be a slight elevation in the trail profile near the well-site to reduce possible runoff directed toward the wellhead; and, soil testing will be conducted during construction to evaluate any potential contamination.

### **Member Updates and Observations**

- Glenn Pransky noted that the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) in Sudbury is also progressing well-ahead of schedule. At the Route 20 crossing near Mill Village, there will be a HAWK signal array with a full stop for cars when pedestrians/cyclists cross. There is no plan to provide more direct access from the trail to Mill Village; the Route 20 sidewalk crossing Hop Brook is on the north side of the street, and the only safe way to enter Mill Village on foot from the trail is by walking 250ft east to the stoplight at Concord Road. At Union Ave., there will be a push button activated flashing yellow rectangle signal to warn drivers at the MCRT crossing; some RTAC members are concerned that this may be insufficient for this busy road with cars travelling at higher speeds from the north.
- Committee members discussed the need for increasing the number of parking spaces at Morse Road/Broadacres Farm, but this was not approved by MassDOT for Phase 2D. Something for future consideration.
- Laurie Eliason noted that Parks and Recreation will need to consider accessing the Broadacres fields from the BFRT as part of the Field Assessment study and developing an approach to incorporate management of the BFRT into the overall plan for Sudbury outdoor recreation.
- John Drobinski observed that Town Meeting approved the potential acquisition by the Town of the two buildings located on the Mass Central Rail Trail (South Sudbury Train Station (a.k.a. Crumble Station) and the Section Tool House) for general municipal purposes.

### **Staff Update**

Ms. Rasmussen provided the Committee with an update on several items.

- The RFQ for a graphic designer to help with final design on interpretive plaques is being finalized.
- Additional fencing requested to prevent trespassing on private property at Fairview Farm, was denied by MDOT. The conversation with the owners about how best to keep people from trespassing over private land continues.

- The new traffic signal pole at the Hudson Road/Peakham Road intersection was hit by a truck entering Ti-SALES, so protective bollard has been proposed for installation and the Ti-SALES driveway will be widened in the near future.
- The Cavicchio driveway (Codjer Lane extension) will be signed as private way with no trail access so people will be discouraged from using it for trail access.
- The Boston MPO will meet on June 6 for a final vote on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for FFY2025-2029, with Phase 3 of the BFRT included for funding in FFY2029 (funding half of the construction in FFY29).
- A final report for the Mass Trails grant will be prepared at the end of June to receive reimbursement of funds granted for the 25% design expenses.
- There has been no further info from Framingham about the inter-municipal agreement that was sent to them for review to enable construction access for Phase 3.
- With approval of the Parkinson Field driveway study by Town Meeting, work by the engineering contractor can begin on developing data needed to present options to the Town for improved vehicle access.
- Several groups of students from the middle and high schools interested in trash removal and bike rentals on the rail trail have submitted questions, to which staff has responded.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

No minutes were available for review and approval.

Next RTAC meetings via Zoom at 7:30PM:

- July 17, 2024
- August 14, 2024

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 PM**