

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee

June 9, 2016, 7PM

Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Clock Tower Conference Room

Meeting minutes from June 9, 2016

Attendees: Kent Carlson, Judy Perrin, Jim Lyon

Absent: Mark Hanson, Gretchen Roorbach

In attendance: Members from the public: Marcia Rasmussen, Len Simon, Barbara Pike

Recorder: Judy Perrin

Call to order: 7:04pm

1. Review Minutes

May 5, 2016 – Deferred.

1. Phase 2A: The Town of Acton has posted a blog about construction activity along Phase 2A at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/Blog.aspx?CID=10>. The last/latest post is dated April 27, 2016 by the Planning Department. Rte. 2A Bridge Drill Shaft Piers: Construction of the two drilled shaft piers for the pedestrian bridge over Rte. 2A were completed last week.

Upcoming Work for May: Sand blasting and painting the six existing bridges; Possibly construction of the MSE walls at the Rte.2A crossing

2. Phase 2B: No date has yet been set for the 25% Design public hearing on Phase 2B.

MassDOT Highway Division District 4 Utilities and Constructability Engineering (DUCE) Section is reviewing the subject line project and held a utility coordination meeting on Wednesday, May 25th.

After signing the letter requesting allocation of design funds for Phase 2B from past Transportation bond bills, Town of Acton staff sent it to MassDOT Executive Director of Transportation Planning David Mohler. There has been no response, possibly due to departure of MPO staff person Sean Pfalzer.

3. Phase 2C Updates:

- a. **Right-of-way (ROW) Process** – The list of easements required over private property is compiled in the attached list; there are now three permanent easements and 18 temporary easements. Jon Avery of Avery Associates completed site visits to all but one of the properties that required appraisals and is currently working on the appraisals anticipating completion by the end of June. The one property owner would not grant permission to enter his property; it was determined that the design could be revised to eliminate the need for one temporary easement and Concord Public Works agreed to conduct clearing and grubbing from the right-of-way, which eliminates the need for the second temporary easement.

GPI will be submitting a revised easement alignment for the Rail Trail between 24 Commonwealth Ave. and the West Concord Depot to the MBTA on Friday in order to begin their 30-day ‘canvas’ or review. The alignment was revised after discussion with the owners of 24 Commonwealth Ave./Woods Hill Table about their concerns regarding vehicle access and deliveries to Woods Hill Table and the Club Car Café. We’ll be meeting with the owner of 24 Commonwealth Ave. on Tuesday afternoon to

discuss the alignment, then meeting with MBTA personnel on Thursday, June 16 (tentatively) to review the easement location.

Town Counsel is beginning the process of title review and easement preparation for the Town-owned land and the easements over private property.

The schedule for actions and votes is going to be challenging over the summer. Weekly updates have been requested by Linda Walsh and Pam Marquis in the MassDOT right-of-way section.

- b. **Legislation filed to transfer DOC land to the Town** – Senator Barrett’s office reported that the legislation to transfer a small portion of Mass. DOC land on Commonwealth Ave. to the Town of Concord for construction of a small parking area and associated support for the BFRT is expected to pass the Senate by mid-June. Senator Barrett’s staff has kept Rep. Atkins’ office in the loop every step of the way. It is expected that the final legislation will pass sometime between July 1 and August 1, when the session breaks. The Town will be responsible for hiring a surveyor to prepare the Approval Not Required (ANR) plan for recording the transfer of land; Marcia has requested a proposal from GPI to prepare this plan.
 - c. **Received list of abutting properties that are encroaching on the ROW:** GPI compiled a list of existing readily visible ROW encroachments. There are 27 properties identified; the majority of these encroachments will not interfere with construction of the project. Linda Walsh thought that the MassDOT Rail Division would be following up by sending letters to abutting owners who were encroaching on the state’s land and suggested that Marcia follow up with Chalita Belfield and Claire Connelly at MassDOT Real Estate and Rail Divisions. Marcia has not yet done this.
 - d. **Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. is finalizing the drawings and specifications for MassDOT:** MassDOT anticipates advertising this project for bid on August 27th.
- 4. Phase 2D Sudbury:** The Comprehensive Four-Season Wildlife Habitat Evaluation has been posted on the Town of Sudbury’s website as of May 18, 2016.

5. Additional items discussed:

a) Update from Len Simon, Sudbury. 11/13 – 261,000 25% design Mass DOT standard, 58,700 from Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, 5/14 – Town Meeting voted money for 25% design. 25% drawings may be done by November 2016. Public outreach meetings to review plans will be scheduled. 75% funding has been voted \$150,000. Trail will be designed to Rt 20/Union St – Up to CSX owned portion. Trail goes to where Mass Central crosses. CSX owns 1 ¼ miles in Sudbury, plus portion in Framingham. CSX wants to sell land and have been in communication. There has been a joint appraisal done Sudbury/Framingham land. This would complete final phase of BFRT. Funding needs to be worked out. Right of way may be land banked. Sudbury has great town support, and funding. Right of way has been approved. Michelle Ciccolo is coordinating the project in Sudbury. Question about local wet lands bylaw – state does not need to comply with the local law.

b) Discussion of advisory committee contributions in Concord – signage, abutter outreach, review plans, site walks. Good to have Advisory committee website to make information available. Committees in town share information by attending other committee meetings.

c) Review Phase 2B Plans – Kent and Jim met with Judy LaRocca to review comments. For Phase 2B AE Com is doing 25% design. Town of Concord will be doing RFP for 75% design.

d) Historic artifacts – Marcia received final edits from Henry Keutmann for the signs.

e) Open House for Phase 2C – Ideas for keeping the public updated on the progress of the trail. Ideas – town blog or social media. Lots of questions from Open House. Town is in process of updating their website. Possibly add link from homepage to updates page. We could work on a list of questions and answers and publish on BFBRT site, newspapers etc. Where should the groundbreaking be for Concord for Spring 2017 (May or June)? Marcia could have a button added to Town of Concord site home page. Possibly add FAQs and photos of site visits. Jim will send questions to Marcia. Add FAQs to Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail web site also.

f) Meetings for next year will continue to be first Thursday of the Month at Harvey Wheeler Center.

Member Comments / Committee Liaisons / Correspondence

- White Pond Advisory Committee (Jim Lyon) – Jim attended meeting. Jerry Frenkil finished his term as chair. Carmen Jaquier is the new chair. Discussion of swimming restrictions for the summer. Presentation by Rivers & Revolutions group from high school did testing of phosphorus levels – phosphorus was found to be coming from nearby field.
- WPAC/BFBRTAC subcommittee (Jim Lyon) – No meeting this past month.
- Trails Committee (Gretchen Roorbach) – No report.
- West Concord Advisory Committee (Kent Carlson) – Did not attend.
- Concord Housing & Development Committee (Judy Perrin) – Did not attend
- Historical Commission (Mark Hanson) – No report.

Next committee meeting: July 7, 2016 7:00 pm at Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Meeting Adjourned: 8:54 PM