

Rail Trail Advisory Committee
Weston Town Hall
January 14, 2019

Committee Member Attendees: Paul Penfield, Chris Stix, Gail Palmer, Meg Kelly, Mark Horowitz, Eric Rosenthal, Eli Mather, Anne Benning

Not Attending: Mike McCarthy, Phyllis Halpern, Ellen Freeman Roth

Guests: Chris Fitzgerald (Recreation department)

- 1) December 10th minutes approved
- 2) **Citizens Comments:** none
- 3) Mark H mentioned that Paul Jahnige of DCR would like to centralize all communications to him through Mark H. Mark will try to provide him with a weekly update.
- 4) **Signage update:** discussion on trail identity sign and placement, potential kiosk, wayfinding. Church Street location: the signage task force suggested potentially having the trail identity sign just in front of the access gate. Future kiosk could be placed in between the main parking and handicap space on Church street. Q to ask: what is the purpose of the kiosk information/for whom. Agreed that the kiosk is for those arriving to the trail/overview of rules/trail map/where to find additional parking etc. The identity signage is more of a formality. Agreed that committee will tackle the wayfaring signs in the future after Conant road is opened up. The group identified an Identity sign of preference from page 5 of Paul Jahnige's 2017 presentation. Mark H will let Paul J know of our preference. Concord Road placement of sign: south spur adjacent to pedestrian entrance to trail, left side of walkway entrance. Some discussion about various potential placements for a kiosk, such as on the north spur, west side of entrance, in front of where the gate would be, close up against embankment or on north spur east side adjacent to entrance to trail and handicap access. Gail – send images/slides to Mark H of identity sign and kiosk design from Paul Jahnige's 2017 presentation.
- 5) **Report on Benches:** Eric provided an update: showed a map rendering, suggested bench near most western trail crossing into Jericho, next near gun club road triangle, 3rd under Concord Road overpass, 4th near church street trailhead or underpass, 5th just east of duck pond. Strong point of view to have more than one, perhaps 2, at each of the locations. Initially suggested that all benches would be placed on the right of way. DCR would like to have a paved area in front of and alongside the bench so that a wheelchair could sit alongside the bench. Mark provided a rendering of two bench configurations for a single bench and/or two benches with wheelchair access. Mark H seemed to think ConCom could approve the plans as an administrative decision. Q: should these be included in the bid packages (for church and concord) vs the RDA that Paul will be filing? It was mentioned that Jim Beams, on behalf of Weston 300, seemed to think there may be funds available to cover costs of benches. We should denote if the bench was provided by the Weston 300. Perhaps a paver in the ground vs a plaque (DCR doesn't want plaques). Eric showed a picture of a stone/granite bench that Weston 300 was in favor of and were reasonably priced. Weston 300 prefers not to have the benches under the underpasses. A compromise was discussed about having perhaps 1-2 benches under the underpass, while having another 1 in the open that perhaps doesn't have the wheelchair access. Weston 300 may also be able to help with the engineering costs necessary to establish plans. In summary: 5 site

locations for benches, 1-2 at each site, with approximately 4 benches at each of the 2 main trail heads. The group seemed to think 4 benches at Concord might be too many. Suggested 2 at Concord under the underpass, and a 3rd not under the underpass, but closer to the trail entrance on north side.

At Church Street: group liked idea of having 2 benches with the half moon wheelchair configuration across from the trail entrance (opposite side). Group also like the idea of another bench located up near/next to the bike rack/parking space area. Jim is going to look into volunteer engineers for the locations outside the main trailheads. Bench by bike rack at Church doesn't need to be included in Nitsch's plan since it would likely be placed on grass. As for the 2 other benches – see what Nitsch has to say about it. If that site would require more surveying then we'll look outside the bid plans. (Weston 300 volunteer engineer for example). Mark/Chris will carry this forward with the task force to determine course of action going forward.

- 6) Update on screening – tabled for next meeting
- 7) Update on trailheads at Concord and Church : updated maps has been viewed by all so no need to discuss in greater detail.
- 8) Dog poop and other policing issues – tabled for next meeting
- 9) Other new business: Chris – estimated construction budget at Church Street is up by \$48,455 from what we presented at town meeting. Concord Road up by approx. \$30K since town meeting. Mark has asked the town manager to provide us with an update on what we have spent, and out of what buckets so that we understand what money we have spent and what money we have remaining. We should have enough in our budget to cover the increases, assuming the final comes in at the prices that have been itemized in the list provided to Chris. Chris and Mark will review and discuss with John Michalak@Nitsch.
Group agreed to remove the 8 trees that were proposed in the Church Street plan at the base of the stairs. Purpose was to provide visual screening of the proposed chain link fence (to prevent use of the stairs until they are safe). Suggested adding a chain link fence at the top of the stairs as well.
- 10) **Confirm mtgs. Next mtg 1/28 and 2/11.**
- 11) Motion to adjourn