

Rail Trail Advisory Committee
January 28, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Community Center
20 Alphabet Lane

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

Absent: Ellen Freeman Roth, Phyllis Halpern

Guests: Jim Beams

Agenda

Approval of January 14th Minutes: Approved

Citizen Comments: None

Motion of approval for the removal of one parking space on Concord Road (northern most regular space): Approved

Report on DCR's responses in regard to benches and easements: Any ideas or concepts will be reviewed by Paul Jahnige and the abutters. Paul and Mark briefed ConCom to get preapproval on their future locations. The idea of creating an ad alternate bid was proposed within the final bid package so the costs for these items can be removed in case there is push back from the abutters.

Jim Beams shared that the Weston 300 Committee has 300 pavers for both the Case Estates and the rail trail. There are also over 40 benches available. Bids have gone out on the benches and pavers.

Bench communication strategy: Mark sought the committee's advice on how to best communicate to any affected parties. Paul Penfield has already spoken to the abutters near Gun Club Lane and his initial impression is that they would be positively inclined. Mark is going to send the neighbors at Concord Rd. and at Church Street a picture of the plans and benches which would highlight the recommendation by Recreation and RTAC.

Update on Screening: Paul gave a quick update on screening. DCR had a recent change in policy and so Stella was unable to approve the new plans. Because of the new approval hierarchy, Paul was unable to get everything done before tomorrow's ConCom meeting. Getting a swift approval is important to provide sufficient lead time to purchase the approved plants from the nurseries. There is \$114,000 in funds for plantings. Eli will determine if all funding needs to be used this year and where we can utilize the surplus.

Budget update on Concord and Church Street trailheads: Mark walked through the various grants. The initial conceptual grant has been spent. The CPC grant was divided into three parts and totaled \$437,000. It sounds like we have more flexibility to use the funds as long as it fits within the initial scope of the project.

As of the January meeting, there was about \$104,000 left in the \$150,000 grants (assuming that \$21,000 for plantings is unused because we received a \$57,000 1/1 matching grant and we originally had \$78,000 for plantings. The remaining shortfall was overage on the trail heads. We have subsequently had an additional approximately \$18,000 in estimated costs.

The expenditures are running above the \$437,000 because of the construction estimates. The bid for the Conant Road underpass has come in less than Nitsch predicted, so ours might also. We still have \$136,000 in grants that can act as buffer.

Policing issues: Weston has a new animal control officer. Mark is going to organize a meeting with the police chief and the new animal control officer. The issue of dogs, clean up and enforcement is broader than just the rail trail as it is impacting parks and other common areas. As such, it would be an ideal time to get the new officer involved in our project.

Other New Business: None

Next meetings: Feb 25th

Meeting adjourned