

Rail Trail Advisory Committee
Weston Town Hall
April 8, 2019

Committee Member Attendees: Paul Penfield, Chris Stix, Gail Palmer, Phyllis Halpern, Mark Horowitz, Anne Benning, Mike McCarthy, Meg Kelly

Not Attending: Eli Mather, Ellen Freeman Roth, Eric Rosenthal

Guests: Chris Fitzgerald (Recreation department), Jim Beams (Weston 300), Ed Recka (TAG)

- 1) Approval of March 11th minutes: approved
- 2) **Citizens Comments:** none
- 3) **Report on Budget:** Chris reported on bids that came back, higher than expected. There were 5 bids, all fairly closely bunched (approx. 10% spread between the high and low). Nitsch provided justification why \$220k over Nitsch estimate. Chris Fitzgerald reached out to DCR about the grant, our funding and the bids. DCR responded favorably to Chris Fitzgerald's outreach and made additional funds available. Leon Gaumond has signed an amendment to the grant and it's nearly done. Some formalities left. As of today, Tom Cullen has signed an intent to move forward. \$130k needs to be spent by June 30th. Benches were noted in bids/plans as add-on alternative with option to withdraw if needed.
- 4) **Decision on benches at Concord and Church and along trail:** rather than a mix of bench styles, granite benches were decided on based on lower cost and maintenance. Also consistent with other benches in town and DCR's preference.
- **Update and possible decisions on signs and kiosks:** Gail and Anne provided an update. The Signage sub-committee prefers the style of the signs in use at the Concord Conservation land trailheads. Benefits include low cost, low maintenance, easy to outsource construction of sign stand, and easy to swap out sign if changes are needed to map or language on the signs. Phyllis mentioned that DPW has contracted with Fast Signs in Waltham in the past for many of the historic signs around town. Similar 18x24 size. Tom Cullen uses them. Installation of the signs is included in the trail head bids. A motion was made to move forward with the Concord Conservation-like signs and posts. Approved. Discussion about what to have on signs
 - Map of the trail, also including town center, a legend indicating additional parking, restrooms etc.
 - Simple dog rules, example: must be on leash and pick up waste
 - Please enjoy this rail trail from dawn to dusk
 - If you have concerns please call Weston Police: 781-786-6201
 - Leave no trace of your visit
 - No motorized vehicles

Suggestion made to consider having the map on a separate sign, but possibly same post in case it goes up later than the other signs (design/production), and could be updated separately. Meg Kelly recommended Jono Dowse as a local graphic designer used by WFTA and Lands Sake. Motion was made to move forward with getting proof made up of the sign for future review by RTAC as well as contacting a graphic designer regarding creating a map. MarkH will connect Paul Jahnige regarding the trail identity sign, who they source and how to move forward since we'd decided on the style.

- 5) **Update on screening** – PaulP - DCR decided not to include the screening at the eastern most section near Stonegate in their immediate plans. DCR was concerned about wetlands. Paul wants to reach out to Paul Jahnige to see if we can go forward with another round of CPC funding to cover the costs of the section that they have eliminated from the initial screening plan. First tailgate meeting is next week, Paul plans to attend. Fielding neighbor's concerns, if any.
- 6) **Other new business** – Paul wants to recruit people to clean up the rail trail on Sunday 14th, 2pm Church Street.
- 7) **Decisions on meetings** April 22nd, May 6th, 13th or 20th. (May 6th is town meeting) It was decided that the NEXT RTAC meeting will be May 13th. Mark will do the agenda although he won't be present at the 13th mtg.
- 8) **Motion to adjourn**