

Rail Trail Advisory  
Committee  
April 14, 2020  
Meeting Minutes  
Virtual  
Weston Town Hall  
11 Town House Road

Attendees: Gail Palmer, Paul Penfield, Meg Kelly, Anne Benning, Mike McCarthy, Eli Mather

Absent: Phyllis Halpern, Ellen Freeman Roth, Eric Rosenthal,

Guests: Chris Fitzgerald

## **Agenda**

**Approval of February 24<sup>th</sup> Minutes:** Approved

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Phase 2 Plantings:** Paul Penfield gave a quick update on the Phase 2 plantings discussions. ConCom approval was given to move forward but we received no bids by the final submission date. Paul is trying to find some new vendors to bid on the project as we are hitting the peak planting season. Paul proposed postponing the process until next year. Considering Covid 19, Paul believes that contractors are cautious due to laborer availability.

**Phase 1 Plantings:** Paul contacted our point person at DCR who was responsible for the original plantings. He plans to meet with the point person on the trail to review the plantings and discuss replacement options for plants that have died.

As part of the original project, Eversource was supposed to remove the silt fences but have failed to do so to date. DCR has offered to remove them for us.

## **Update on Signage**

**Rail Trail Map Signs:** Gail Palmer presented two options for the RTAC to review. The versions differed slightly. Eli requested that the signs differentiate the colors for the intersecting lines which represent the trail, roads, and hiking trails.

Paul suggested that we simplify the layout. He also wants to include a QR code. Others asked that the fonts be enlarged to ease the ability to read the maps.

A suggestion was made to put road signs under each of the bridges to identify where you are on the trail, much like you would see on overhead bridges and passes while driving on a highway.

**Trail traffic parking:** The trail traffic has really increased, and many are not respecting “social distancing” along with ignoring parking overflow issues. A proposed idea was to put a sign redirecting people from Gun Club back to designated parking areas. The question is who should create and enforce the rules at that location. Many RTAC members felt it was the Town’s responsibility considering fire and public safety needs when accessing the area.

**Update on Benches:** Chris Fitzgerald had no new news since the last meeting. The current pandemic has slowed the process. He did investigate that any money left over can be used for benches. We may see that freed up in May.

**Other Items:** Tom Cullen and National Grid have done a lot of work pertaining to the Town Center project and its potential impact on the trail. They may need to do some work on Concord Road area as it crosses the trail. The key concern is a venting system that may need to be installed.

Paul mentioned the idea of supporting a student who wants to build and install birdhouses along the trail. He will forward the info for the RTAC to review.

SWAG clean up is set to go forward and if anyone wants to go out with their families or themselves, please let Paul know

**Next Meeting:** June 8<sup>th</sup> is tentative

Adjourn