

Rail Trail Advisory Committee
May 13, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Weston Town Hall
11 Town House Road

Attendees: Gail Palmer, Paul Penfield, Meg Kelly, Anne Benning, Mike McCarthy, Ellen Freeman, Phyllis Halpern, Eli Mather, Chris Stix

Absent: Eric Rosenthal, Mark Horowitz

Guests: Chris Fitzgerald, Isabella Jancourtz

Agenda

Approval of April 8th Minutes: Approved

Citizen Comments: Isabella Jancourtz asked a series of questions pertaining to the funding for cattle crossings, the status on funding for the benches and how Weston 300 got involved with the Rail Trail. Her concerns related to the cattle crossings where water has begun to accumulate along with some of the trash that has built up around Gun Club Lane. Isabella was deeply disturbed that the committee had chosen granite versus wooden benches. She asked the committee to postpone a vote until others in the community could weigh in on the decision. With that the committee decided to move to the first agenda item, Bench Styles and Design.

Bench Styles

The committee discussed how the topic of bench choice and design had evolved over the course of previous RTAC meetings. Gail Palmer walked through the various participating groups and explained the multiple sides of the debate. The RTAC had considered all the options and most felt that the option of granite benches was best. After the chairperson had finished, she asked that the group to make a motion to move the matter to a final vote.

Meg Kelly made the motion and it was seconded by Paul Penfield. The group voted unanimously to approve granite benches at all five locations.

Update on Signage

After a great deal of investigative work by Gail, Anne and Meg, the RTAC proposed installing similar signage to that of the Concord Conservation Sites. A total of 4 signs may be necessary at a cost of \$63 dollars per sign. They would mount directly to wooden post at the trail heads. Gail reminded Paul that DCR had two existing signs at the Concord and Church Street. The RTAC signage would be customized to highlight some common operating rules and trail etiquette.

A second feature would be the inclusion of a map on some of the signs. A local graphic designer, Jonathan Dowse, has offered to construct a mock up for the committee by June. A third trail sign will be installed identifying the Mass Rail Trail-Wayside. This will meet DCR specs for design and colors.

The topic of temporary signage and who controls or manages that type of signage was raised by Anne. The RTAC debated how such requests should be handled and Paul suggested that it may be future topic for the Friends of Legacy Rail Trails.

Construction Update

As of today, no major construction has occurred. Preparatory work was underway but several parts of the project have yet to commence: work on the Conant underpass, the access work at Concord and Church, installation of plant screenings and some brush clearing by Eversource. The underpass work is the key event that will lead to subsequent construction on the aforementioned items. Eli Mather mentioned that a tree was cut and left on the trail. Paul mentioned that Lewis Tree does the work for Eversource and Meg is going to follow up with them.

Paul will attend the next tailgate meetings and report back at the next RTAC meeting.

Trail Etiquette

The topic was tabled until its sponsor, Mark Horowitz, returned.

Other new business?

Paul inquired about the appetite of the RTAC of developing a Rail Trail opening ceremony. He will touch base with Paul Jahnige to solicit his thoughts as it relates to the scale of the event, tying in Wayland's rail trail committee and other key attendees. Paul mentioned inviting the Governor, the Recreation Commission, WCCA and other local officials.

Next meetings: June 17 and July 15th