

Rail Trail Advisory Committee

Weston Town Hall

July 20, 2020

Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Penfield, Mike McCarthy, Phyllis Halpern, Anne Benning, Ellen Roth Freeman, Eric Rosenthal, Meg Kelly, Gail Palmer

Committee Members Absent: Eli Mather

Other Attendees: Chris Fitzgerald (Recreation Director), Mark Horowitz

- 1) Minutes for June 8: Meeting minutes were approved
- 2) Citizens comments – none
- 3) **Benches:** Gail Palmer circulated several drawings of existing and additional bench locations and commemorative markings as proposed by the Weston 300 committee. Additional benches proposed at Gun Club (triple bench), Duck Pond (double bench) and Jericho forest entrance (single bench). 5’x5’ commemorative slab designs proposed for Jericho, Gun Club and Duck Pond, and a 5’ Legacy pillar at existing Concord and Church Street bench locations.

Chris Fitzgerald gave an update on the construction. Jim Beams (Weston 300 committee) suggested the installation of a 5x5 slab embedded with the Weston 300 logo. He wanted to install a 5 ft pillar behind the benches at Concord and Jericho locations. We have approximately \$67k from the construction funds to use for the pads. The RTAC needs to approve the installation and then have DCR review and approve as well.

The group discussed the proposal and the general consensus was that the monuments and markings are too large and give disproportional credit to Weston 300 vs DCR and Eversource (relative to the investment of those entities). Several expressed concern that the markings/plaques could cause confusion regarding the origin of the trail (i.e. the proposed wording of the plaque to reference the Legacy Rail Trail and include the Weston 300 logo). Other concerns included the esthetics of the pads and monuments. Paul Penfield walked through his thoughts and mentioned that other historic monuments may interfere with this proposal’s pillar design. Their proposal may also limit the ability to do a broader and more robust development at the Gun Club site.

Gail Palmer suggested that we propose a more scaled down version of the Weston 300 ideas and work with Jim and the Weston 300 committee. Eric, Anne and Meg, with an assist from Paul, agreed to work together with Weston 300 regarding suitability of potential signage and markings.

- 4) Other business – Eric brought up concern about invasive swallow-wort along the trail. Paul reported that DCR had been on the trail recently doing some plantings and clean up work. He also said that the trail shoulders had been mowed, but did not mention that it was in fact done by

the Town of Weston DPW. Although technically mowing the right-of-way is DCR's responsibility, in practice they are often limited in their ability to do so. Eric suggested that a discussion about trail/botanical maintenance might be appropriate at a future meeting and Paul agreed, adding that this is something that would likely be carried over to FLRT.

- 5) **Next meeting:** Likely to be September. Gail will send out an email at a later date to determine an agreeable date.
- 6) Motion to adjourn