

Rail Trail Advisory
Committee
September 9, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Weston Town Hall
11 Town House Road

Attendees: Gail Palmer, Paul Penfield, Meg Kelly, Anne Benning, Mike McCarthy, Ellen Freeman, Chris Stixs, Eric Rosenthal, Mark Horowitz

Absent: Eli Mather, Phyllis Halpern

Guests: Chris Fitzgerald, Larry Kiernan

Agenda

Approval of July 15th Minutes: Approved

Citizen Comments: None

Construction Update A few construction items remain outstanding but the punch list has been compiled and they are working to complete them i.e., bike racks, no parking signs. Eric Rosenthal inquired about the narrowness of the Church Street entrance but DPW is aware of it and will be keeping an eye on it over time.

Pads for three benches are being cleared and set up.

Benches Update As of today, the pads for the three benches have been cleared and poured. The next step is to order the benches and the plaques will be anchored into the pads at a later date. Sally Locke wanted to fund a memorial bench & Bay Circuit Trail wants to donate a bench where the two trails cross. The feeling of the committee was to redirect the donations to the Wayland section or the Town Center project as the Weston portion has the maximum number of benches that DCR was comfortable with.

Eric suggested that any future donation pledges be pooled into a Rail Trail endowment fund to help offset future operating maintenance. Mark Horowitz will approach Sally to discuss alternative donation ideas. Paul Penfield gave a brief update on the FLRT incorporation which seems to be taking longer than anticipated.

Update on Signage

The RTAC was asked to review and comment on several separate signage issues.

Gun Club: A bedsheet sign was installed near Gun Club to warn pedestrians/riders of the upcoming crossing. Although it is an eyesore, the RTAC recommends a road crossing/caution be installed to address the issue. Paul Jahnige of DCR liked the idea and will implement.

Green aluminum Rail Trail rules signage: Meg, Mark and Gail suggested some preliminary locations for the signs. One will be installed on the existing no parking sign at the entrance off Church Street. The north and south spurs of Concord will also get one each on No Parking signs. The idea is to leverage the existing posts so as to reduce signage clutter.

Rail Trail Map Signs: Gail discussed the design of the signs and the need to recognize Mass Trails contributions by incorporating their logo on the sign.

Two map designs were proposed with different mileage markers and distance measurement representations. Feedback was given and Gail will get another iteration. Similar to the Mass Trails recognition, these signs should have the Weston Town and DCR logos attached.

The goal is to reach a consensus on the final design by next meeting so they can be installed by the grand opening.

East Coast Greenway Signs: ECG would like to place several signs along the trail. Kristine Kinney approached Gail about placing multiple signs along the trail. Ultimately, RTAC felt the obligation to get approval from the utility and DCR should be done by Kristine, but we can help with installation. Mark will contact her about these arrangements.

Opening Celebration Update

Paul and Chris Fitzgerald have tentatively designed a coordinated opening event for Wayland and Weston . The initial proposal would include a ribbon cutting by the Wayland library followed by a ribbon cutting at Church Street in Weston. RTAC members will act as marshals by helping people as they travel along the route.

Several events were discussed including a group bike ride, fun run, trail tour and walking tour . A meeting has been scheduled for later this week to finalize the details.

The trail will be prepared before the event and mile markers are being repainted.

CPA

To finish the second phase of plantings between Conant and Church Street, the costs would require CPA funding. Paul Penfield gave an update on the existing plantings and detailed where some gaps existed (Stonegate). He also highlighted areas where some of the new plantings appear to be dying.

Mark has asked Paul to speak to DCR about taking responsibility for fixing or replacing the landscape installations they have already done using our grant money.

Future of RTAC

As we approach the grand opening, Mark Horowitz discussed the eventual dissolution of RTAC. Several open ended questions will need to be addressed as it relates to which entities will assume responsibilities for all or parts of the trail (Friends of the Legacy Rail Trail, Recreation, and Traffic & Sidewalk). Mark asked the members to come prepared to discuss the steps necessary to insure a successful transition of the committee.

Next meeting: September 23, 2019

Adjourn