



Danvers Rail Trail Advisory Committee
January 17, 2019

Attendees:

RTAC Members: Paul McNulty, Nancy McNulty, Joe Anthony, Charles Lincicum, Matthew Duggan, Bill Graham. Quorum established. RTAC Members not present: Larry Perrault, Laura Cilley, Lori Dupont.

Others: Mark Jones, Bob Brown, Aaron Henry, Diane Langlais, Margaret Bailey

New Business;

Comments from public:

Fence at 26 Charles St: Matt raised a concern about a replacement fence being installed along the trail at 26 Charles St. Matt's concerns were twofold 1) is the fence may be on the town ROW and 2) the fence may obstruct views at the crossing. Aaron Henry is aware of the situation and has spoken with the homeowner, who had previously been in contact with the town and Danvers Electric regarding the fence and landscaping. Joe reinforced the point that it's important that crossing visibility is good. We all agreed. Aaron is already working with the property owner to address the issue.

Potential Development at about 303 Maple St. Mark noted that a developer is proposing an 8-unit cluster development (aka "Beaver Brook Woods") between Maple St and the potential trail extension. The development would not touch the trail, but could offer opportunities for amenities and connectivity. Aaron will keep trail concerns in mind as this project goes through town approval processes. Aaron encourages RTAC members to attend the next Planning Meeting 1/22 at 7:00 pm.

First Day Walk – Overall viewed as a success with about 80 people attending. Thanks to Scott for organizing the day, and the many volunteers that supported the event.

Chocolate Walk – scheduled for Feb. 9th at 11:00 am. Nancy, Charley and Joe will organize the event. Diane informed the group that Putnam Pantry is happy to provide some chocolate goodies. We agreed that if the weather looks bad (i.e. under 20 degrees and windy) or the trail surface is unsafe, we'll cancel the event. Paul and Mark to manage this by Feb 6.

Amenities at Hobart Lot such as benches, picnic table was discussed, as was the idea of a "pocket park" near Western Cycle. The RTAC agreed that we should look further into providing amenities in the area as it is increasingly used as a meeting location. Joe will lead the effort and come back with some ideas for the RTAC at our March meeting. Any proposals will be discussed with Danvers Electric and Aaron Henry. Depending on the cost, this could be funded with RTAC operational funds.

Grant application plans. Aaron proposed that the town apply for a Mass Trails grant aimed at funding the next wave of design work on the trail extension. The RTAC is supportive of this large and longer-term effort. The RTAC asked, that current trail work requested of the town be discussed and agreed within the next month or so. Aaron will set this meeting up.



Current/Recent Business:

Rail Trail Extension project – A contract has been established between the Town and VHB Engineering to survey the full extension route with a focus on the Beaver Brook and Rt. 62 crossing challenges. The draft VHB report should be ready in February and will be reviewed with RTAC. Tentatively Aaron is planning an April community review and input meeting on this project.

DPW Repairs to Washouts/Crossings- Aaron will set a meeting with Paul and the DPW to discuss this work. This will then be reviewed at the March RTAC meeting.

Pedestrian Beacons for Pine St. Aaron has secured a price for these beacons from Coastal Light (\$6,800). This would be for the same style solar powered beacons at other trail locations. Matt moved, Nancy seconded, and the RTAC approved that Aaron should use the already approved \$8k of FY19 town funding to purchase and install these beacons.

Maintenance List – A new 2019 version has been created, including 2018 items still and progress and a few new items.

Finances:

501c3 Finance update

- Paul noted the current operating balance is approximately \$ 21k as of January 16. No new expenses noted. We thanked the Bailey Family for their donation to the extension project.
- Mile Marker donations are coming in. New markers have been purchased by Beverly Bank, Kaffmandu, Julie Curtis, and Home Advisor. Thank you Larry and Margaret your efforts.
- Larry, Mark, Paul, Margaret, Sarah, and Diane continue to meet and work on new sponsors.
- To help with planning and fund raising, the need for an operating and longer term “strategic” budget was discussed. Paul will have something for review at the March RTAC meeting.

Institute for Savings. Bob raised the opportunity to apply for a Institute for Savings donation. Paul and Larry will work on the application

Longer-term fund-raising plans. Margaret covered a variety of interesting ideas regarding how we do fund raising now and into the future. Conceptually this builds on our current programs for general operating expenses and recommends some new approaches for larger and sustaining fund-raising needs (e.g. for major improvement/extension projects). The group was very supportive of the ideas raised. Margaret, Paul, and Mark will work on the shorter-term items in the coming months, and then review the larger program ideas at our March meeting.

Minutes

Joe moved, Nancy seconded; all approved to accept November 29, 2018 minutes (posted on the town website).

Future RTAC Meetings:

Many RTAC members will not be able to attend our normal third Thursday meeting in February, we agreed to **next meeting March 21, 2019.**

Paul will be away February 16th to March 1st. Charley will be away for February and March.