

Minutes
Rail Trail Advisory Committee Meeting
September, 19, 2019

Attendees:

RTAC Members: Paul McNulty, Nancy McNulty, Charlie Lincicum, Lori Dupont, Mark Jones, Scott Bornstein, Mathew Duggan, Joe Anthony, Larry Perrault. Quorum established.

Others: Aaron Henry, Bob Brown, Sarah Bornstein, Bill Graham, Walter Booth

New Business:

Comments from public

None.

Encourage donations from trail event sponsors?

Paul informed RTAC that solicitation for payment to hold events on the trail does not follow Town of Danvers Rec Dept guidelines, and will not be requested.

Potty removal date?

Paul asked about removing the two potties and RTAC agreed to leave them in place till the end of October. Paul will contact the potty company to have them removed, likely on one of the cleaning dates.

E-Bikes on the trail and Danvers in general (Aaron and all)

In response to a citizen comment on e-bikes going too quickly on the trail. The overall town status regarding E-Bikes is unclear, and this should guide rules for e-bikes on the trail. Aaron to follow up with preliminary e-bike research and recommendations for the town. At this time, RTAC will continue its “no motorized vehicles policy” (exceptions for motorized mobility devices).

Current/Recent Business

Update on picnic table at Hobart Lot (Joe, Charley, and Paul)

Base was installed on Tuesday 9/17, and full installed completed on Friday 9/20. The RTAC thanked Danvers Rotary for its generous donation to the project and for helping with installation.

Paul confirmed HRMS trash barrel donation was made to the RTAC and that a heavy-duty outdoor trash barrel was purchased and installed at the Hobart Lot.

Aaron will request that the town pick up this trash, as they do in other downtown Danvers locations. In the meantime, the RTAC will empty the trash and leave with the town’s Maple St barrel.

Update “Trail Rules” signs? (Paul)

Paul informed RTAC improvements are needed to improve crossings. Improvements to be discussed next spring when we know more about town improving the crossings.

Walter Booth –Friends of the Peabody Greenway

Walter Booth from the Friends of The Peabody Greenway joined our RTAC meeting to make us aware of their October 5 event Fall for Peabody Festival. He also brought us up to date on various improvements to the trail. Paul and Mark will post their event on our website.

Citizen question/concern about public parking at Agway (Aaron, from June meeting)

Ongoing issues still need to be resolved. Aaron working on it.

Rail Trail Extension Project and Grant Application Update (Aaron)

Although grant was denied, state did provide funds for expansion. Aaron confirmed that he will set up a separate meeting for extension possibly in 2 to 3 months. Aaron and Paul to discuss.

See status attached RTAC trail projects – issues, new, planned, and completed (All)

Picnic table installation was completed on Friday September 20. Swamp walk status to be reprioritized in October once Danvers transfer funds to the Friends of the Danvers Rail Trail SwampWalk account.

The status of the larger maintenance project the town agreed to is unclear. Projects are mostly surface repairs at crossings such as Pickering St and the north of Poplar St (dentist office parking lot). Aaron will check with DPW on status.

The RTAC was fine Aaron's proposal to test a stone-dust/cement approach on one of the runoff areas.

Charley confirmed all tractor repairs completed.

Friends of Danvers Rail Trail Finance Update

Approve annual mobile app hosting bill for \$799.

Mark informed RTAC mobile app is beneficial to trail, effective communication tool, and had 114 downloads recently. Matt moved, Nancy seconded, all approved.

Recap Summer Sizzler donation. (TR)

TR not present.

501c3 Finance update (Larry)

RTAC received \$50.00 from Brian Norris and a \$150.00 donation, unable to confirm donor name. The 501c3 checking account balance is \$22,900. Mark will confirm how Stripe payments are communicated.

Fund raising – renewing and new sponsor updates (Larry and all)

Larry noted early December mile marker renewal letters will be sent out.

Approval of minutes from June 20, 2019 and August 15, 2019 meetings

Minutes were approved and all in favor. Matt moved, Charley seconded, all approved.

Set next meeting date – October 17, 2019?

Motion to accept next meeting date. All approved. Meeting will be October 19, 2019.

Trail User Counts Info Discussed 9/19

DHS volunteers tracked users on the trail at the Hobart lot.

The general consensus was that on a nice summer weekend day, we could have up to 1000 people using the trail.

Trail Users Passing the Hobart St Parking Lot				DHS Volunteers
Sunny Warm Weekend Weather	Saturday 8/3 8:00am -12:00 pm	Sunday 8/4 12:00pm - 2:00 pm	Saturday 8/10 2:00-6:00 pm	One Weekend Day 8:00 - 6:00
	25	23		48
	26	34		60
	27	30	35	92
	26	38	28	92
	25	21	37	83
	26		26	52
	3		42	45
	23		31	54
	17		29	46
People	198	146	228	572
Groups	130	130	137	267
Avg People/Group	1.5	1.1	1.7	2.1
Cycling Groups	51	53	75	179

Note. Tracks users on at the mid-pont of the trail. Assuming 200 at north and south end, and some users before 8:00 am after 6:00 pm, we estimate that on a nice summer weekend day we could have up to 1000 people using the trail.

