

Minutes
Rail Trail Advisory Committee Meeting
January 21, 2021
Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Attendees:

RTAC Members: Paul McNulty, Nancy McNulty, Scott Bornstein, Mark Jones, Joe Anthony, Mathew Duggan, Charley Lincecum, Larry Perreault, Tom Powers

Others: Sarah Bornstein, Aaron Henry, Margaret Bailey, Maureen Bernard

Executive Order on Remote Participation & Remote Conduct for Open Meetings (Paul and Georgia)

Paul began meeting by introducing protocols for these types of meetings.

New Business

Comments from public and RTAC

No comments from public.

RTAC Comments:

Charley noted that the tractor is all repaired and stored in his shed. Paul invited attendees to join in welcoming Tom Powers as our newest Rail Trail Committee member and thanking Margaret and John Bailey (RT enthusiast) for their generous donation. Tom noted, very happy to join and looking forward to 2021!

Mark invited all to take a moment of silence for the passing of our Police Chief Pat Ambrose. He was very devoted, passionate, and very well loved in the Danvers community. He spent 35 years on the department, with last 4 years as Police Chief; and referred to as "one of the good guys."

Yoga on the Trail idea (Terri Moody)

Terri was not able to join; next month she will introduce yoga idea.

Chocolate Walk 2/13? Should we host it? (All)

Nancy noted, too risky to host for 2021 at this time. RTAC noted Chocolate Walk to be more suitable in 2022. Paul and Mark to update website noting that we will **not** host the walk this year.

Current /Recent Business

Update on northwest extension and plans for public input session. (Georgia and/or Aaron)

Georgia could not attend; Aaron proceeded with extension updates/ plans for public input. Public information session is planned to be held virtually on Wednesday, February 10. Aaron noted; no major issues anticipated in preparing for the meeting. Also that it would be helpful for some RTAC committee members to attend for support and answer questions. . Paul to send out presentation for committee review (4 slides covering the current trail and volunteer work). Georgia and Aaron to follow up with logistics.

Aaron stated using a combination of state and town funds, the town has the resources to move ahead starting the extension. The goal is to have the Hobart Street to Maple Street section under construction by June 2021 and completed by end of 2021 with stone dust surface. This most complex part of this section will be the construction of a foot bridge over Beaver Brook. The other complex part will be adding more gently pitched slopes to/from the trail at Maple Street.

VHB is the civil engineering firm developing plans. As a reminder phases are outlined as follows: Phase 1; Hobart to Nichols. Phase 2; Lahey to Middleton town line. Phase 3; Nichols to Lahey (most complicated section as it crosses routes 95 and 1. Conditions from start to finish will be noted in conceptual plan

Update on funding plans and grant plans for surface improvements (Georgia and Paul)

Paul and Aaron spoke on Georgia's behalf. Paul recommended that we submit a MassTrails grant application for the surface repairs/improvements on the current trail (the same list of work reviewed at previous RTAC meetings). Paul has written the application and secured various letters of support. The town has reviewed the application and supports submitting it.

The application requests state funding of about \$74,000 and will require that the RTAC provide a cash match of \$13,000 and volunteer time match valued at about \$8,000. Paul motioned that the RTAC approve \$13,000 cash match should our application be approved by MassTrails. Mark seconded. All approved.

Friends of Danvers Rail Trail Finance Update

Fundraising (Larry and all)

Larry noted, year is strong -donations from email/ Margaret's completed pledge, now about \$26,000 (net of commitments for the shed and benches) available in our checking account. Still more mile markers to renew. Larry confirmed in "solid shape."

Approval of minutes from December 17, 2020 meeting

Paul motioned, all approved.

Set next meeting date – February 18, 2021

Paul motioned, all approved.