

Minutes

Rail Trail Advisory Committee Meeting

August 19, 2021- 6:00 PM

Location: Toomey Room, Danvers Town Hall

The Public is invited to attend. Face coverings within Danvers public buildings and/or during public meetings are required.

Attendees:

RTAC Members: Paul McNulty, Nancy McNulty, Mark Jones, Charley Linecum, Tom Powers, Joe Anthony, Scott Bornstein, Matt Duggan. Not Present; Larry Perrault

Others: Aaron Henry, Maureen Bernard, Laura Cilley, Bob Brown, Sarah Bornstein, Bill Graham,

Approval of minutes from July 15, 2021, meeting

Paul initiated comments/ questions regarding July 15, 2021 meeting minutes. No questions or comments. Paul motioned and all approved minutes.

New Business

Comments from Public and RTAC

- Matt learned of Newburyport's' new Rail Trail expansion at a planning board meeting. He briefly shared details with RTAC. The Newburyport Rail Trail led a ribbon cutting in honor of the completion of their new Rail Trail. Matt noted; their new section is paved, equipped with handicapped ramps and interactive artwork along river side. Overall, public loves it.
- Paul noted a horse safety on the trail and manure concern, based on recent observations of a horse rider on the trail.
 - Mark confirmed that a notation is cited on website for no horses on Rail Trail due to safety concerns for horses and pedestrians. The website states: *Horses are not allowed on the trail. With no ill will towards horses or horseback riders there are several reasons we do not allow horses on the trail, which include 1) pedestrian/cyclist safety given the narrow width of the trail and trail shoulders, 2) damage to the stone dust trail surface from horse hooves, and 3) clean-up"*
 - The group discussed and agreed that for now, no need for a "Horses not allowed" sign. The single horse rider we've seen has been informed horses not allowed. Based on future activity, we might add a sign.
- Mark noted; Robert Lynch Race Event, Sunday October 10 @ 10:00am. The group discussed and was not aware of any competing events or maintenance at this time. Paul and Mark will note this on our website

Discuss options for shed sign (All)

- Paul shared photos for proposed shed sign. All agreed with the design. Paul to work with Larry for design details and costing.

Update on town funding key surface repairs (Aaron)

- Paul and Aaron noted that unfortunately the Danvers Rail Trail did not receive one of the MassTrails Grant, which was targeted at key surface repairs.

- Aaron /RTAC noted many rocks located north of Wenham Street and that this area is prone to flooding and a top priority for repairs. Repair costs estimated for \$30,000 based on quotes received in the spring. Paul has Aaron to work to secure the funding for these repairs as agreed at our May Town Meeting. Aaron to reconnect with Steve King and Paul to address. Aaron will also encourage help from streets division in other locations.

Current /Recent Business

Location for donated Bike Repair Station near Hobart Lot and work party date (All)

- Paul noted he has Bike Repair Station. RTAC decided Hobart lot to be too congested for a bike repair station. Charley advocated for 4.3. Paul initiated a show of hands, Paul to confirm locale with donors. More to follow.

Middleton extension status (Paul and Matt)

- Paul and Matt met with Middleton RTAC.
 - Conceptual plan in works for 8-10' bike /walking path to run along Maple Street @ Danvers Animal Hospital, heading west toward Middleton. Engineering/ budgeting concerns to discuss, more to follow at next meeting.
 - Bridge at Rt 62 not likely until 2024 or 2025.
 - Middleton Rail Trail team will keep Paul and Matt informed of progress, especially as work begins towards the Danvers town line.
 - Paul noted; that we have funds set aside for the extension and could be used to support the connection to the Middleton Extension Project.

Update on northwest extension project. (Aaron)

- Aaron noted; Bridge design funds do not need to expend as much as we thought. Aaron confirmed funds will be there to ensure the surface is completed from the current trail northwest to at least Beaver Brook Parkway at the same time the bridge over Beaver Brook is installed. More to follow on bridge design/engineering details @ next meeting.

Fox 25 Zip Trip (Mark)

- Mark confirmed, Jen Breaker has been coordinating our Zip Trip details and RTAC can follow up with Jenn if needed.

Maintenance issues and updates (All)

- RTAC noted, north end of pond has been weed wacked, leaving 4' -5' blocks in culvert. Aaron noted, Civil Engineering has been notified.
- Paul noted, trail clean, potties working well.
- Nancy noted, potties looking good.

Friends of Danvers Rail Trail Finance Update

Fundraising (Larry and all)

- Paul spoke on Larry's behalf; mile markers are doing well and no significant updates.

Set next meeting date

- September 16 next meeting. The committee voted unanimously to approve in person meetings with masks.

Adjourning

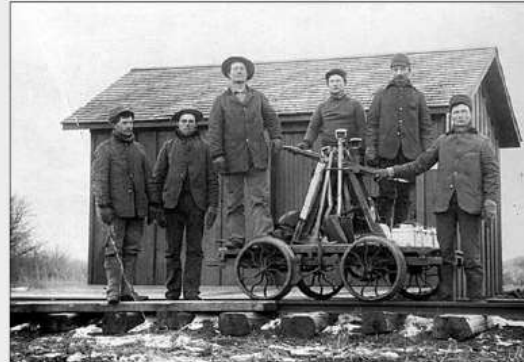
- All approved to adjourn.

Proposed Shed Sign

24" wide by 18" high

“Maintenance of Way” Shed

Railway maintenance crews often kept small tools and their handcarts in sheds along the railway. Danvers Rail Trail volunteers use this shed for the same reason.



Thank you to our sponsors and supporters who helped fund this shed.

www.DanversRailTrail.org

