



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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2:16 PM

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

PATRICIA E. DZURIS

TOWN CLERK

DATE: Thursday, September 17, 2020 **TIME:** 6:30 PM

PLACE: Zoom Meeting **ADDRESS:** **ROOM:**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: T. Gazda, J. Kelsey, R. Klinkhammer, R. Schneider, S. Pustell

Absent: D. Antonelli, M. Carignan

Public Present: D. McNurland, P. Wojtas

6:30 Public Input

- D. McNurland reported that there may be a contractor available to install the murals. There are 16 or 17 of them.

6:35 Announcements

- None

6:40 Update on Art Walk Restoration

- Plans are being made to have a contractor install the murals. Discussion of what to use as spacers occurred. J. Kelsey will look into any material he might have available from work to be used.
- T. Gazda reported that he contacted Evan Belansky about enforcement of the order of conditions for the Grist Mill Chelmsford project as the landscaping is not being maintained and mowing is irregular. Reply from the developer indicates that will be addressed and dead plants will be replaced in the fall.

6:45 Update on Pond Street Kiosk (T. Gazda)

- T. Gazda reported no reply from the Carpentry shop at Nashoba Tech about possibly building the kiosk this fall. School has just resumed on a hybrid schedule so things need to settle in first.

6:50 Trail Count – September 12, 2020

- T. Gazda reported that the final tally is not yet in but the preliminary total number of trail users was approximately 2,034. This would be the highest number since the trail opened.

6:55 Review of Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update (J. Kelsey)

- There was discussion of the section on the Economics of Bicycling and Walking section. A long discussion of the car issue ensued. It was noted that cars are not going away any time soon so that the issue of cost of owning and operating a car is still relevant and that pointing out the economic aspect had value. Further discussion at a future work session.
- T. Gazda noted changes he proposed to the Community Education section. Since the now Eagle-Independent is reluctant to publish external columns due to page count restrictions, the BPAC should look into alternative avenues to publish the Steps and Spokes column (or similar). In addition, the Community Education Newsletter is apparently on hiatus due to the pandemic and it is not clear whether it will resume publication and in what form.
- It was noted that the plan should include information about the extension of the BFRT from Rt. 3 into Lowell. There is currently a study underway by Lowell to determine the issues in getting the trail from Industrial Avenue to the Target Plaza at Plain Street. The study is expected to be completed by the summer of 2021.
- Also include that there is an effort to find a more direct path across the Cross Point parking lots to Industrial Avenue.
- For the improvements section, the committee targeted four locations for sidewalk additions:
 - Rt. 40 to Main Street

- Main Street
- Turnpike Road
- Westford Street to Chelmsford Center
- The committee agreed that a work session solely to work on the plan was in order and Thursday October 1 at 7:00PM via a Zoom meeting was selected. R. Klinkhammer and J. Kelsey to work on a cleaned up copy of the plan and make it available to the committee prior to the work session

7:40 Approval of Meeting Minutes - Regular Session February 20, 2020

- A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by J. Kelsey and seconded by S. Pustell. Motion carries. No abstentions

7:45 Updates:

Trail Maintenance Program (B. Schneider)

- R. Schneider reported that the graffiti in the Rt. 3 Tunnel and under the I-495 bridge has been painted over by MassDOT. T. Gazda noted the fast response since they were notified only two days before this meeting.
- The recent incident of a car on the trail between the CCA and Fletcher Street was discussed. There appeared to be no other damage than the “No Motor Vehicles” sign being knocked down.
- It was noted that the tire pump at the repair station is not working. J. Kelsey said it is beyond further repair and will look into the cost of purchase of a new pump.
- T. Gazda reported that the maintenance at Cushing Place/Art Walk will be monitored.
- T. Gazda will contact S. Jahnle to see if there is a planned date to commence trail repairs under the award from the MassTrails Grant program.
- R. Schneider noted that the East Providence (RI) trail has walkers use the left side of the trail and cyclists use the right side. This means that walkers see cyclists approaching rather than having cyclists come up from behind of walkers. There was discussion of the merits of this approach as well as the fact that in Massachusetts, all trails have everyone keep to the right and changing that statewide would not likely happen.
- It was also noted that the East Providence trail has a yellow center line along its length. Some discussion of the merits of this though not a strong sentiment for it on the BFRT in Chelmsford. T. Gazda will ask S. Jahnle for an estimate of the cost of painting such a line as this would be a major factor in this addition being implemented.

BPAC Account Status (T. Gazda)

- The amount of \$240.00 was paid to United Site Services on xxx for the portable toilets on the trail. This amount included the twice weekly servicing from June through September. Balance as of 9/15/20 is \$3354.22. Additional daily servicing of the units for the other 5 days of the week is being charged to the Town’s COVID expenditure account.

7:50 New Business:

- New items for future meetings
 - Question raised about who controls the Town Facebook page and the Twitter Link.

Dates and agenda for future meetings/work sessions:

- Work Session for Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan only on Thursday October 1, 2020 at 7:00 PM via Zoom

8:00 Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by J. Kelsey and seconded by M. Carignan. Unanimous vote.

Next Regular Session: October 15, 2020 (6:30 PM) – Zoom Meeting