



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 16, 2023

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: Town Offices **ADDRESS:** 50 Billerica Road **ROOM:** 200

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending: T. Gazda, J. Kelsey, R. Schneider, D. Antonelli, M. Carignan

Members Absent: R. Klinkhammer, J. Haouchine, S. Pustell

Public Present: D. McNurland, P. Wojtas, Tamar de la Concepcion, S. Galpin, J. Warhurst, D. Chandler

J. Kelsey, Vice Chair conducted the meeting in the absence of R. Klinkhammer.

6:30 Public Input

- D. Chandler from the Middlesex Canal Commission has taken over the effort to create a path from the canal towpath to connect to the BFRT near Golden Cove Road, an effort previously worked on by William Gerber who has since moved out of the area. It was suggested that he get on a future agenda to make a presentation.
- D. McNurland reported that the grubbing work on Phase 2D in Sudbury is complete and removal of rails has started.
- S. Galpin reported that there is a new contact person in Lowell relative to the Lowell extension of the BFRT from Industrial Avenue to Plain Street. It is unclear when activity will resume.

6:45 Announcements

- D. Antonelli indicated that there are parking issues at Grist Mill Condominiums with Brickhouse patrons and trail users parking in spots near the dumpsters which are not public spots. The association is apparently planning to put up additional signage to discourage this practice. It was noted that the parking spaces along the railing designated as "Public Parking" are not exclusive to trail users.

7:00 Discuss BFRT Trails Rules Uniformity proposal (Depends on Response)

- As of this date, no reply to the update sent to Carlene Hempel after the January BPAC meeting.
- S. Galpin was not aware of the email sent by Carlene and T. Gazda will forward it to her. She indicated that not all towns have formally accepted the rules as developed by the multi-town uniformity committee in September 2022.

7:10 Update for BFRT Logo Sign at Brickhouse Trail Entrance (T. Gazda)

- T. Gazda displayed a picture of the completed sign previously sent to the BPAC members. The sign was delivered to the DPW.

7:15 Update on Bench Donation from Charles River Wheelmen (CRW).

- T. Gazda showed pictures of some possible locations for the bench. The committee agreed that the location near the 4 mile mark and the one near the 6.8 mile mark were the best one. The pictures and the location recommendations will be sent to the CRW contact.

7:20 Discussion on adding Railroad Memorabilia to Brickhouse Trail Entrance and other possible places on the BFRT (R. Schneider)

- R. Schneider indicated that Sudbury would not be donating any memorabilia from Phase 2D and that CSX does not sell any railroad items to the public. He will contact T. Michelman for possible assistance in obtaining some items.

7:25 Review List of Bicycle Racks on Town Properties (T. Gazda)

- T. Gazda received a request from Steve Callaghan at DPW who was charged with getting together a list of locations on town properties (excluding schools) where bicycle racks are located. He displayed a list of known locations which the committee concurred with. The list will be sent to S. Callaghan.

7:30 Update on Brick Donation Program for Carol Cleven Park (S. Pustell)

- S. Pustell was unable to attend the meeting, no update.

7:40 Citizen Request for Crosswalk at Raymond Road/Mill Road at Murphy Soccer Field Entrance (J. Kelsey)

- J. Kelsey received an email from a resident, Tamar de la Concepcion with many requests for information about bicycle and pedestrian improvements in town, one of which was a request for a crosswalk on Mill Road from Raymond Road to the access driveway to the Murphy soccer fields. Ms. De la Concepcion indicated that it is very dangerous on this section of Mill Road and would not ride it with children on bicycles.
- P. Wojtas indicated that this situation is well known and that the Traffic Safety Committee and DPW had previously studied it quite extensively. The conclusion was that there is not anything feasible that can be done with this part of Mill Road in terms of a crosswalk or extending the sidewalk east of Raymond Road. T. Gazda to ask P. Cohen for a copy of that report/summary.
- T. Gazda asked if at a minimum some signage warning to “Watch for Pedestrians” could be installed to the east of Raymond Road

7:50 Status of Replacement Tools for the Bike Repair Station at Carol Cleven Park. (J. Kelsey)

- J. Kelsey did not have an update on the tool set. Needs to be sure the set available is right for this model of repair station.

8:00 Review Status of E-Bike Legislation (R. Schneider)

- R. Schneider indicated that MassBike has essentially become the interpreter of the E-bike legislation. Things are complicated by the fact that there are also Electric Scooters, skateboards and unicycles which can move along quite fast. A trail speed limit seems impractical since there is no way to enforce it.

8:10 Approval of Meeting Minutes from Regular Session on January 19, 2023

- A motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2023 as presented was made by R. Schneider and seconded by M. Carignan. Motion carries. Abstention by D. Antonelli.

8:20 Updates:

- **Trail Maintenance Program (B. Schneider)**
 - R. Schneider indicated that other than many small sticks on the trail, it is in overall good shape.
- **BPAC Account Status (T. Gazda)**
 - Current BPAC Account Balance is \$1,607.50, This will be the balance as of February 17th when the \$ 1,700,00 invoice from Express Signs for the BFRT Logo Sign is expected to be paid.
- **BPAC email report (R. Klinkhammer)**
 - J. Kelsey indicated no new Emails.

8:35 Future Meeting Dates and New Agenda Items

- Next Regular Session: March 16, 2023 (6:30 PM)
- New items for future meetings
 - Discussion of the New Law Requiring Motorists to Allow Four Feet of Space when Passing a Cyclist.
 - Try to Get DPW to attend the March meeting to discuss current year pedestrian and road projects.
- Dates and agenda for future meetings/work sessions

8:45 Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by D. Antonelli and seconded by M. Carignan. Unanimous vote.

Next Regular Session: March 16, 2023 (6:30 PM)