



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 16, 2023

TIME: 6:30 PM

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

Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: J. Haouchine, S. Pustell

Public Present: D. McNurland, Doug Chandler - Middlesex Canal Commission, Tony Reppucci - Town Engineer, Joe Knight - Grist Mill Resident, J. Warhurst

6:30 Chelmsford DPW discussion on Planned Projects Impacting Bicycle and Pedestrian Activities

- The committee engaged in discussion with Tony Reppucci, the Town Engineer about Sidewalk and Road Paving plans for 2023 which may impact bicycle and pedestrian activities.
- Engineering and DPW are developing the above plans which will be presented to the Select Board on March 27th for approval. As such, any plans mentioned at this meeting are unofficial and subject to change.
- Any streets that might be repaved or rebuilt will include upgrading any ramps at sidewalks/crosswalk to meet ADA specifications with iron tactile pads.
- Tentative plan is to mill and overlay over 7 miles of roads. Several roads are targeted for total reclaim and rebuilding. In addition, some roads that need attention but not rebuilding or mill and overlay will receive crack sealing and micro-sealing to extend their life before more extensive repairs are needed.
- Mr. Reppucci also indicated that Mass DOT plans for State Numbered Routes. This included repave and restripe North Road from the Drum Hill Rotary to I-495. It will include resetting curbing as needed and narrowing the marked lanes to create bike lanes on the shoulders. Mass DOT also plans to use the "Road Diet" method on Rt. 4 North Road from Princeton Street to Technology Drive. This section of road will be reduced to a single travel lane in each direction and include marked bicycle lanes. T. Gazda noted that several years ago a request was received from residents of Western Avenue to include a crosswalk on this road to Technology Drive. This will be looked into to see if that project will include this crosswalk with appropriate upgrade of the traffic signals. Mass DOT is also planning to repave Rt. 40, Groton Road from the Westford line to just before Vinal Square. Bicycle lane will be included.
- Regarding the request for a crosswalk on Mill Road and Raymond Road, a consultant is being engaged to see how this might be accomplished as a Bottleneck Grant a few years ago was denied. There are ROW width and line of sight issues on this section of road.
- Tree removal on a section of Main Street has been done in preparation for this road project.
- The completion of the pocket park at the Brickhouse entrance from Central Square and installation of the BFRT Logo Sign is on the planned but not yet scheduled. The pocket park near the Fletcher Street side of the trail is also on the project list for this season. Funding is needed.
- The Turnpike Road sidewalk project is on hold as it needs an easement from National Grid (NG) for flood storage and NG has been reluctant to grant that easement.
- The sidewalk project on Westford Street from Academy Street to Dalton Road is not likely in the near term as it is potentially a \$1 million dollar project and the town only funds \$350K per year for sidewalk construction.
- Mr. Reppucci indicated he will check out the areas of the BFRT near Heart Pond that are in danger of the pavement edge breaking off and falling into the pond.
- A section of the trail near the 4.2 mile mark was identified as needing clearing of the swale to improve drainage and prevent water from flowing onto the trail surface as well as creating ice on the trail in cold weather.
- DPW will be advised regarding a spring cleanup of the trail and seasonal mowing and fall leaf removal.

7:00 Public Input

- D. McNurland reported that the official groundbreaking of the Sudbury section of the trail is planned for May 19th. There is no news on when the Rt. 2 bridge section of the trail will be officially opened.

7:10 Announcements

- T. Gazda reported that the Charles River Wheelman have chosen the site at the 6.8 mile marker for the location of the Sandy Gray memorial bench.
- A bench donation inquiry was received from Jack Alexander via D. McNurland. Information will be sent to him on the preferred bench style, vendor and suitable locations as well as instructions for ordering and shipping the bench to DPW.
- R. Klinkhammer reported that at the March 13th Select Board Meeting, the new trail rules were accepted by the Board. There will be a Zoom meeting on March 23rd to go over logistics for ordering signs for each town and discussion of other issues such as E-Bike and Speed limit signage of the trail.

7:20 Presentation on Bay Circuit Trail Issues related to connecting to the BFRT (Doug Chandler)

- T. Gazda made a motion to take this item out of order so that Mr. Reppucci could hear the presentation and offer input.
- The Committee heard a presentation from Doug Chandler, Chelmsford Representative from the Middlesex Canal Commission (MCC) regarding a possible connection from the BFRT near Golden Cove Road to fill a gap in the Bay Circuit Trail and create access to the Middlesex Canal Towpath near Canal Street.
- Two routes identified by the MCC include creating a path in the Mass DOT ROW along I-495 and across town owned property adjacent to the I-495 ROW. Both routes are problematic as either way a bridge would be needed over River Meadow Brook. Additionally, Mr. Reppucci indicated that the town owned property is in the aquifer protection district so a path may not be allowed to be built.
- Further east and north there would be need for an access easement from the owner/developer of the 199-201 Riverneck Road property (formerly Mercury Computer Headquarters).
- Mr. Chandler also presented more history of the Middlesex Canal and connections along other sections of the remains of the canal and towpath.
- There appeared to be interest from BPAC to provide a letter of support for these efforts at an appropriate time.

7:50 Discussion on adding Railroad Memorabilia to Brickhouse Trail Entrance and other possible places on the BFRT (B. Schneider)

- R. Schneider did not have any new information on locating memorabilia. He suggested the possibility of having to buy items from other sources, perhaps a crossbuck or other items. These might be genuine or recreations.

8:00 Update on Brick Donation Program for Carol Clevon Park (S. Pustell)

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

8:10 Discussion of Replacing the Bike Repair Station at Carol Clevon Park. (J. Kelsey)

- J. Kelsey will need to confirm that the tool set identified will fit this model of the Dero repair station. Once the appropriate information is available, the set can be purchased through the town and charged to the BPAC account.

8:20 Approval of Meeting Minutes from Regular Session on February 16, 2023

- A motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2023 as amended was made by M. Carignan and seconded by J. Kelsey, Motion carries. Abstention by R. Klinkhammer.

8:20 Updates:

- **Trail Maintenance Program (B. Schneider)**
 - R. Schneider noted that the trail will need a cleanup in the spring. Hopefully DPW will be able to go out with the leaf blower to accomplish this task.

- **BPAC Account Status (T. Gazda)**
 - No changes to the balance of the BPAC Account. Current BPAC Account Balance is \$1,607.50 as the \$ 1,700.00 invoice from Express Signs for the BFRT has been paid.
 - Awaiting Approval of Portable Toilet Funding request in the amount of \$ 2,520.00 from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

- **BPAC email report (R. Klinkhammer)**
 - A Trail event registration for the Boston Army Medical Recruiting Walking Event on the BFRT was received. R. Klinkhammer informed them to contact the Chelmsford Police Department/ Lt. Jason Poor to discuss any traffic issues. R. Klinkhammer to inform the group of event approval.

8:35 Future Meeting Dates and New Agenda Items

- Next Regular Session: April 20, 2023 (6:30 PM)
- New items for future meetings - New Ideas for Donations other than benches. Carol Cleven Park Maintenance/work with Grist Mill residents.
- Dates and agenda for future meetings/work sessions

8:45 Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by J. Kelsey and seconded by D. Antonelli . Unanimous vote.

Next Regular Session: April 20, 2023 (6:30 PM)