



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 17, 2022

TIME: 6:30 PM

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

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending: T. Gazda, R. Schneider, M. Carignan, D. Antonelli, S. Pustell

Members Absent: J. Haouchine, R. Klinkhammer, J. Kelsey

Public Present: D. McNurland,

6:30 Public Input

- None

6:45 Announcements

- As the Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend and a quorum was present, T. Gazda acted as Chair for this meeting.
- T. Gazda reported that Gary Persichetti is retiring as of May 31st, and that Christina Papadopoulos, the Town Engineer and Melissa Joyce, the Sustainability Manager will also be leaving.

7:00 Status of Bicycle Pump Replacement (J. Kelsey)

- J. Kelsey was unable to attend but the plan remains to install the new pump in early April.

7:05 Further Discussion of Mass DOT Mural Policy

- T. Gazda reported confirmation that there is no written agreement with Mass DOT for the “Aerosol Art” under the Lowell Connector bridges. It appears that when Lowell applied for funding from the TrailsGrant Program to build the Lowell branch of the trail, they wrote the idea into the grant application received no pushback, so they took it as approval.

7:10 Discuss Possible Eagle Scout Projects Along the BFRT

- R. Schneider reported a casual conversation with a person possibly involved with the scouts and Eagle scout projects. He directed the individual to contact BPAC via the committee email.

7:20 Pond Street Kiosk Status (T. Gazda)

- T. Gazda reported that the signs for the kiosk and the new bulletin board were installed on February 23rd

7:30 Cushing Place Kiosk

- T. Gazda reported that the bulletin board for the kiosk was installed on February 23rd.

7:40 Update on Brick Donation Program for Carol Clevon Park (S. Pustell)

- S. Pustell will resume follow up on this project after recent absences due to personal issues.

7:50 Review/Update Discussion Items List for March Meeting with DPW (T. Gazda)

- J. Eriksen, the Highway Superintendent was not available to attend this meeting. With agreement from R. Klinkhammer and J. Kelsey, T. Gazda met with J. Eriksen on Friday March 11th to discuss the list of items. A summary document and the

DPW's 2022 Road Paving Plan was sent to committee members prior to this meeting. The committee went through the list at this meeting.

- After review of the list, it was agreed to strike the RRFB's at Glen Avenue as there is not enough activity there to justify the cost.
- T. Gazda noted that DPW was on the trail resetting the Leath bench on the day of this meeting, March 17th. Item complete.
- Regarding the removed damaged signage at the end of the Rt. 3 trail tunnel, the committee debated the merits of replacing the signs given the amount of vandalism that occurs at that location. There was discussion about the possible liability related to the absence of the Stop sign exiting the tunnel into the finger lot (which is routinely ignored) and that the No Motor Vehicle Sign entering the tunnel probably should be replaced.
- There is interest in the project to place a BFRT logo sign and bike racks at the entrance to the trail/Brickhouse by creating a raised and protected island. T. Gazda will work with J. Eriksen and S. Ludwig to ensure the work is in the trail ROW and develop a design. J. Eriksen previously indicated that DPW might have enough granite curbing left over from other projects to create the island. BPAC will need to work on fund raising for the work as well as the sign, bike racks and protective bollard posts for the site.
- D. Antonelli expressed continued concern about the vehicle speeds on Acton Road between High Street and Bartlett Street. BPAC will refer this to the Police Department.

8:00 Review Status of E-Bike Legislation

- R. Schneider reported that his initial research did not produce any clarity on the status of any legislation. There was a bill early in 2021 that was focused around the three classes of E-bikes but it is unclear whether that bill ever made it out of committee. He will contact a local legislator to investigate the status of the bill. The committee will continue this as an agenda item going forward.

8:10 Discussion of Historical Information/Points of Interest Along the BFRT

- It was agreed that all committee members should contribute to researching history along the rail line (other than at Cushing Place which already has such info in the interpretive displays).

8:20 Approval of Meeting Minutes from Regular Session on February 17, 2022

- A motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2022 as presented was made by M. Carignan and seconded by D. Antonelli. Motion carries. Abstention by S. Pustell.

8:25 Updates:

- Trail Maintenance Program (B. Schneider)
 - R. Schneider reported that he regularly gets out on the trail to keep up with litter and removing small branches off to the side.
 - R. Schneider did an email follow up with an individual who wanted to volunteer to do some work along the trail but did not receive any response as of the date of this meeting.
 - D. Antonelli also reported removing a number of branches after some of the windstorms
 - There is a lot of graffiti in the Rt.3 tunnel on the walls and trail surface as well as evidence that vehicles have been driving into the tunnel and "burning rubber" on the pavement. T. Gazda will contact Mass DOT about the graffiti and the Police Department about the vehicles in the tunnel matter.
- BPAC Account Status (T. Gazda)
 - The charge of \$208.72 for the new bulletin boards for Pond Street and Cushing Place kiosks was paid from the BPAC account on March 4, 2022. The current account balance is \$1,362.50.
 - A funding request in the amount of \$2,520.00 for the Portable Toilets on the BFRT in 2022 has been submitted to the Friends and is awaiting approval. This will cover 36 weeks of twice weekly servicing for the units at Cushing Place and Pond Street. Target date for placing the units is April 4th assuming the funds arrive in time.
- BPAC email report (R. Klinkhammer)
 - No Report

8:35 Future Meeting Dates and New Agenda Items

- Next Regular Session: April 21, 2022 (6:30 PM)

- New items for future meetings - Review Status of E-bike Legislation, Historical Information/Points of Interest Along the BFRT
- Dates and agenda for future meetings/work sessions

8:45 Adjournment

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

Next Regular Session: April 20, 2022 (6:30 PM)