



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, May 18, 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, J. Haouchine, S. Pustell, M. Carignan, J. Warhurst

Members Absent: D. Antonelli

Public Present: D. McNurland, C. Clancy, P. Cohen, H. Crouthamel (Boy Scout), D. Chandler

6:30 Public Input

- D. McNurland reported that the groundbreaking for Phase 2D in Sudbury will be held on Saturday May 20th at 10:00 AM. Unveiling of the W. Concord mural, a map of the entire trail, will be that afternoon. Details can be found on the Friends website at brucefreemanrailtrail.org. The Phase 2B bridge was paved in early May, wrap up work to be completed on this section of the trail.
- D. Chandler attended a NMCOG meeting and presented the conceptual plan to connect the Middlesex Canal Towpath to the BFRT. The idea was well received. Also noted was the effort to connect to the Yankee Doodle trail via a path from Billerica High School to the intersection of Routes 129 and 3A.

6:45 Announcements

- M. Carignan noted that the bike racks at the fitness station on Wilson Street were removed. C. Clancy remarked that the plan is to find a more suitable spot for these racks.

7:00 Discussion of FY24 Federal Appropriations Grant Submission – Sidewalk Construction on Parkerville Road (C. Clancy)

- Under the Grant submission, if the funds are obtained, the plan is to extend the sidewalk from the Byam School driveway west on Parkerville Road to the corner of Garrison Road.
- C. Clancy reviewed the 5 Year Paving & Sidewalk Plan with the committee. This document is available as a download from the Chelmsford DPW Highway Division webpage at <https://www.townofchelmsford.us/182/Highway-Division>.
- Based on the 2021 Pavement Management Report, the backlog of road repairs is approximately \$40 million. The backlog of sidewalk repairs and replacements is approximately \$19.9 million.
- With regard to sidewalks, DPW is prioritizing connections to schools and filling in gaps to improve connectivity as well as repairing pedestrian curb ramps as with the latter, 520 of 756 existing ramps require replacement.
- A question was raised regarding adding bike lanes where possible. The 12 foot lanes might be a little too wide on some roads.
- T. Gazda suggested consideration of using sharrows and signage where there was insufficient road width to create separate bike lanes. Additionally, the idea of narrowing travel lanes to 10 – 10.5 feet to create a slightly larger shoulder outside of the fog line would create slightly more space for cyclists. C. Clancy thought that this width might be too narrow. However, T. Gazda reported that Westford did this on Acton Road, S. Chelmsford Road and there do not appear to be any problems. Also noted was that when Mass DOT repaved Littleton Road from Hunt Road to the Center, the lane widths were narrowed to 11-11.5 feet for that accommodation.
- J. Warhurst asked about using protected bike lanes with poles. C. Clancy remarked that in many locations where this method has been used, most of the poles end up being destroyed and create additional work for a DPW to pick them up.
- C. Clancy then presented the DPW Sidewalk Master Plan Tool which a consultant created – this is an internal working document which can be updated as work proceeds. It highlights the existing sidewalk network, conditions, obstructions, defects, gaps, and options for creating better connectivity. It also provides a cluster map of the highest concentrations of

sidewalks and usage. Not surprisingly, the cluster areas were near schools and activity areas such as Chelmsford Center, Vinal Square and South Chelmsford/Heart Pond.

7:20 Update on Uniform Trail Rules Signage (T. Gazda)

- T. Gazda had no new information. The assumption is that the signs are being ordered by the Friends.

7:40 Update on Bench Donations

- The bench donation by the Charles River Wheelmen in memory of Gardner “Sandy” Fell will be shipped to DPW on/about May 23rd. No definite installation date as DPW is extremely busy in May and June. As previously noted it will be installed near the 6.8 mile marker.
- Information was sent to J. Alexander regarding the bench style used in Chelmsford as well as the remaining best site for a bench near the 4 mile marker. No response has been received in two months.

7:45 Discussion on Alternatives to Bench Donations

- Several Ideas were proposed for consideration and perhaps listed on the BPAC webpage including:
 - Historical Information/Interpretive Display or Explanation of a Railroad related item such as a Whistle Stop sign, local area of interest
 - Wayfinding signage
 - Art Installations
 - Landscaping/Maintenance on a Section of the trail
 - Bike repair station at Pond Street Kiosk site
 - Root barriers along specific sections of the trail to prevent recurrence of past damage
- The committee agreed to discuss this item further at future meetings.

7:50 Trail Maintenance – Cleven Park/Brickhouse/CCA to Fletcher Street

- Cleanup of the section from the CCA to Fletcher Street might need to be delayed until the fall due to heavy use on weekends.
- Mowing and cleanup of the trail section across from Brickhouse to the Station Master.

7:55 Discussion on adding Railroad Memorabilia to Brickhouse Trail Entrance and other possible places on the BFRT (B. Schneider)

- R. Schneider reported finding a section of mostly intact track on ties near the old School Street Freight House. The issue is determining if CSX would give it up and then how to move it to a new location.
- H. Crouthamel will be seeking something for an Eagle Scout project. While not memorabilia, a suggestion was made about placing bricks/pavers around several of the trail benches which would lessen the chances of gravel and rocks getting onto the trail and becoming a hazard.

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

- S. Pustell will be reinitiating discussion with C. Clancy and A. Reppucci at DPW about assisting with this effort.

8:10 Vote to Approve Reimbursement to J. Kelsey for Bike Repair Station Tools at Carol Cleven Park

- T. Gazda made a motion to reimburse J. Kelsey the amount of \$235.40 from the BPAC account for the purchase of a replacement tool set for the bike repair station at Cushing Place. Motion seconded by S. Pustell. Unanimous vote.

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

- A motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023 as amended was made by J. Kelsey and seconded by M. Carignan. Motion carries. Abstention by J. Haouchine.

8:30 Updates:

- **Trail Maintenance Program (B. Schneider)**
 - Trail is in good shape overall. Despite the recent repainting of graffiti in the Rt. 3 the vandals are back.

- **BPAC Account Status (T. Gazda)**
 - The Portable Toilet Funding in the amount of \$ 2,520.00 from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail was deposited on March 31,2023. Current BPAC Account Balance is \$4,127.50 . There is an invoicing issue currently in resolution as the amounts billed in April were incorrect and not due to proration as USS billing is on a 28 day cycle.

- **BPAC email report (R. Klinkhammer)**
 - No Emails were received

8:40 Future Meeting Dates and New Agenda Items

- Next Regular Session: June 15, 2023 (6:30 PM)
- New items for future meetings - None
- Dates and agenda for future meetings/work sessions

8:45 Adjournment

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

Next Regular Session: June 15, 2023 (6:30 PM)