



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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TOWN OF
CHELMSFORD
PATRICIA E. DZURIS
TOWN CLERK

DATE: **Thursday, July 15, 2021**

TIME: **6:30 PM**

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

Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: S. Pustell

Public Present: D. McNurland, P. Wojtas

6:30 Election of Committee Officers for FY 2022

- T. Gazda nominated R. Klinkhammer for the position of Chair. No other nominations. Nomination seconded by J. Haouchine. Unanimous Vote.
- T. Gazda nominated J. Kelsey for the position of Vice Chair. No other nominations. Nomination seconded by M. Carignan. Unanimous Vote.
- J. Kelsey nominated T. Gazda for the position of Secretary. No other nominations. Nomination seconded by R. Klinkhammer. Unanimous Vote.

6:45 Public Input

- D. McNurland reported on several matters related to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
 - Work on the Connector Trail from Industrial Avenue to the Target Shopping Center is progressing. It is expected to be finished this summer.
 - The steel for the BFRT bridge over Rt. 2 has arrived. Road Closures over the weekend of July 16-18 are expected so that the girders can be installed.
 - Enterprise Bank and Trust Co. had a program where they would make a \$10 donation to local groups for each business customer who opted into receiving electronic statements. This program netted the Friends \$5,000. D. McNurland will work to have this amount split between the Friends General Fund and the Chelmsford Amenities Fund.

7:00 Announcements

- R. Schneider reported that he worked with the Lowell Cleanup Krewe to clean up a section of the Connector Trail prior to work to pave it to create the extension of the BFRT from Industrial Avenue to the Target Plaza. There was a lot of trash including a large number of empty spray paint cans used by the graffiti artists under the Lowell Connector Bridge as well as a cleanup of a large amount of trash from abandoned homeless camps.
- T. Gazda reported a conversation with Joe Eriksen, Asst. DPW Foreman regarding a request DPW got to repair the fence of the trail abutter at the end of Westview Avenue. This person has previously requested a few years ago the repair of the fence damaged by fallen trees from the abutter's property. The Friends rejected the request at the time. The town then and now told the abutter since it was their trees that damaged the fence, they were responsible to repair it. The abutter requested permission to repair it and was told that if they wanted permission to repair the fence, DPW would send them a letter authorizing it. The abutter also requested to talk to someone on BPAC so J. Eriksen gave them T. Gazda's email address. T. Gazda reported no contact from the abutter.
- Separately T. Gazda reported in the conversation that J. Eriksen was asked about mowing along the trail. It was indicated that DPW was using hand mowing in the short term as the brush cutters were tied up with roadside work. J. Eriksen also reported that DPW was getting a new sidewalk plow in FY 22 which will also have a brush cutter attachment and this will enable them to get to trail mowing done in more timely manner

7:10 Donated Benches for the Trail

- Status of Bench Donation from Diane Leath (J. Kelsey)
 - J. Kelsey and T. Gazda reported that DPW has received the bench and would like to install it in the next week or so. T. Gazda sent S. Jahnle the location information for this bench.
- Status of Bench Donation from Elena Theofilopoulos (T. Gazda)
 - T. Gazda reported receiving an email from Ms. Theofilopoulos indicating she was out of the country and would get the ship date information to the BPAC as soon as possible.

7:20 Trail Count – September 11, 2021

- T. Gazda indicated that this is the traditional date of the count and that he will prepare the tally sheets and clipboard. T. Gazda indicated someone will need to step up to be the point person that day as he is out of town that weekend as well as the following weekend that has been used as the rain date in the past.
- R. Klinkhammer volunteered to be point person for the count. T. Gazda will prepare the count sheets and solicit volunteers for the one hour counting slots from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM..

7:30 Review and Discussion of Mass DOT Mural Policy

- There was extensive discussion of the policy relative to the Rt. 3 Tunnel and the I-495 underpasses along the BFRT.
 - Concern was expressed about the complexity of the application process and the need to post a Surety Bond.
 - Obviously an artist interested in creating murals would have to be located. The need for some kind of theme involving railroad history of the line as well as bicycle and pedestrian use was raised.
 - There was mixed sentiment about graffiti type murals.
 - Murals would have to be painted on the surfaces and not be on substrates attached to the tunnel walls or abutments.
 - The Rt.3 tunnel with its corrugated, galvanized metal construction doesn't lend itself to created quality murals and would possibly deter some artists from taking on a project.
 - The abutments under the I-495 bridges would require much restoration work to make the surfaces amenable to painted murals. This is due to the current conditions from years of painted over graffiti (now peeling), spalling and cracking concrete, and water leaking from the bridge expansion joints.
 - The graffiti on the Connector Trail abutments being used as a way to control offensive graffiti came up and there was interest in taking a wait and see approach as to how this really works out once that trail section is completed. BPAC will leave this as an agenda item to monitor this situation.
- In the meantime, T. Gazda will respond back to Mass DOT to note items such as the issues with murals on the tunnel walls and the condition of the I-495 abutments. Will also seek examples of murals created and used on other trails for review by BPAC and whether Mass DOT approved the graffiti program under the Lowell Connector bridge over the Connector Trail extension.

7:40 Update on Bicycle Tire Pump Replacement (J. Kelsey)

- J. Kelsey showed several examples of bicycle tire bike pumps that had improved designs which would be more rugged.. The question is how much to spend for a pump that might only last 2-4 years.
- The inclination was toward the purchase of a more rugged but more expensive one
- The question of doing some yearly maintenance was raised and deemed a good idea. As was the possibility of removing the pump for the winter to reduce exposure when there would be much less need for it.
- D. McNurland indicated that the Friend could fund the cost of a new pump
- J. Kelsey will obtain a formal quote from Dero for the Air Kit Prime pump to send quote to D. McNurland at FBFRT and work through the purchase process.
- T. Gazda made a motion to authorize J. Kelsey to obtain the quote and work with D. McNurland of the Friends to complete the purchase of the pump. M. Carignan seconded the motion. Motion Carries, unanimous vote.
- T. Gazda will send J. Kelsey the FBFRT funding request template document.

7:50 Update on Brick Donation Program for Carol Cleven Park (S. Pustell)

- S. Pustell was not able to attend this meeting. No update on this project.

8:00 Approval of Meeting Minutes - Regular Session June 17, 2021

- A motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2021 as amended was made by J. Kelsey and seconded by J. Haouchine. Motion carries. Abstentions by J. Haouchine.

8:10 BPAC email report (R. Klinkhammer)

- R. Klinkhammer reported that the mail forwarding is working. It was agreed that he would report any emails of importance to BPAC on a monthly basis under the Updates Agenda item.

8:15 Updates:

Trail Maintenance Program (B. Schneider)

- R. Schneider reported that overall the trail in good shape. He expressed concern about dust and small stones from the shoulder repairs in repaved sections making their way onto the trail surface being a hazard, particularly to rollerbladers
- M. Carignan reported that he picks up trash along the Village Square section of the trail and has not seen much evidence of trash generated near the Little Z's ice cream stand.

BPAC Account Status (T. Gazda)

- T. Gazda reported that \$280.00 was paid out to United Site Services for the portable toilets on the BFRT. Current account balance is \$4,554.22. The July invoices have been received and are in process as of this date.

8:30 Future Meeting Dates and New Agenda Items

- Next Regular Session: August 19, 2021 (6:30 PM)
- New agenda items for future meetings:
 - Work on outlining possible Eagle Scout projects along the trail
- Dates and agenda for future meetings/work sessions
 - No planned work sessions at this time

8:40 Adjournment

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

Next Regular Session: August 19, 2021 (6:30 PM)