



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, July 20, 2023

TIME: 6:30 PM

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

Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: S. Pustell, J. Haouchine

Public Present: D. McNurland

6:30 Election of BPAC Officers (Chair Deferred Item to 7:45 PM)

- T. Gazda nominated R. Klinkhammer for the position of Chair. No other nominations. Nomination seconded by D. Antonelli. Unanimous Vote.
- T. Gazda nominated J. Warhurst for the position of Vice Chair. No other nominations. Nomination seconded by D. Antonelli. Unanimous Vote.
- R. Klinkhammer nominated T. Gazda for the position of Secretary. No other nominations. Nomination seconded by D. Antonelli. Unanimous Vote.

6:45 Public Input

- D. McNurland reported that there is still no firm date for the Phase 2B Ribbon cutting which was supposed to be held on June 30th. Also, Concord and Acton are installing Bike Share Stations along the trail.

6:55 Announcements

- R. Klinkhammer reported that a number of grants were made by the East Coast Greenway and Sudbury received \$192,000 with a \$48,000 match.
- M. Carignan reported repairs to a section of sidewalk on Wilson Street was completed.

7:05 Approval of Meeting Minutes from Regular Session on May 18, 2023

- A motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2023 as amended was made by M. Carignan and seconded by D. Antonelli. Motion carries. Abstention: None

7:15 Discussion of Stop Lettering at Trail Intersection Stop Bars

- T. Gazda reported that J. Eriksen, the Highway Superintendent offered to acquire a stencil to enable the painting of STOP lettering at the stop bars at trail intersections with streets. He has noted that he sees many users, especially cyclists not stopping or slowing down at trail street crossings. DPW is planning to repaint lines and Stop bars at all street intersections so this could be done at the same time.
- T. Gazda reported doing some research in on trail signage and markings in the MUTCD as well as viewing intersections via Google Earth and Street View on the BFRT (particularly the newer sections), the Cape Cod Rail Trail, the Shining Sea Trail, the East Bay Bike Path in Rhode Island and the Hudson Valley Rail Trail in New York. There was no evidence that such

lettering is in use on these trail intersections nor indication that it can't be used. A picture of STOP AHEAD lettering was shown.

- Committee discussion ensued. Ultimately the members agreed it would be worthwhile to add this lettering at select trail street crossings. It was felt that even if cyclists and other trail users didn't stop, it might slow them down and cause them to look before entering a street crossing, and even if it only prevented a few incidents, it would be worthwhile.
- T. Gazda suggested perhaps doing this as pilot program could be considered.
- M. Carignan made a motion to Approve the Addition of STOP Lettering at the Trail Stop Bars for select BFRT Intersections as a Safety Pilot Program. This would at a minimum include crossings at Glen Avenue, Golden Cove Road, Trail Crossing at the driveway to Brickhouse Sports Grill, High Street, Maple Road and Pond Street. R. Schneider seconded the motion. No further discussion. Unanimous Vote.
- T. Gazda will notify J. Eriksen of DPW on the decision with a CC: to P. Cohen.

7:25 Trail Count – Saturday, September 9, 2023

- The count will be from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on the indicated date. No rain date is planned. T. Gazda will be sending out an email to the committee and other past volunteers to commit to filling a one or two hour slot.

7:35 Discussion on adding Railroad Memorabilia to Brickhouse Trail Entrance and other possible places on the BFRT (B. Schneider)

- R. Schneider reported speaking to Representative Simon Cataldo about the idea of promoting more railroad memorabilia along the trail so trail users don't forget the history and the trail was once an active railroad line. He received a generally favorable response.
- R. Schneider also reported that he has not had any follow up response from CSX and little support from the Historical Society and past BPAC Meeting attendees who had offered to help.

7:45 Follow up on LRTA Advisory Board Meeting (J. Warhurst)

- J. Warhurst reported that the Advisory Board does not meet in July and August but he did sit in on the June meeting. The LRTA is replacing buses as the budget permits and that they do not plan any near term changes or additions to bus routes. He will find out who is the Chelmsford representative to the Advisory Board.

7:55 Discussion on Nashoba Regional Greenway Coalition (NRGC) [<https://www.nrgreenway.org>] (J. Warhurst)

- J. Warhurst reported on the NRGC which is an organization of rural towns including among others, Acton, Ayer, Bolton Littleton and Westford. Most of the towns are in the Metropolitan Planning Council region and not in NMCOG. The NRGC is not a State or 501C organization but uses volunteers and donation to promote best routes for bicycling and awareness of walking trails to connect the towns. Its effort is mainly creating awareness of these routes and trails.
- One idea they seem have is to eliminate line striping on rural back roads and non-major arterial roads, presumably to make it safer for cyclists. This idea was viewed with hesitance by some BPAC members and probably needs some formal research to support the idea.

8:05 Update on Brick Donation Program for Carol Clevon Park (S. Pustell)

- S. Pustell was unable to attend the meeting. No update.

8:10 Alternatives to Bench Donations

- In addition to the items identified at the May meeting, bike racks were identified as a donation item. Perhaps a bike rack could be placed near benches so that cyclists who stop would not have to leave a bicycle on the edge of the trail surface, reducing a potential hazard to others.
- R. Schneider suggested a water fill station at Cushing Place similar to the one installed in Concord. This could be an expensive item as they cost nearly \$4,000 and this does not include getting a water supply line installed as well as maintenance and winter shut off. He will investigate further and see if the Friends might supply some funding as well as figure out the cost of installation of a water supply line.
- Once a list of items is firmed up, it will be added to the BPAC webpage.

8:30 Updates:

- **Trail Maintenance Program (B. Schneider)**

- Trail Mowing was delayed due to an issue with the trail mower. It was supposed to start week of July 17th.
- R. Schneider reported issues with low hanging trees in the section of trail behind Stop and Shop. He trimmed some of what he could reach. T. Gazda suggested using ClickFix to report this so that it gets on DPW's maintenance list as this type of work is beyond what volunteers can do.
- It was reported that the graffiti in the RT. 3 Tunnel of the trail has gotten bad with some being graphic and offensive. T. Gazda will contact Mass DOT and ask them to send out the team to paint it over.
- **Other**
 - It was also noted that the BPAC Meeting time needs to be updated to 6:30 PM from 6:00 PM.
- **BPAC Account Status (T. Gazda)**
 - Current BPAC Account Balance is \$3,070.50 . The invoicing issue at USS appears to be resolved as the May and June invoices were for the contracted amount of \$140.00 per unit. The April invoice was prorated at \$130.67 due to a less than 28 day cycle. Prorated and full June charges for the second unit at Pond Street funded by the town were erroneously charged to the BPAC account when FY 23 expenses were booked by June 30th. Those charges are in the process of being reversed out. Current 2023 Portable Funding balance is \$1,698.66.
- **BPAC email report (R. Klinkhammer)**
 - No new emails received.

8:40 Future Meeting Dates and New Agenda Items

- Next Regular Session: August 17, 2023 (6:30 PM)
- New items for future meetings
- 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: August 17, 2023 (6:30 PM)