

**RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, April 29, 2015**

PRESENT: John Bulian, James Goldstein, Gerry Koss, Mike Retzky, Ed Olsen, Patty Carey

ABSENT: Dmitry Gorenburg

GUESTS: Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by Ex-Officio member Patty Carey at the Charles River Room at PSAB.

- 1. Introduction of Members:** Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick welcomed all the members and thanked everyone for volunteering to serve on this new committee.
- 2. Review of Committee Charge:** The committee reviewed the official charge from the Board of Selectmen.
- 3. Update on Construction Project:** Ms. Carey described the current status of the project that began during the week of April 20, 2015 and anticipates being completed by the end of May. A copy of a handout created by the Town Manager was reviewed and attached to these minutes as Appendix A. An informal meeting was held, on Monday, April 27, so that Town officials and some members of Bay Colony Rail Trail Association (BCRTA) could meet the contractor and learn about the removal process. Local media were present and stories have been done with the Needham Channel, Needham Times, Needham Hometown Weekly, and Boston Globe West. The first part of construction is the removal of rails and ties. The second phase will include installation of final stone dust surface, installation of safety fencing, and improvements at road crossings. Mr. Olsen stated that the rails have been removed from the Charles River to Fisher Street. Rail and tie removal is underway in the area between Fisher Street and Charles River Street, and work will begin at the Town Forest and move back towards Charles River Street. Mr. Bulian asked for the work schedule, which Mr. Olsen outlined as being Monday-Friday, 7 AM – 3 PM. A representative of the Town's Engineering Division is on site during the work day, observing, recording notes and taking photos. Ms. Carey noted that one neighbor was concerned about noise when the chipper was used during the clear-out. Mr. Koss asked where the trail will be accessed. Public access will be from the Town Forest at High Rock Street, and from Fisher Street or Charles River Street. The Committee reviewed the current funding as seen in Appendix A. Mr. Goldstein outlined the BCRTA mitigation funds process. Homeowners requesting mitigation will receive up to \$25 per linear foot of exposed property along the rail trail, and will be reimbursed that amount of money for privacy fencing or vegetative screening they install on their property. Some may request the funds early, and others may wait until they've experience the trail to make a request. Mr. Retzky suggested BCRTA consider a deadline, possibly one year after full operation. Mr. Goldstein noted the preliminary mitigation discussions with the Walker School. Mr. Bulian stated that the Board of Selectmen will assist with those negotiations. Ms. Olsen noted that many rail trails, meeting federal construction standards,

cost \$1 million per mile to build. Mr. Koss asked for an update on the progress of adjacent communities. Mr. Bulian noted that Dover has an active non-profit and is beginning the feasibility stage. Medfield and Dover will be observing the Needham project. The committee discussed the South Street property that is on both sides of the trail, and will have horse trailers crossing the trail. Ms. Carey stated that a copy of the easement will need to be reviewed to understand the roles of the Town and the property owner.

4. **Vote: Chairman of Rail Trail Advisory Committee:** Mr. Bulian nominated Mr. Retzky to be Chairman of the Rail Trail Advisory Committee, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Bulian nominated Mr. Koss to be Vice Chairman of the Rail Trail Advisory Committee, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky. The vote was unanimous.
5. **Development of Work Plan:** The committee chose three major tasks: (a) draft a set of rules and regulations for use of the rail trail; (b) review and provide input on the second part of the construction phase; and (c) create process for a possible recommendation for naming the Needham section of trail. The Needham High School Rail Trail Club has begun their own project for naming suggestions and will provide that information to the committee. For the next meeting, members will send Ms. Carey samples of rules and regulations or suggestions. Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Gorenburg will coordinate the information and provide some suggestions at the next meeting.
6. **Schedule Meetings:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27 at 7 PM.

Mr. Koss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bulian. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, Ex-Officio Member