

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, July 15, 2015**

PRESENT: Mike Retzky – Chairman, Gerry Koss – Vice Chairman, John Bulian, James Goldstein, Dmitry Gorenburg, Patty Carey

ABSENT: Ed Olsen

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Chairman Mike Retzky at the Park and Recreation Office at PSAB. The meeting had originally been scheduled to be held on the Rail Trail, but due to rain, it was moved indoors.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of June 24, 2015:** Mr. Bulian made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2. Walk of Trail:** As indicated above, the construction plans were going to be reviewed on the trail as the Committee walked, but the meeting was moved indoors and the plans were reviewed. Ms. Carey provided the following updates from information provided by Town Engineer Tony DelGaizo. A guard rail will be placed along the end/start of the trail – at the Town Forest and at the Charles River. Stakes have been set along the trail every 500 feet. Those designated areas can be used for signs, if the committee deems they are in appropriate locations. The project does not include the pathway through the Town Forest. Park and Recreation will need to coordinate that work with volunteers, and provide marking. The path will need to be designated with help of Conservation Director. The surface will be crushed stone, with 8" reclaimed material and 2" of stone dust. The contractor will scrape out about 2" of the surface, placing it along the edges, and cover with fabric. The final trail will be about 2" above grade, which will help with drainage. Crossings will have 3 bollards, and a 15' x 15' stone surface approaching the crossings. There will be mini stop signs. The "Rail Trail Crossing" signs were already remade from the original railroad crossing signs and are installed. In a future phase, pedestrian buttons with flashing lights could be considered. Town staff will have the two streets painted. They won't be traditional cross walks, but will have some form of decorative painting to indicate approaching the trail. A sample of decorative painting can be seen on Highland Avenue at Webster Street (though it needs to be repainted before school begins.) Town staff will raise the canopy of trees at the crossings. Guard rail installation is shown on the construction documents, in areas where there is a steep slope. 300' of privacy fencing will be installed above 142 Fisher Street near the Walker School. The MBTA still needs to repair the fencing they have placed prior to the Charles River bridge which has been cut by teens trying to reach the bridge and water. The project will officially be put out to bid on July 24 and placed in the Central Register on July 29 and August 5. The bid opening will be on August 13, and the contract should be awarded within a week, with work starting after Labor Day. It is anticipated the project can be completed within 6-8 weeks. The current estimate for this phase of work is \$234,000, which includes a 15% contingency. The estimates include the cost of materials and the labor for installation. The cost of the first phase was \$45,015, so it is estimated the two phases will be just

under the \$280,000 of available funds. When reviewing the road crossings, Mr. Goldstein noted that he had visited some trails that had fence across most of the openings, with a small area for people or bikes to come out onto the roadway. Ms. Carey explained that various options had been reviewed, but that the 3 bollards would be used during this phase. Mr. Bulian stated that if the project came in under the estimates, that unused funds would be returned to the CPA fund. At the prior meeting, the Committee had discussed the possible naming of the trail, based on a contest the Needham High Rail Trail Club had held. Since that meeting, Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Carey have both spoken with Bay Colony Rail Trail Association representative Tad Staley who has reached out to the students. The general consensus is to keep the current name of Bay Colony Rail Trail, so no further action is needed.

3. Schedule Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 PM is the tentative next date.

Mr. Gorenburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Koss. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, Ex-Officio Member