

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

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

ABSENT: Patty Carey

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Mike Retzky at the Webster Room at PSAB.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of July 15, 2015:** Mr. Bulian made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. **Project Updates:**

- a. **Construction:** The Committee discussed the recent news of the \$50,000 state trails grant awarded to Needham. Conservation Director Matt Varrell submitted the application on behalf of the Town. The initial bids came in over budget, so the new bid documents took the section from Fisher Street to Charles River Street out and placed it as an add-alternate, along with fencing in that section. It is anticipated that some bids will be reduced in order to meet the available funding. The new bid will be opened later this week. The list of “Persons Receiving Bidding Documents” was reviewed. The bid opening is scheduled for Friday, September 9, 2015.

- b. **Access from High Rock Street:** The Conservation Director met with Ms. Carey and determined that it would be challenging to permit the anticipated route from High Rock Street to the rail trail, due to wetlands. He and Ms. Carey have found an alternate route which brings the access up further on the rail trail. Ms. Carey will work with Exchange Club on the access route. The committee requested a map or plan of the alternate access route be provided if the area at Robinwood or the High Rock-town forest trails are utilized as defined points of access.

- c. **Eagle Scout Projects:** There was no update on the possible Eagle Scout project to install kiosks and markers; or on the Bar Mitzvah project to plant milkweed for the Monarch butterflies. The committee was not sure on the current status or if there has been any recent contact regarding this proposal with the proponents.

3. **Draft Regulations and Signs:** The Fire Department supports the current draft of regulations. The Police Department has not provided input at this time. It will be important for the Police Department to note the phone number that should be suggested for emergency contact. Mr. Retzky noted the importance of the markers having letter or numbers, in addition to distance. Mr. Bulian suggested signage asking cyclists to dismount at road crossings. The signs at the road crossings should be determined by Town officials. Other signs can be recommended by the Rail Trail

Advisory Committee. In order to finalize the signage, input from the Needham Police Dept. is necessary so the committee can incorporate the NPD's requirements for public safety in to the final recommended signage plan.

4. Schedule Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 14th

Mr. Gorenburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:45 PM, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Koss. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Olsen, Ex-Officio Member