

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, October 14, 2015**

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

ABSENT: Patty Carey

GUESTS: Tad Staley, Susan Kirk, Peter Cohen

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Chairman Mike Retzky at the Webster Room at PSAB.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of September 9, 2015:** Mr. Bulian made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gorenburg. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2. Project Updates: Construction – Scheduling and Funding; Access to Rail Trail; Mitigation with Abutters:** Mr. Olsen provided an update. At this time, it is expected that the work would begin in about two weeks, with substantial completion by late November. The first work to be done is expected to be the fencing. Mr. Gorenburg noted that Eversource is planning to clear trees along the overhead power line easement, which will include needing to access the clearing along the new rail trail. Mr. Olsen noted that Eversource needs to coordinate with the Town and if at the same time, coordinate with construction. Any damage to the rail trail done by Eversource will need to be repaired by them or the cost of repair reimbursed by them. The Eversource work will not impact the schedule for the rail trail. BCRTA representative Tad Staley gave an update on their funding. A suggestion was made to stop the rail trail prior to the Walker School so that people could not reach the Charles River and the bridge. Mr. Retzky recommended not making any changes to the existing plan, as bid by the contractor, and maintaining the trail end point as shown on the plans at or near the rail road bridge. A list of abutters was provided with mitigation costs for privacy screening. Not all contacted abutters have responded. BCRT has raised \$50,000 and has currently allotted about \$45,000 of the funds for this mitigation work. It appears if more abutters request mitigation that BCRT may be short on funding for this task. Some of the mitigation is included under the current contract so this may free up some funds for other properties along the trail. Walker School is looking to install about 200 LF of fencing at two locations totaling 400 LF of fencing. There is no final resolution to this request. Mr. Goldstein asked who would be inspecting the work on this phase of the project. Mr. Olsen stated that Town staff would perform the inspections and monitoring of the project on a daily basis. Mr. Olsen noted that the full contract was awarded, with all the bid alternatives. Mr. Gorenburg suggested having Eversource help with mitigation privacy plantings. It was noted, if homeowners are having trees cut at or on the power line easement at their properties, the homeowner can negotiate with Eversource to replant the area with acceptable vegetation through Eversource. BCRTA representative Peter Cohen thanked everyone for their work, and noted that BCRTA would continue their fundraising efforts.

- 3. Draft Regulations and Signs:** Mr. Olsen will confirm when signs will be installed near access points.
- 4. Trail Opening and Ribbon Cutting Event:** A discussion was held on holding a “soft opening” in December with something more official in May. The tentative dates are Saturday, December 5th and Sunday, May 1st. Mr. Bulian asked that the information be coordinated with Ms. Carey and with Sandy Cincotta in the Town Manager’s Office.
- 5. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 7 PM. Location will be determined.

Mr. Bulian made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:32 PM, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Gorenburg. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Retzky, Chairman