

Rail Trail Committee Minutes
November 13, 2012

Member attendees: Tim Holiner, Carol Lisbon, Matthew Schmid, Kate Cannie, Elaine Rosenburg

Guests: Marty Bohlin, Bob Coates, Dennis Dyer,

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Lower Conference Room

1. Minutes of 10/16/12 were approved.
2. Updates
 - a. On October 22, Kate, Carol, Mark and Matt attended a meeting of the Needham Rail Trail Greenway group under the direction of Tom Connors. This group is separate from the Bay Colony Rail Trail Association and is focused on the creation of a northern section of a rail trail from Needham Heights to Newton. They have sponsored 2 articles for Needham's Town meeting in November.
 - b. Kate reviewed the email list used to contact concerned citizens. The list is now over 135. It was recommended that this list be available for all communications regarding the rail trail, not just those from the RTC.
 - c. All RTC email communication by the committee and citizens should now be directed to railtrailchair@doverma.org. This email address is on the RTC website.
 - d. Mary has scheduled 2 meetings to assess the viability of a "Friends" organization. (Saturday, November 17 at 10 am at the Library, Thursday 11/29 at 7pm at the Library). Based upon input from other towns, a "Friends" group can significantly reduce town expenditures for maintenance. It is, therefore, imperative to gauge actual interest in Dover so that a proper financial analysis of the recreation path can be developed for the Feasibility Report. It was clarified that a "Friends" group would be independent of the RTC and assume responsibility for developing a viable organization.

- e. To facilitate timely, balanced and consistent communications among all groups, liaisons were appointed to the “Friends” and the other informal group of citizens (Mary McLaughlin and Elaine Rosenberg, respectively). The liaisons will provide two-way communication between their group and the RTC, and keep both informed of activities, plans, decisions, information, etc. RTC members were reminded to share all communications with their fellow committee members.
- f. Elaine combined the input from the 3 meetings held with Dover citizens in late September and early October with the issues list to create a new comprehensive document.
- g. Feasibility Study items were discussed, including a survey in addition to the data provided by the Master Plan Survey in early 2012, and having smaller neighborhood-based meetings. There was consensus that the Rules and regulations developed for the recreational path should be handled in the same manner as other Town boards and committees, but that a recommended document be included in the Study.
- h. Accessibility of the rail bed was discussed. Over the past two years, growth between the rails has made it nearly impossible to walk the rail bed. Prior to this the rail bed was used by walkers. THE RTC needs access to work with specific abutters to understand individual property concerns and citizens should have the ability to walk the path to familiarize themselves with the issues. “Clearing”, as defined by the RTC, means removing enough growth between the rails to allow safe passage by foot. This limited activity could be done this winter/early spring by volunteers upon approval of the MBTA.
- i. Critical path issues include IHP, abutter issues, “friends” viability, and parking/access issues.

3. Actions :

- a. **11/14**: Mary to email meeting dates for “Friends” meetings
- b. **11/14**: Kate to replace Issues list on website with updated Issues list
- c. **11/18**: A walk of Dover’s rail bed is scheduled at 10am from Carol’s house.
- d. **11/27**: Mark Howe and Tim Holiner to review meeting with Weston & Sampson for exploration of Dover-specific needs.

- e. Kate to continue outreach to the Long-Range Planning to arrange for an update to them.
- f. **11/27**: Matt will obtain more information on specifics of comparative towns' paths (length, connections) to aid in refining list to about a dozen communities.
- g. Carol to add content to RTC webpage: ConCom letter
- h. Kate to touch base with Newton legal department.
- i. **12/11**: Carol to report on Town Counsel review of MBTA lease and insurance needs
- j. Field trips to other recreational paths need to be scheduled
- k. Carol Lisbon to schedule RTC visit to
 - i. Council on Aging
 - ii. Board of Health
- l. An RDA to ConCom will be required at some point
- m. Individuals RTC members to begin development of Feasibility Study material.

4. Next meetings: 11/27/, 12/11
Open hearing 12/18

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Lisbon

