

Rail Trail Committee Minutes
October 16, 2012

Member attendees: Tim Holiner, Carol Lisbon, Matthew Schmid, Kate Cannie, Greg Hills, Mark Howe, Elaine Rosenburg

Guests: Tom Burke, Valerie Lin, Betty Schlenker, Marty Bohlin, Alan Moss, Bob Coates, Dennis Dyer, Peter Marconi, Paul Webb, Stephanie Gould

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of 10/2/12 were approved.
2. Updates
 - a. Elaine and Kate reviewed the input from the 3 meetings held with Dover citizens in late September and early October. 18 attendees shared their concerns and issues, which were generally covered in the topics of the feasibility study outline. Some topics were discussed in more depth. Meetings were helpful and informative for the committee and citizens. Two detailed lists are attached to these minutes.
 - b. Kate reviewed the email list used to contact concerned citizens. The list is now over 100.
 - c. Carol reviewed Town Counsel's comments on the MBTA lease in a letter dated 9/17/12. Further discussion with counsel is needed. New questions include: Dover's right to cancel lease, liability issues specific to the bridge, and easement sublets by MBTA.
 - d. The MPO has reactivated the feasibility study started in 2 years ago and expects completion in early 2013.
 - e. The feasibility study list was reviewed and items assigned for research and write-up.
3. Actions :
 - a. **11/18**: A walk of Dover's rail bed is scheduled at 10am from Carol's house. (Note change from 11/17)

- b. **10/22**: Mark Howe and Tim Holiner to meet with Weston & Sampson for exploration of Dover-specific needs.
- c. Kate to work with Bill Clark to establish an email address for the RTC that can be used for citizen input. It is Town policy not to include personal contact information on the Town website for elected and appointed committee members.
- d. Kate to contact the Long-Range Planning to arrange for an update to them.
- e. Tim and Matt to find more photos to place on website.
- f. **10/30**: 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. **11/13**: Carol to report on Town Counsel review of MBTA lease and insurance needs
- i. Mary McLaughlin to continue exploring feasibility of an active "Friends of" organization with goal of creating core group to assume responsibility for developing a viable organization.
- 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

4. Next meetings: 10/30, 11/13, 11/27/, 12/11
Open hearing 12/18

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Lisbon

Notes from the Community meetings re: Dover Rail Trail
From: Elaine Rosenberg
10/15/12

Three community meetings were held at the Dover Library on September 27, October 2, and October 13. The meetings were scheduled for an evening, weekday morning and Saturday morning to accommodate the various schedules of residents. The meetings were led by Kate Cannie and me, representing the Dover Rail Trail Committee. The meetings were advertised via press releases and posted flyers. Participants were asked to sign in and provide email addresses so they could be added to the email list.

The attendees were asked to share their ideas, issues and concerns so we could bring them back to the Committee. These are issues that were raised (based on my notes):

- Dogs – on leash, under control, how many per walker, professional dog walkers
- Public Health issues including-ticks, poison ivy, exposure of toxic/hazardous materials on trail now and could be exposed when removing rails
- Abutters property/privacy concerns – trespassing, drinking & parties, swimming/hanging out at bridge, cars parked, police access through property, fencing paid for by project, property security, children's safety while in backyard, property values
- How would abutters be affected during construction and rail removal – noise, construction vehicles, property damage, construction vehicle/workers access to trail
- Dover already has many trails, why need another one
- Controlling poison ivy-chemicals?
- Use by skateboarders, ATVs, snowmobiles
- Environmental issues – weed control chemicals, wet lands
- Night use
- Use as shortcut by serious bicyclists to get to Dover roads
- Child safety – concerns re: "stranger" access to kids on trails
- Safety where trail crosses streets
- Cost of trail – town funds
- Cost of maintaining trail – surface, clean-up, pruning
- How long has Iron Horse been doing this?

To: Members of the Rail Trail Committee
From: Kate Cannie
Date: October 16, 2012
Re: Informal public information gathering meetings

On behalf of the Rail Trail Committee three (3) meetings with residents of Dover were conducted. These meetings were held on Thursday September 27th, Tuesday October 2nd and Saturday October 13th. A total of eighteen (18) people attended the meetings.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for residents to share thoughts, ideas and concerns regarding the development of a recreational path in Dover on the rail bed. Provided below is a listing of topics and issues that were mentioned by the meeting attendees. The list has been taken from my notes.

- Costs: how much, how will it be paid for and who pays for maintenance
- Usage: what is the expected number of people, resident vs non-resident, types of usage
- Environmental: impacts on wetlands, water tables, flora & fauna as well as control of poison ivy
- Construction: impact on abutters during, materials, dimensions, process and fencing
- Access points: how many, where, possibility for additional access points, intersection with roads and other trails, how will people get to these points and signage
- Parking: where, how many spots and what restrictions will be put in place
- Public Safety: threat to properties, threat to children, patrolling area
- Abutter properties: trespassing, parking on private property, protection, fencing and loss of privacy/views
- Impact on community: change in the culture of Dover, promoting the use of Dover resources to communities/groups outside of Dover
- Nuisance: dogs (leashed or unleashed), horses, skateboards, motorized vehicles, cyclist groups, nighttime usage, teen gatherings
- Bridge: is it going to be repaired and the pros and cons of that
- What ifs: what if project doesn't happen, what if bridge is or isn't repaired, what if trail isn't built in Medfield and Needham – what if it is