

Rail Trail Committee Minutes
July 10, 2012

Member attendees: Tim Holiner, Carol Lisbon, Matthew Schmid, Kate Cannie, Mark Howe

Guests:, Martha Bolin, Elaine Rosenberg, Chief McGowan, Gerry Clark, Mike Francis (TTOR)

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Minutes of 6/12/12 were approved.
2. Mike Francis, TTOR
 - a. The Committee thanked Mike for sharing his experiences and expertise.
 - b. TTOR has 4 properties in Dover – Noanet (600 acres), Peters (90 acres), Powisset (100 acres) and Chase (80 acres) with a total of approx. 25 miles of trails. Hale has another 600 acres in Dover with another 15 miles of trails. TTOR assumes about 30,000 visits/yr with 30% from Dover.
 - c. Trail maintenance: “soil stabilizer” used by Charles River Greenway slowly turns to asphalt due to traffic and heat. Different trail surfaces are better than others depending upon shared use decisions- impacts ease-of-use, speed. Slightly peak trail in center so gradual run-off to sides will prevent erosion of path. TTOR uses signage to safety notifications: approaching hazardous area, warning signs re: inherent danger of being in a trail.
 - d. Shared use: DOGS: a few dog v. dog issues/yr. with rules that dogs be in sight and in control or on leash, pickup after dog, and dogs not allowed to approach people or wildlife. No snowmobiles or motorized vehicles allowed. Noanet has a mountain bike permit program with Hale. Noticed fewer mt. bikes over past few years with a few complaints/year. General comment: shared use at Noanet works with very few problems.

- e. Rules: Hours dawn to dusk. Trash: carry in/carry out (CICO) in all TTOR and DCR properties. Trash not an issue- occasional bits around trail head, parking area if any. Portapotties at access point in Caryl Park parking lot; optional; no real need for them.
- f. ADA: check baseline requirements for trails and 5 criteria approved by DOJ for assessing shared used bans.
- g. Parking: Noanet needs about 45 spots (15 @ Caryl, 30 on Powisset)for their census. Look at area beyond lot for signage, boulders, etc. when designating areas.
- h. Abutters: abutters are frequent users of Noanet as evidenced by informal trails to homes. TTOR does not get abutter complaints. Signage used to mark boundaries of TTOR property and remind trail users to respect private property.
- i. Public Safety: TTOR receives very few complaints of any sort throughout the year. Chief McGowan mentioned a few campfire complaints this Spring and less than a handful of emergency response situations. Noanet has no call boxes as cell phones are in use. Chief stated he could use this as an opportunity to create a bike patrol (as resources permit) which serves to increase interaction with citizens as well but with no additional resources required.
- j. Mike stated that he has found users of TTOR properties in Dover to be very respectful in all aspects- to trash, abutter concerns, trails in general. Suburban demographic indicates appreciation of open space.

3. Updates

- a. Mark Howe met with Joe Hattrup of IHP. Sample contracts from 4 towns available-all 1-2 pages. T-base is not as comfortable as stone dust to walk on and will eventually harden, but does have less erosion. Stone dust is used on trails more often in rural areas like Dover with less traffic. Edges can be designed to limit erosion. Can address railings on steeper slope areas, signage, etc. Can do about 1 mile/month. \$350/ton of steel is minimum price for business plan to work. Ties removed and sent to hazardous waste disposal down south.

Contracts sent to Dover's Town Counsel. Need to access IHP and Dover agreement on contract expansion.

- b. Matt Schmid still developing "like" town list. It was suggested that he look at towns with recreational paths, not just those who converted a rail bed into a path.
- c. Kate cannie has been in touch with Elaine Rosenberg. They will schedule a series of meetings (3) with abutters at different times of day so all have an opportunity to attend. Goal is to provide an open forum to get all concerns out in open. Kate to compare email list and abutter lists, given communication to abutters over past month.

4. Actions :

- a. Mary McLaughlin to follow-up with Wellesley Trails for a possible visit
- b. Mary McLaughlin to explore feasibility of an active "Friends of" organization with BCRT Dover list (from Tad) and other Dover groups
- c. Mark Howe to interface with IHP. IHP now working with 14th MA town. **7/10: COMPLETE**
- d. Matt Schmid to identify 8-12 "like" towns to be used for comparisons and research.
- e. Kate Cannie to arrange a meeting with abutters to further explore issues. **7/10: Kate and Elaine Rosenberg working together to set-up 3 meetings at different times of day for abutter input. Kate to assess email list coverage of abutters.**
- f. Carol Lisbon to schedule a visit to the RTC by:
 - i. Mike Francis, TTOR. **7/10: COMPLETE**
 - ii. Dover Chief of Police, Fire/EMT, Highway
- g. Carol Lisbon to schedule RTC visit to
 - i. Council on Aging
 - ii. Board of Health
- h. Tim Holiner to schedule RTC visit to ConCom for Request for Determination
- i. Tim Holiner to continue study and write-up on surface options.

- j. Carol Lisbon to work with Town Counsel on MBTA lease and insurance options. **7/10: Town Counsel review in process along with IHP contracts. Kate Cannie to attend 7/11 MBTA meeting.**
 - k. Kate Cannie : ADA/shared use regs with DCR, Mass Audubon, TTOR progress on guidelines.
 - l. Matt Schmid: schedule field trips
 - m. Explore Charles River bridge barrier issues
5. Next meetings: 7/24, 8/7, 8/21, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27/, 12/11
Open hearing 10/9, 12/18

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Lisbon