

“Recreational Path Feasibility Study Update”

Presented by Dover Rail Trail Committee
Warrant Committee Open Hearing, 3/18/13



Context

Opportunity to Convert the 3.7-Mile Unused Rail Corridor in Dover to a Recreational Path

Working Assumptions:

- Appropriate for walking, running, casual bike riding, and skiing
- Not paved
- Preserve Town's rural character
- Local control
- Limited cost to the Town

Dover Rail Trail Committee Working on a Feasibility Study to Understand Pros/Cons of the Path

- Ad-hoc committee formed in 2011
- At May 2012 Town Meeting, voters approved up to \$5,000 for miscellaneous expenses related to the Feasibility Study

Feasibility Study – Key Questions

- 1** *Is it feasible for Dover to convert the unused rail corridor into a Recreational Path?*
 - Includes financial, environmental, legal, public safety, citizen interest, and community / abutter impact
- 2** *If yes, then what are the Committee's recommendations for the range of elements involved in creating the Path?*
 - Considers what would be an appropriate Recreational Path for Dover and how it would be constructed, managed, and maintained

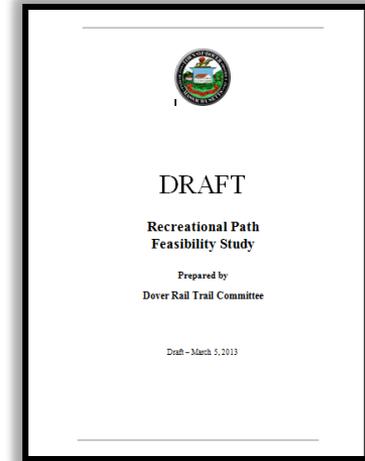
With the help of interested Dover citizens, the Committee identified over 80 items for review and study

Status Update

Rail Trail Committee Activities

- Regular meetings with public attendance
- Community engagement (web page, email list, abutter mailings, open meetings)
- Engagement of Town officials (ConCom, Public Safety, etc.)
- Research of other town activities and best practices
- Knowledge sharing with Needham and Medfield on similar issues

Status as of March 2013



- Draft Feasibility Study, with some remaining questions and issues to explore

Draft Feasibility Study Contents

Recommendations for Town Consideration

- A. Guiding Principles
- B. Surface
- C. Uses
- D. Rules
- E. Construction
- F. Rail Trestle Bridge
- G. Infrastructure
- H. Partnership with “Friends” Group
- I. Governance
- J. Maintenance
- K. Parking
- L. Public Safety
- M. Awareness
- N. Needham and Medfield Coordination

Community Impact

- A. Benefits to Town and Projected Usage
- B. Public Safety
- C. Community and Abutters’ Input
- D. Environmental Impact

Financial and Legal Implications

- A. Projected Costs
- B. Projected Sources of Funding
- C. Legal and Insurance Considerations

Warrant Article Request

The Committee Has Identified Five Key Items That Require Additional Research and Professional Expertise

1

Right-of-Way Review

2

MBTA Lease Terms

3

Engineering Analysis

4

Construction
Contracting

5

Environmental
Review

- Warrant Article request to fund sufficient due diligence on key items, i.e., hiring external professional expertise
- If approved, the Committee will work toward completion of the Feasibility Study in time for the May 2014 Town Meeting, as appropriate