

Rail Trail Committee Minutes  
January 15, 2013

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

Guests: Paul Webb, Alan Moss, Kevin Ban, Peter Harris, Grant Stephan, Jack Maxwell, Dennis Dyer, Angela Matzilevich, Marty Bohlin

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting room

1. Minutes of 12/11/12 were approved.
2. Updates
  - a. Mary updated committee on the "Friends" organization with several members attending meeting, A petition supporting a May 2013 supporting Town Meeting vote has been started. As of meeting, 93 had signed petition. Representatives of the Friends stated that the organization would commit to the on-going maintenance of the recreational path (weekly cleanups, trail clearing, brush control) and expect their organization to be self-sustaining over time as many organizations are in Dover.

Mary will call Wellesley Trails contact to obtain surface information on trails we could visit in Wellesley.

Several questions from Friends were discussed.

1. Trail surface – the RTC restated their recommendation that the path not be paved, creating a hard smooth surface. This type of surface is too expensive, does not fit with the ambiance of Dover's recreational open space, and is not appropriate for a multi-use trail that is expected to have a speed limit and not be used by performance bicycles.

2. Budget neutral – It is expected that the on-going maintenance of the trail will be budget neutral or budget minimum. A Friends group

will perform maintenance and upkeep. Construction costs will be determined during the construction specs and contractor selection process. The Feasibility Study will be presenting a detailed discussion of the financials addressing construction, upkeep and public safety plans.

3. Fencing – as part of the design process areas needing fencing for safety ( drop offs) will be identified. Abutter concerns regarding privacy, security and liability will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with each abutter as part of the committee’s outreach to each abutter. Fencing needs are part of the construction negotiation process. A policy on paying for an abutter’s installation of a fence or plantings has not yet been developed but has been identified as an issue to be addressed in the Study.

- b. Mark Howe discussed parking. He has been observing parking apce availability during the week in the Town Center. He is working on the spreadsheet that will identify spots and availability by day and time slots. It was suggested that primary spots be identified as those within Dover Center and secondary spots in the Caryl Park/Chickering Fields area. Once this is developed it will be reviewed by the Chief of Police and then outreach to parking lot owners.

Mark has obtained pictometry from Dover’s IT dept. so specific abutters can be identified as rail bed is walked for identification of areas needing to be addressed,

IHP meeting to be held by mid-February with Town Counsel to discuss contractor terms.

Town Engineer to assess need for engineering study.

Dogs: It was reiterated by the Committee that the recommendation will be to not allow dogs due to multi-use nature of trail and its width.

- c. Elaine updated her attempts to arrange a presentation to the COA Board and COA membership (luncheon). She is also working on dates with the Library for additional open meeting dates. Elaine will send an email out to determine if anyone would like to host a meeting at their home.
  - d. Kate is meeting with the Police Chief 1/16/13 to discuss the many public safety questions that have been raised. She will be with the Fire dept. and reach out to other towns' public safety departments.
  - e. Tim reviewed the surface recommendation and will write-up the pros/cons of the alternatives. Surface will NOT be asphalt. Gravel and stone dust require more maintenance due to erosion. Recycled asphalt is less expensive as well. Comparative cost estimates/mile to be included.
  - f. Matt will identify surrounding trails with different trail surfaces for possible visits.
3. The MPO Feasibility Study draft was reviewed and comments submitted. A revised draft was received on 1/15 to be reviewed by committee one last time. The final Study will be placed on the website and be the subject of na RTC meeting.
4. The bridge crossing the Charels River was discussed, Needham's engineering study will do a quick study to determine soundness of structural wood, The RTC's recommendation will be to not extend the rail bed conversion into the bridge.
5. Carol and Kate met with the LRP and BOH to update them on the RTC activities. It was noted that the recommended surface will not be hospitable for ticks.
6. Equestrians: discussion was held regarding concerns expressed to RTC. It was reconfirmed that all trail crossings will be maintained, no dogs permitted and pavement will not be used. Mark discussed experiences with pedestrians and cyclists in Noanet.
7. The RDA to ConCom cannot be submitted until there is a construction plan to review,