

Rail Trail Advisory Committee

Virtual Meeting

Weston Town Hall

June 8, 2020

Attendees: Paul Penfield, Gail Palmer, Mike McCarthy Eric Rosenthal, Eli Mather, Anne Benning, Meg Kelly, Phyllis Halpern, Ellen Freeman Roth

Guests: Chris Fitzgerald

Minutes Approval: Approved

Citizen Comments: None

Phase 1 Plantings Update

Paul Penfield gave a quick update on the Phase 1 Plantings and replacement plants. Paul spoke with the DCR and was informed that the new plants will be delivered and set out in the appropriate locations. Double the number of replacements will be provided as additional funds and plants were made available.

The work started at Stonegate and headed eastward. Paul cited some nice additions around the Concord Road entryway. Some additional plantings will be placed around the benches.

Phase 2 Plantings: No bids were received by any firms and it feels like it may get delayed until next year.

Signage

Gail Palmer circulated some examples to the committee to review. Several key characteristics were highlighted utilizing different colors to differentiate and signal the intersection of the paths. Gail coordinated with the Forest and Trails Committee to align signage design. Jono and ConCom have suggested some alternative ideas which the RTAC may want to sync up for consistency.

Several committee members suggested that the roads should be less prominent as it clutters the visual. Others felt the design was informative and that it helps orient the user. Gail will continue to tweak the maps.

Benches

Chris Fitzgerald and Paul are going to come back with some additional information shortly. Chris mentioned that Tom Cullen felt the project was finished which then releases the funding on

the project. We have \$43,000 and \$23,000 to fund the benches. There is another \$12,000 that can also be utilized to help round out funding for signs and trail projects (Gail I don't remember where those funds reside)

Future of the RTAC

Originally, we were set to dissolve the committee following this meeting. Gail Palmer advocated that the committee should continue until the plantings and signage were completed. FLRT will be critical to finalizing the project and its maintenance. A motion to maintain RTAC was made and a vote was taken.

Vote to Continue the RTAC: Passed

Trestle Bridge

Eli Mather wanted to discuss the bridge and pedestrian safety. Eli shared a proposal to put up a sign to warn people about the use of the bridge. He provided several examples that could be installed.

Several raised concerns around liability and ownership of the signage. The MBTA and DCR should be the entities to manage this issue. The final decision was to let DCR know about our concerns and to see what direction they want to pursue.

Adjourn: Passed

Next Date: Tentatively September