

TOWN OF CONCORD

Department of Planning and Land Management

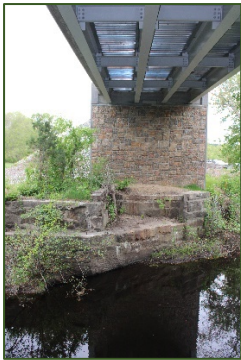
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MEMORANDUM

To: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
From: Marcia Rasmussen, Director DPLM
Re: Update of Phases 2A, 2B, 2C, the last ½ mile of 2C, and 2D
Date: May 25, 2023

- 1. Phase 2A – 2D Update:** Haven't heard yet about the rules signs to be provided by the Friends.
- 2. Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 2B bridge:** After the paving was completed on May 9th, a final site walk was conducted on May 16th to identify anything that needed to be repaired, completed, or revised. Representatives from MassDOT, consultants, contractors and subcontractors, plus town staff from Concord and Acton attended the site walk. The compiled list will be distributed to everyone the week of May 22nd. The final invasive plant removal/treatment is scheduled for July, but harrowing/seeding of five areas compacted during construction (on State-owned MDOT and DOC land) may not be done until the fall 2023. The primary contractor, MIG Corporation, is hoping to complete the project by the end of May so the responsibility of maintaining the trail is turned over to the Towns (which will allow for scheduling an official trail opening).



- 3. Phase 2C Updates:** The order for planters was delayed due to the size of the planters identified and concerns that they were too short. Subsequent quotes have been received and 7 planters have been ordered as of May 11, 2023 – Terracast TC2-32 Vase Rolled Rim (34" top/27" height) in the solid color Light Gray plus the self-watering inserts for all seven planters. Estimated ship date is June 28, 2023. The MBTA is reviewing the short-term plan solution and will provide their permission/approval when review is complete.



Concerning creation of a contemplative space adjacent to the BFRT and near the Concord Prison Cemetery, additional questions have been raised as the Community

Preservation Committee has prepared their draft Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Grant Agreements for all CPC projects. After sharing these drafts with Town Counsel for review, the CPC realized that the latest Bruce Freeman Rail Trail project raises a few legal questions. The proposed project is much more complicated than initially envisioned because the simple description in the application stated the following: “interpretive/contemplative improvements at the Concord Prison Cemetery site (adjacent to the BFRT).” The CPC believes that the MOU should include additional “Conditions Specific to this Project” that cover at the very least: state ownership, human remains, and survey work for the Mass Historical Commission. At this time, it may be better to take a step back and create the interpretive panel to replace the existing panel opposite the cemetery location, create a new sitting area with bench and the relocated interpretive panel closer to the existing parking area and avoid any disturbance of the prison cemetery until there is a better understanding of what might be involved. A follow up discussion with Town Counsel is scheduled for next Tuesday, May 30th.

Also, after walking the trail and observing the dead evergreen trees (14 total) located near the Williams Road intersection and former CMLP site, I reached out to Public Works Highway and Grounds Superintendent Aaron Miklosko to schedule tree replacement (an alternative shade-tolerant species is recommended for this location) and maintenance. I followed up with Aaron on May 22nd and learned that the trees will be included in the fall 2023 planting program.

Natural Resources Division Land Manager Will Holden is working with others to organize the Willard 5th grade service day on June 1st. The area near the serpentine path at Powder Mill Road will again be the location for additional invasive species removal, planting of pollinator species, and general clean-up along the trail.

The latest West Concord Junction Cultural District mural celebrating the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail was installed on the back of the building at 40 Beharrell Street over the past week and the unveiling was scheduled for the weekend of May 19/20th.



Lastly, the Town Manager’s office has received several complaints about abutters to the trail dumping leaves and yard waste (and other items) in the BFRT right-of-way. A letter is being prepared and will be sent out to all trail abutters in early June to remind folks that this activity is not acceptable, and they could be subject to fines.

- 4. The last ½ mile of Phase 2C and Phase 2D in Sudbury:** Groundbreaking ceremony was held on Saturday, May 20th. If you have any questions please contact the Planning & Community Development Department, pcd@sudbury.ma.us or visit the [Bruce Freeman Rail Sudbury Project Page](#).

Assistant Natural Resources Director Albert (“Bert”) Comins has begun laying out the interpretive panels for White Pond and the Vernal Pool located in this portion of the trail. Please review the attached and be prepared to provide comments/feedback at the May 25th meeting.