



# Town of Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

## **Topsfield Rail Trail Committee Meeting Minutes August 17, 2015 – 8:30 PM**

*Members Present:* Joe Geller (chair), Dave Read, Roy Beassler, Gregg Demers and Bill Rossiter

*Guests:* Pete Hayes and Paul Roach

- 1. Minutes approval:** The minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.
- 2. Eagle Scout project update:** Eagle scout candidate Paul Roach suggested, and the committee voted to approvedeveloping street crossing signs along the trail and building a couple of picnic tables for his main project. This is in lieu of mileage signs on the telephone poles along the trail as many of the poles are covered with invasive vegetation.
- 3. Route 1 crossing signal poles:** Both signal poles have been resecured in place thanks to Roy and Bill and a group of volunteers coming together to lift the poles in place. Joe has been in touch with the contractor who originally put the poles in place to let them know they did not do a good job.
- 4. Phase 4 status:** National Grid repaired the washed out section of trail near Pye Brook Park. There is now just a blocked culvert that runs across the trail that needs to be repaired. The larger design of the trail by Stantec is delayed due to other work they have in their queue.
- 5. Route 97 Parking area:** Notice of Intent is done and Gregg is reviewing for final revisions. We may be able to get some limited funds (\$500 from Essex National Heritage) toward the project.

6. **IRB Bridge Abutments:** We have 3 estimates for the final phase of the work: Some of the options may require a geotechnical evaluation with additional cost.
  - a. **McBrie:** \$4,200
  - b. **Structures North:** \$15,000
  - c. **Gill Engineering:** \$9,040 (awarded to Gill Engineering)
7. **Trail Maintenance update:** Roy reviewed the various trail maintenance projects that have or need to be completed. The bridge decking has been repaired and gopher holes filled. Ruts on Phase 4 still need to be repaired with crushed stone.
8. **Path from Trail to Salem-Beverly canal:** The new path from the canal bridge to the rail trail was installed by the Salem-Beverly Water Commission. This issue is currently under review by the Conservation Commission
9. **Main St. Crossing Safety:** Due to the report of cyclists not stopping at the intersection additional Stop signs have been placed on either side of the trail for increased visibility. We want do everything we can to make the trail crossings as safe as possible. Roy made a motion to ask the Safety Committee and Selectman to approve the elimination of a parking spot that may block the view of cyclists from the trail by approaching motorists, stripe the crosswalk in a more visible manner (like the ones at Route1 and 97), and install bright yellow “Stop for Pedestrians” signs for motorists on Main St. The motion passed. Dave made a motion to develop a memo to the Safety Committee about the situation. Joe offered to draft a version of the letter. The motion passed. As a next step Joe will talk with Selectman, Martha Morrison about the best way to ensure these changes to this intersection occurred.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Read