



FRIENDS OF THE BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL

SUDBURY PUSHING FORWARD!

Recently Sudbury Board of Selectmen took two very positive steps toward bringing the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail into Sudbury. This September they agreed to accept a gift of \$58,700 from trail supporters to commission a MassDOT "25 %" design of the northern-most 1/2-mile of the trail in Sudbury from the Concord/Sudbury border to Rt. 117. Then in late October, the Selectmen voted to request \$175,000 in Community Preservation Act funds to add to the "Bring the Trail to Sudbury" donations in order to design all 4.6 miles of Phase 2D in Sudbury, from the border with Concord to Rt. 20 near Union Avenue. This has the effect of multiplying the results of the fund-raising and adds additional importance to completing a successful campaign.

Friends President Tom Michelman commented on the recent decision: "The FBFRT is delighted to have been a catalyst for Sudbury rail trail progress, but this is just the start. The 16 miles of trail north of Sudbury are either built (Chelmsford and Westford) or programmed for construction (Carlisle, Acton, and Concord) over the next few years. We urge all to donate directly to this effort that will help spur Sudbury to catch up with its northern neighbors."

Once the design – which will adhere to MassDOT guidelines – is complete with input from elected officials, staff and residents, the Town will vote whether to accept it. "Ultimately, town residents can approve or disapprove of this design," said Michelman. "But it's the only one that will be compatible with the rest of the trail, which is already built or approved to MassDOT guidelines. And only trails designed to MassDOT guidelines are eligible for federal and state transportation funds."

Efforts began more than seven years ago to connect Sudbury to the other towns that have already built or approved their segments. Today, the trail starts in Lowell, runs through

Chelmsford, and stops at the intersection of routes 225 and 27 in Westford. Funds have been secured to continue the trail past Carlisle and Acton and through to the Concord border with Sudbury. However, the town of Concord does not plan to construct the trail beyond Powder Mill Road unless Sudbury signs on for the half mile between its border with Concord – which is in the woods – to Rt. 117 at the Davis Field recreation area.

"We'll lose a half mile of the trail in Concord," said Michelman. "It won't be built until we build something in Sudbury. If it gets built, it will allow Sudbury residents to access the trail in their town."

So far, the Friends has executed a multi-pronged fund-raising strategy to raise its part of the money for the design work. As part of those efforts, it has: mailed out a full-color fund-raising brochure to 5,700 households in Sudbury; sent a press release about the campaign to seven local newspapers including the *Concord Journal*, *Sudbury Town Crier*, *MetroWest Daily News* and *Boston Globe*; launched a letter-writing campaign to the local newspapers' editorial pages; sought funding from various local grant sources, and; approached potential individual donors. We have also updated our website to emphasize the fund-raising campaign and added a donation "button" to streamline the process.

"We're looking in multiple places," said Michelman about the effort. "We're not just fundraising

from the town of Sudbury. It's a regional trail and it should be supported regionally."

Michelman said he hopes to finish the effort by the end of December. "If you are a resident of Sudbury, and you've done nothing else to help the trail over all these years, and you want the trail, it's time to donate," said Michelman, a resident of Acton. "If you've asked over the years 'Why hasn't the trail been built?' – this is the answer: The sooner you write the check, the sooner the trail will be built."

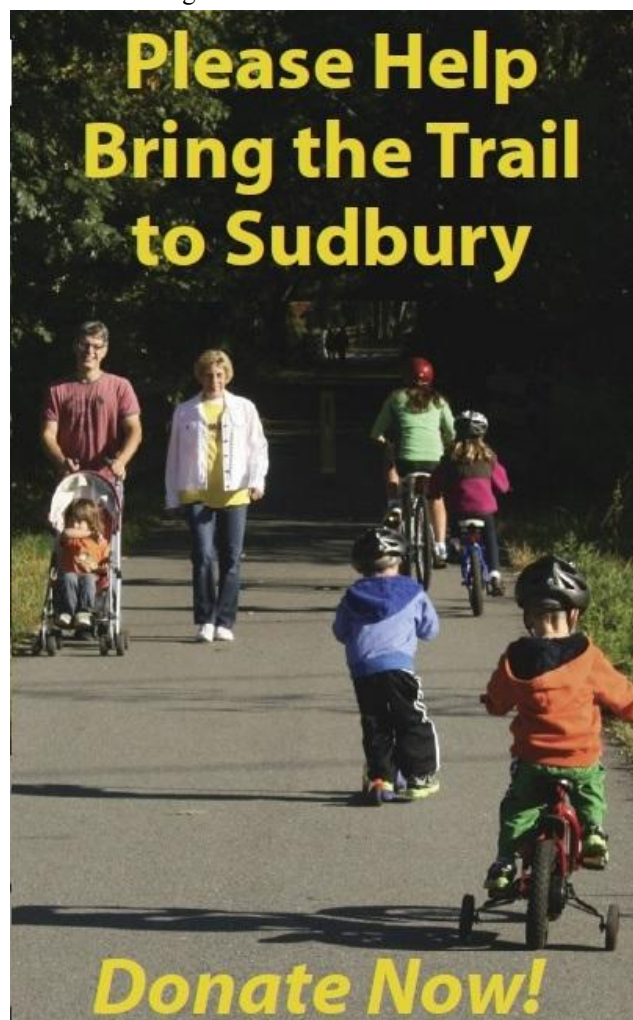


photo by Stuart Johnstone

Your support will help Bring the Trail to Sudbury!

Please send your donation, made out to Friends of the
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, to:

Bring the Trail to Sudbury
PO Box 61
Sudbury, MA 01776

Indicate that the donation is for:
Bring the Trail to Sudbury Fund (BTTS).

I would like to make a gift of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500

☐ \$1000 ☐ Other _____

The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is incorporated
as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible
to the extent permitted by law.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

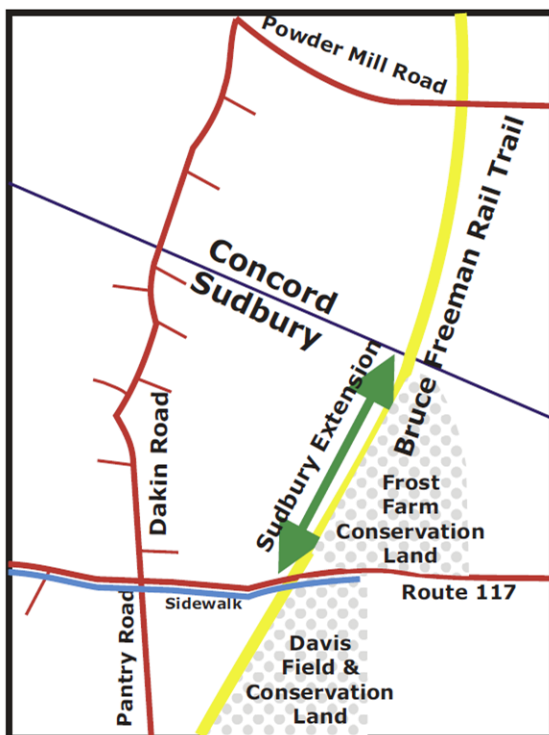
Phone (optional) _____

Please keep me informed. Add me to your email list

Email _____

To use a credit card for your donation, please visit
our website at www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org.

Thank you for making a difference.



map courtesy of Ken Hablow, KH Graphics
www.khgraphics.com, khallow@khgraphics.com



New Mile Markers in Chelmsford

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Quentin Nichols placed bright yellow mile markers every 0.2 mile along the trail in Chelmsford. The Chelmsford Police Department had requested markers that were more visible and placed at more frequent intervals than the existing 0.25 miles markers painted on the trail surface. Quentin also recorded the GPS coordinates for each marker to assist in responding to emergencies and addressing maintenance issues. His project also included the "Bruce Freeman Rail Trail" sign on the kiosk, a directional sign to the Sunny Meadow Farm, and a town line sign at the Chelmsford/Westford border.

The trail has been a popular venue for biking and running events for groups such as the PMC Kids Ride, Finley's Fighters, Live for Liv, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the Friends of the BFRT Summer Solstice Ride, PAWs New England, the Chelmsford Dog Association, Chelmsford Senior Center and the Lowell Film Collaborative. Each of these groups worked with the Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to ensure that they used the trail safely and respected adjacent property.

The BPAC conducted a trail user count at the Chelmsford Artwalk/Cushing Place on Saturday, September 14. On a cloudy and cool day, the total count of 1,008 trail users was lower than in past years. Bicyclists comprised about 62% of trail users while walkers and runners represented about 34% of users. The number of cyclists not wearing helmets was approximately 27%, similar to past counts.

The BPAC is continuing its work on a detailed Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Town of Chelmsford. The plan will take into account on-road and off-road facilities, recreational facilities, and the BFRT. It will address increasing the safety of these facilities at intersections and crosswalks and will also cover installing bicycle racks, pedestrian crossing signals, pavement markings and signage at key locations.

The Friends again sponsored portable toilets at two locations on the trail in Chelmsford.

Concord Special Town Meeting

Wednesday, December 4th at 7 p.m.

CCHS Auditorium

Vote on land acquisition for BFRT amenities

2A: Still Tying Up Loose Ends

It has been one step back and two steps forward for the Phase 2A design. The step back, a realignment of the Rt. 2A (Great Road) bridge, is an interesting one that we believe will be worth the wait. The original design for the bridge, tentatively approved by MassDOT, was that it follow the centerline of the right-of-way over Rt. 2A at an angle. However, someone at MassDOT got the excellent idea late in the game that it would be preferable to have the bridge cross Rt. 2A at an angle that is closer to perpendicular. This realignment will result in a longer overall bridge with the abutments set further back from 2A and two piers between the abutments. This would result in three shorter spans compared to the previous design that had one long span between the abutments. The result should be more aesthetically appealing since the bridge will be shallower as it crosses Rt. 2A. Since MassDOT had already approved an earlier design, it is graciously picking up the marginal additional design costs. This includes the necessity of additional borings because the bridge footings will be in alternative locations. Also, additional wetland assessments are needed since the approach to the bridge from the north will swing to the east within the right-of-way. MassDOT is working to ensure that this redesign will not significantly delay the start of construction.

Another area of slow-sledding has been finalizing the terms and conditions of an agreement between MassDOT and the towns to take over control of the ROW. A draft agreement has been prepared by DOT Rail and was sent directly to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for an initial review. This was done because federal money has been provided to the Commonwealth to partially fund this project, and MassDOT wants to ensure that future discussions with the Towns can use a document that FHWA has accepted. David Shedd, the Project Manager at MassDOT, reassures us they are pushing FHWA to finish the review so the towns can start commenting, and the negotiations can begin in earnest. The towns are acutely aware that the terms do matter, particularly with respect to liability and insurance ramifications.

It is FY2014, the fiscal year in which funds are available to start Phase 2A construction. All parties are anxious to tie up the loose ends and move on to bidding and construction phases. You can count on the FBFRT to be its usual pesky self in advocating that the process does not grind to a halt and construction does indeed start in FY2014. We hope to report significant forward progress soon.

Phase 2B Bridges the Gap

While Phase 2A is near the end of its design, Phase 2B – primarily the crossing over Route 2 – is still in the preliminary (25%) design stage. Four bridge type selection reports have been submitted to MassDOT by consultant AECOM. They are for the bridge over Route 2, the bridge over Nashoba Brook (the ROW passes over Nashoba Brook just south of Route 2), retaining walls, and a wildlife tunnel.

These four items are the lion's share of the Phase 2B work, and when the type selections are approved, finalization of the 25% design can be contemplated. Bridge review has gone slowly because of MassDOT resource constraints.

An application was submitted to the Concord Community Preservation Committee (CPC) by the Town's Planning Division requesting \$500,000 toward the 100% design of Phase 2B over

Rt. 2, connecting Phase 2A in Acton with Phase 2C in Concord. If approved by the CPC, it would be voted at the spring Town Meeting. The State has identified (but not allocated) \$200,000 toward this design effort. MassDOT Project Manager David Shedd indicated that \$200,000 would not be a sufficient amount to complete this design, indicating that the required budget could be as much as \$1 million. A much clearer estimate can be made with the completion of the Phase 2B 25% design.

The amount requested from the Concord CPC will provide some of the additional funds, and Acton is expected to contribute toward the design as well. Since Phase 2B has been listed in the TIP to receive construction funding in 2017, it is imperative to have design funding in place prior to that time.

A Special Thanks to...

Pedal Power Bike and Ski, Acton,
for hosting the annual meeting and their on-going support
Jet Mail, Hudson,
for their assistance in printing and mailing this newsletter
United Site Service, Chelmsford,
for helping sponsor toilets on the trail
Ken Hablow Graphics, www.khgraphics.com
for designing the "Bring the Trail to Sudbury" brochure

Concord Readies for Completion of Trail Design

Concord is moving forward on a number of issues leading to completion of the design of Phase 2C.

At the December 4th Special Town Meeting, residents will be voting to authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek legislation for transfer of property adjacent to the prison land on the west side of Commonwealth Avenue from the State to the Town. This parcel would be used for municipal purposes, including the construction of parking and other amenities for the BFRT. Whenever there is legislation proposed by a Town's representatives, the other state legislators ask whether there has been a Town Meeting vote authorizing the action. It is therefore important that BFRT supporters vote at Town Meeting.

With the sale of the West Concord Supermarket and the proposed conversion of the site to a restaurant, the Town had a unique opportunity to negotiate an easement over the land at 24 Commonwealth Ave. for the proposed alternative MBTA Fitchburg line crossing. The easement has not yet been finalized, but it is a condition of approval for the restaurant from the Board of Appeals. Last summer the Town Public Works Department and the consultant from Louis-Berger Associates submitted to the MBTA a preliminary design for crossing the MBTA Fitchburg line using this proposed easement. That design has been initially reviewed and forwarded to others within the MBTA, and the Town is awaiting acceptance of the design.

Although the "in the field" Phase 2C survey work was completed in early September, design efforts are currently on hold pending the MBTA review of the proposed alternative MBTA Fitchburg line crossing and MassDOT review of the bridge type selection report. These items are expected to be completed by December, when Phase 2C design should start in earnest.

Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
PO Box 1192
Concord, MA 01742



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FBFRT Annual Meeting

Sunday November 24, 2 p.m.
Pedal Power Bike and Ski, Acton
(See inside for more details)

Concord Special Town Meeting

Wednesday December 4, 7 p.m.
CCHS Auditorium
(See inside for more details)

Show your support by joining today!

Members will receive newsletters, notices of upcoming trail-related events, and opportunities to actively promote the rail trail through a variety of volunteer activities. The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Membership fees and donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Yes! Sign me up as a supporter of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Conductor \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineer \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> RR Tycoon \$500+ |

*Sponsor and above receive complimentary BFRT cap or T-shirt.

First Name Last Name

Contact Name

Address 1 (Street Address, P.O. Box, company name, c/o)

Address 2 (Apartment, suite, unit, building, floor)

City State Zip

Daytime Phone Evening Phone

Email address

YES NO

I would like to receive the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail newsletter. ☐ ☐

Send my newsletter via email (include email address above). ☐ ☐

Send via postal mail. ☐ ☐

I would like to receive email updates from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. ☐ ☐

I am willing to receive phone calls from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. ☐ ☐

I am a trail abutter. ☐ ☐

I authorize the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to use my name for promotional efforts to support the trail. ☐ ☐

I would like to volunteer. ☐ ☐

Gift: ☐ Cap ☐ T-Shirt (S / M / L / XL) ☐ No Thanks

Please enclose a check payable to Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and mail this form to:

Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
PO Box 1192
Concord, MA 01742

Or join on-line at www.BruceFreemanRailTrail.org



Friends to Co-Sponsor Mark Fenton

Mark Fenton, a national public health, planning and transportation consultant, will present "Creating Healthy Communities with Designs That Stick" on Thursday, November 21, at 2 p.m. at Congregation Beth Elohim, 133 Prospect Street, Acton. Co-sponsored by the Friends of BFRT and Community Health Network Area 15 (CHNA 15), the event is free and open to the public.



Mark Fenton is an entertaining, persuasive, and knowledgeable advocate for non-motorized transportation. He is a frequent consultant on bicycle and pedestrian community plans and a recognized authority on public health issues and the need for community, environmental, and public-policy initiatives to encourage more walking, bicycling, and transit use.

Friends President, Tom Michelman, saw Mark give the keynote speech at the statewide trail conference last spring. "I was blown away by his engaging presentation, knowledge and passion. I left uplifted and motivated. I'm going to try to ditch work to see him again in Acton!"

To reserve a seat or for more information call 508-222-8174 or email chna15coordinator@gmail.com.

The Friends will be helping with registration and refreshments. Please e-mail bbpike@AOL.com if you would like to help.

Mark Fenton presents

"Creating Healthy Communities with Designs That Stick"

Thursday, November 21 at 2 p.m.
Congregation Beth Elohim, Acton
Co-sponsored by FBFRT

See further information above.

Thank You Volunteers!

The Board is very grateful to the volunteers who have helped in so many ways this year including:

Charlie Abraham, Ernie & Gerri Abrams, Linas & Paulita Alinskas, Eric Andrus, Bob Armstrong, Barrett family, Jeff Brown, Mike Carignan, David Carlson, Patrick Cunha, Bill Davies, Ken Dewes, Cate Dill, Geoff Edgers, Bill Davies, Dave Earl, Connie Farb, Peter, Sally & Tim Farrow, Mike Garvin, Tom Gazda, Melinda Goodick, Brian Hannigan, Bill Harman & Tuesday Trail Stewards, Scottie Hastings, Peter, Sally & Tim Farrow, Carlene Hempel, Lila & Calvin Hempel/Edgers, Brian Herzog, Mike Ho & his daughter, Art Huston, Tom James, Ron & Mary Jo Johnson, Henry & Hazel Johnstone, Henry Keutmann, Mike Koziel, Ed Kross, Bob McCabe, Caroline McCloy, Tom James, Fran Meidell, Jonathan Moore, John Morrissey, David Nyhof, Patty Ochoa, Butch O'Leary, Ken Perrin, Michael Pincus & his son, Nancy Powers, Mark Sevier Ellen Quackenbush, Chris Rose, Janice Ruell, Boris Shnapir, Bob Schneider, Bob & Beth Shaw, Len Simon, Mark Sevier, Al Souza, Lisa Underkoffler, Alan & Lois Whitney, Bob Wilson, Bob Zuffante

We apologize to those we may have inadvertently omitted.



Daphne Freeman, widow of Bruce Freeman, was interviewed by Dan and Marilyn Brielmann, e-awakenings.com. The Brielmanns are creating a video of all 200 miles of the Bay Circuit Trail, which uses part of Phase 1 of the BFRT. They also interviewed Emily Teller in Westford as part of their video to inspire people to get out into nature in their own backyards.

Farewell to a Good Friend



With much appreciation and regret, we announce the retirement of Bob Hall of Sudbury from the FBFRT Board. Bob was a founding member of the Friends and lent his talents in many ways, from meticulous proofreading to helping to set up the first data base to advocating for the trail in Sudbury. He will continue as a member of the Town's Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee. We will miss Bob's steady presence on the Board and look forward to seeing him on the trail in Sudbury!

Friends Annual Meeting

When: Sunday, November 24, 2 p.m.

Where: Pedal Power Bike and Ski
176 Great Road (Rt. 2A), Acton

What: Come celebrate an extraordinary year of progress for the BFRT! After a brief business meeting and update on the "Bring the Trail to Sudbury" campaign, we will visit the future site of the East Acton Village Green abutting Icehouse Pond.

Light refreshments will be served.



The Friends were well represented at Sudbury's 4th of July Parade

2013: What a Year!

Dear Friend of the BFRT,

2013 has been a helluva year for the BFRT.

At this time last year, the plans were to build the BFRT in Acton in a few years and build the Concord portion in the 2021-2025 timeframe. Sudbury was not even in consideration. With FBFRT advocacy and changes in state policy, the three Acton and Concord phases were put on the schedule for construction starts in 2014, 2016, and 2017. (Thank you advocates, letter writers, Town Staff and elected officials.) And to make sure the 2014 BFRT construction goes smoothly, all abutters in Acton, Carlisle, and Westford were contacted, most of them in person by FBFRT volunteers. (Thank you again.)

This time last year the FBFRT offer to fund-raise to pay for the preliminary design of the Sudbury northernmost 0.5 miles of the BFRT to Route 117 (Bring the Trail to Sudbury) was stuck in limbo. Our fund-raising offer helped make the BFRT one of the top issues for the election that increased the Sudbury Board of Selectmen by two members, and happily both of the new members are strong BFRT advocates. Read more about the Bring the Trail to Sudbury success and the ongoing fundraising campaign in the lead article in this newsletter.

The great progress in 2013 was built on a foundation of fact-based and polite persistence and persuasion. If you have ever volunteered, written a letter or email, attended a meeting, spoken to a legislator, or donated money on behalf of the BFRT, give yourself a pat on the back. You've made it happen.

Internally, the FBFRT has a spiffy new WordPress-based website- one that is easier to navigate and to maintain. (Thank you Judy Perrin.) We also transferred to a new online membership database solution system with better functionality and lower costs. (Thank you Chris Barrett.) Both of these transitions were big investments of time, money, and effort, and both are likely to pay dividends for years.

Thank you so much.

Tom Michelman

President, Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

For Further Information:

Visit: www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org

Call or Email:

Acton:	Tom Michelman	978-580-6190	tmichelman@comcast.net
Carlisle:	Alan Cameron	978-369-2223	alancameron@comcast.net
Chelmsford:	Tom Gazda	978-250-0012	tgazdap5tmr@comcast.net
Concord:	Barbara Pike	978-369-0437	bbpike@aol.com
Framingham:	John Stasik	508-877-6771	jhstasik@verizon.net
Lowell:	Sharon Galpin	978-446-8906	sgalpin99@gmail.com
Sudbury:	Dick Williamson	978-618-5475	williamson@alum.mit.edu
Westford:	Emily Teller	978-692-6968	eteller@earthlink.net

Attend: Friends meetings

Send Email: info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org

Want to use the rail trail for an event? Please click the "Trail Events" at the top of www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org.