

Ashland Upper Charles Trail Committee Minutes January 5, 2017 (170105) Ashland Town Hall lower level Meeting Room

Present: Joel Arbeitman, Tony Lewis, David Rosenblum, Rob Scherer, Valerie Paul, Preston Crow, Rick Hampson, Chuck Lidz

Absent:

Guests: Marty Ring, Ashland member of Open Space Committee. Tom Doolittle, Senior Landscape Architect, Alta

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Joel announced that William Child has resigned from the AUCT committee.

Joel introduced Marty Ring. Marty talked about his experience. Many of the committee members know Marty. Valerie made a motion to "recommend to the Board of Selectmen to appoint Marty Ring to the AUCT Committee if Marty accepts membership in the committee." Chuck seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Joel told us about Metrowest Regional Collaborative meeting on Jan 19th at 8:00am at Ashland town Hall. David Loutzenheiser from MAPC will talk about trails and cycling. Important topic to the AUCT.

The committee discussed looking at different staff for marketing and outreach for Alta work on the project. The committee decided to not do this, leaving the contract alone and seeing how the project proceeds before suggesting changes.

RTD was discussed. The town has an easement on phase I for trail use. Phase II has a preliminary plan submitted for it. Trail not part of this, but plan is preliminary. Tom Doolittle is familiar with the RTD road, having worked on its design.

The committee discussed the trail route with Tom. ALTA has not identified any obvious alternatives, but project has not started. Problem areas such as going through DCR state park land and wetland areas were discussed. Whittemore Road area was discussed including resident close to the trail route. Preston brought up idea to lower elevation of parts of the trail there to provide better privacy for abutters. Preston brought up idea of having part of Howe Street one way to allow cycle track on one side of the road.

Minutes of a number of previous meetings were approved:

May 19, 2016 approved 5-0-3. Motion by Valerie, seconded by Rob.

July 7, 2016 approved 6-0-2. Motion by Preston, seconded by Tony

October 6, 2016 approved 6-0-2. Motion by Valerie, seconded by Preston

October 20, 2016 approved as written 6-0-2. Motion by Preston, seconded by Rob

October 27, 2016 approved as written 6-0-2. Motion by Valerie, seconded by Preston

November 3, 2016 approved as amended 7-0-1. Motion by Preston, seconded by Valerie

November 7, 2016 approved as amended 7-0-1. Motion by Preston, seconded by Valerie
December 14, 2016 approved as corrected 6-0-2. Motion by Preston, seconded by Valerie

We discussed trail route with Tom starting at Hopkinton end. Going through Legacy Farms North in Hopkinton. Here are some “bullet points” from the discussion. Through DCR woods including Ashland parcels. Hopkinton State Park access to be determined. Go across Howe Street. Boy Scout road to camp at Indian Brook. Residents want that to remain unpaved; is hilly area though. Through woods with wet areas to Whittemore. Possible boardwalks. Whittemore and High street intersection. Maybe use Shell pipeline road in RTD. RTD access road to Rt 135. Voyagers Lane, is it public? End of road has path to Ashland State Park. Dirt road there now. Go over Ashland State Park dam, not around the lake. Along spillway, but gets marshy there. Maybe Warren Road to Main Street. Along Kidde Fenwal road. Preston had idea of tunneling under Main St. To Chestnut, curves there. Village of the Americas with 150 foot buffer. Alternative route through the cemetery with concern about the gradient along Sudbury River. Cannot get between cemetery and Village of the Americas. Ashland High School routes. Along fields at bottom of the hill, top of hill Devil’s Den. Committee has good communication with the School Committee. Trail could help “Safe Routes to School” program. Nstar utility easement or side streets over a creek. To behind Market Basket. Alternative is Sudbury Valley Trustees land. Route 126 redesign has cycle track in parts and 5 foot bike lanes on both sides. Dike trail to RR tracks. Alternative route south of Route 126.

Discuss what kick off meeting will be. For Alta to meet their client, the town and establish communications. Site visit later.

Joel brought up MAPC route evaluation tool.

Discussed role of Town of Ashland professional staff. Very important to making the project successful.

Next meeting will be Thursday, January 19th at 6:30 pm. With Mike Herbert and Jenn Hall.

Motion to adjourn made by Preston, seconded by Chuck. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm.

Action Items: