

Ashland Upper Charles Trail Committee Minutes January 19 2017 (170119) Ashland Town Hall lower level Meeting Room

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

Absent: Chuck Lidz

Guests: Marty Ring, Ashland member of Open Space Committee, appointed to AUCT but not yet sworn in. Kelly Rund, Ashland Director of Recreation. Tim Mahoney, Ashland resident. Steve Doucette, Ashland resident.

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

For benefit of guests Kelly and Tim, Joel reviewed committee history and where we are with the trail.

Motion made to approve minutes of 1/5/2017 with corrections. Motion by Rob seconded by Preston. Passed unanimously.

Joel announced that Marty was appointed to our committee by Board of Selectmen at Jan 18th meeting.

Steve asked about the contract. It has been awarded to Alta.

Joel updated us on project developments. Mike Herbert could not be at this meeting. He passed along that economic development and access to downtown were priorities for him. Preston updated us on preliminary plan for development of the rest of RTD that has been submitted to the planning board. Plan did not have much detail and did not have trails on it. General discussion of preliminary and definitive plans. It was mentioned that RTD access road had cycle track on it. Joel mentioned that existing empty lot on Megunko Road is being developed, so it is no longer possible to consider it for parking for the AUCT.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) meeting this morning was discussed. Meeting was concerned with "gaps" in the trail system. AUCT through Sherborn to Holliston and connecting Ashland to Bruce Freeman trail in Framingham Center were identified as two significant gaps at the meeting. Negotiating with CSX and connectivity to Southborough railroad station from Hopkinton were mentioned at MAPC meeting.

Complete Streets and whether Complete Streets are in scope of our committee was discussed. Preston thought that Complete Streets should be part of discussion of parts of AUCT on roadways.

We discussed possible routes of the trail through downtown Ashland. Alta should be notified about concern about downtown Ashland.

We discussed possibility of Kickoff Meeting for February 2nd. Town staff and officials needed for this meeting. Jenn to set up the meeting. Committee's preference is for 6:30 pm, but we will do our best with earlier times.

We discussed project management of the trail design project. Whether Jenn is going to be project manager. Involvement by new town planner, Sheila, was also discussed. We would like Sheila to come to our meetings if possible.

Communication was discussed. We agreed that Alta should communicate directly with the chair of the AUCT committee, not through other individuals in the committee.

Next meeting scheduled for February 2nd at 6:30pm. Kick-off meeting with Alta. Might be earlier at 5:00pm if this is better for town staff. Jenn Ball, assistant Town Manager to coordinate the meeting. Town staff, officials and town board members are key people to have at the kick off.

Project management of the Alta contact was discussed.

Motion to adjourn made by Preston, seconded by Tony. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Action Items: