



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
RAIL TRAIL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

MEMBERS

RYAN CONNER, CHAIR
MARCI BENSON, VICE CHAIR
KIM NASSAR, CLERK
MICHAEL HAMILTON
MARY ANN O'NEILL
ALEXIS RUNSTADLER
RALPH SOUPPA

APRIL 12, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00 pm
Location: Swampscott Senior Center, 200 Essex Street
Members Present: R. Conner, M. Benson, K. Nassar, M. O'Neill, A. Runstadler, R. Souppa
Members Absent: M. Hamilton
Others Present: Aleece D'Onofrio (Stantec/Project Engineer), Joe Rubino (Stantec), Lorraine Bartlett (resident); 4 additional public attendees

Mr. Conner opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM 12/18/2017

The Committee reviewed draft minutes from the December 18th meeting. With no questions or comments from the Committee, Ms. Benson made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. O'Neill, and unanimously agreed to by the Committee.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Kane reported that National Grid is working on an access agreement which will permit the occurrence of a Site Walk. National Grid will be present during the Site Walk, and it will take place during working hours. Committee members may attend as observers, however they may not engage in any discussion amongst themselves as this would be a violation of open meeting laws. Mr. Conner confirmed with Mr. Kane that the Committee may however ask questions of National Grid. The Site Walk will be limited to the section of the trail between the Middle School and Humphrey Street. The Site Walk is expected to be scheduled within the next two weeks, and Mr. Kane will notify Committee members when the date is finalized with National Grid.

Stantec representatives Aleece D’Onofrio (Project Engineer) and Joe Rubino reviewed the alignment plans with the Committee, noting that the alignment maps displayed a horizontal view of the trail rather than a vertical view. Ms. D’Onofrio noted that there would be additional refinement of the alignment plans as the project moves forward. Two maps detailing the alignment were displayed for the Committee’s view, with Ms. D’Onofrio noting that the path itself is noted in gray on the maps, while areas noted in yellow represented areas where “cut/excavation” would be required, and those in green indicated where “fill” would be needed. Wetland locations are also recorded on the maps. Ms. D’Onofrio remarked that the desire is to make the trail as level as possible to enhance the user’s experience.

Ms. D’Onofrio also noted that National Grid would be provided with a full engineering package, which would include information that National Grid would need such as the grading of the path and the proximity to National Grid poles.

While reviewing the maps, Committee members asked clarifying questions which were responded to by Ms. D’Onofrio. Ms. Bartlett also asked clarifying questions regarding the height of the bridge proposed for Paradise Road and the crosswalk at Walker Road. Mr. Souppa inquired as to the need for temporary easements, which Mr. Kane confirmed.

Ms. D’Onofrio reiterated that there would be further refinement of the alignment as the project progresses, and noted the potential for contaminated soil due to the previous use of the land by the railroad. While the trail soil itself will not be tested, it will be handled in a manner approved by the EPA for rail trail construction, such as burying trail soil excavated from one area under fill used in another area of the trail.

Ms. D’Onofrio noted that Stantec had considered using land owned by Tedesco Country Club, but noted this was not a viable option as it would require excessive clearing and grading which would result in larger environmental impacts.

Ms. D’Onofrio mentioned hearing a request at the design charrettes for access at Neighborhood Road. In response, Ms. Nassar noted that trail neighbors had also requested that access from Neighborhood Road not be permitted given the potential for parking issues on a very short street.

Ms. Nassar inquired as to the impact of excavation to trail neighbors, with specific reference to how construction vehicles will access the portions of the trail they are working on. Ms. D’Onofrio replied that construction access will be limited to points of entry (e.g., the middle school, Humphrey street), and not through backyards.

Noting that the Trail Neighbor Alignment Presentation was due to start shortly (at 7pm), Mr. Kane outlined the following next steps:

- Stantec will consider feedback from the Trail Neighbor session, finalize the alignment, and present it to the Board of Selectmen
- Stantec will then begin designing the trail, which is expected to take a few months
- Neighborhood meetings and community meetings will then be held to review the design
- Cost estimates will be prepared, which the Town will need to apply for grants before sending the job out to bid

Mr. Souppa asked about minimizing the impact on trees, and Ms. D’Onofrio responded that Stantec will consider such impact as they refine the plan.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other new business before the Committee, Mr. Conner asked if there were any questions or comments from attendees prior to the Trail Neighbor Alignment Presentation. No additional comments or questions were raised.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee briefly discussed scheduling the next meeting, and agreed that an interim meeting before the design portion of the plan is available for review would be helpful. Mr. Kane will survey Committee Members electronically for a mutually agreeable meeting date.

There being no further business before the Committee, Ms. Benson made a motion for the Committee to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Runstadler and unanimously agreed to by the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

K. Nassar

Clerk, Rail Trail Design and Construction Advisory Committee