

MEETING NOTICE TOWN OF LYNNFIELD

Committee Name: Lynnfield Recreational Path Committee
Day/Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Time of Meeting: 7:00 PM
Location: Town Hall, Break/Lunch Room

AGENDA AND MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Russell.

Committee members in attendance: Robert Almy, Marion Orfeo, Joel Steiner, Shelia Aronson, Gerard Noumi, Matt DiVirgilio, Michael D'Amore and Randall Russell. Selectman liaison Dalton was present.

Public attendees: Axel Wirth, Scott Gromko, Kendal Inglese

2. Old Business

a. Approve minutes from past meetings in 2017 (November-December)

The minutes from the November 9 meeting and December 5 Meeting were approved with editorial changes.

3. New Business

a. Review/Discuss/Approve Status Report to Lynnfield Board of Selectmen as requested by BOS

On January 23 there will be a meeting between MASSDOT and WorldTech to review, clarify and as needed, reconcile comments from various reviews made on the draft 25% design. A representative from each town may attend. Mr. Dalton and Mr. Almy agreed to attend for Lynnfield.

Mr. Dalton had received a series of questions from interested parties, many from concerned citizens, questions from the committee were added. These questions are relevant to both the 25% design process and the report being prepared by the committee. Mr. Dalton will refer all questions to DOT for answers/comments. Some of the questions may need to be addressed by the Town.

b. Plan for presentation of Status Report to BOS on January 22, 2018

A number of factors relating to the timeline and release of the report were discussed. After some discussion, the committee informally agreed with Mr. Dalton's suggestion to defer finalization of the draft report to the Board of Selectmen until after the DOT/WorldTech meeting. In addition, further discussion on scheduling was deferred until additional information on the process for placing items on a town ballot could be clarified.

c. Plan for public education meeting scheduled for January 25, 2018 at Middle School

The public workshop initially scheduled for January 25 will be postponed until a later date to be determined at a subsequent Committee meeting.

Minutes

4. Public comment on any issues of interest to the Committee

Mr Wirth suggested that the question that asked “what is the exposure of those who have made improvements within the right of way?” is a reasonable question. He points out that the situation has occurred in Stoneham.

Ms. Inglese suggests that the Town Public Works Director needs to be more involved so the DOT and others can know what Lynnfield is doing and may need to do for transportation safety. She pointed out that from her perspective, the Rail/Trail under review is the only feasible alternative given the time/money and talent committed to it and its topography. Topographically the trail needs no extensive alteration and has ready access. No other conservation lands in the Town have ready access.

5. Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 8:30.

Attached: Questions introduced and discussed in meeting

Questions regarding the Rail Trail

1. Will you be evaluating each abutting property so that you will see that several have steep slopes next to the trails? Are you going to take into account the expense for building retaining walls to accommodate the fencing?
2. What material do you intend to use for fencing? How long will be fencing last, and who will pay to maintain and eventually replace it? Will people be crossing our properties to access it? How close could they be to our houses?
3. How wide will the trail be, and how many trees will have to be cut down? The trail in West Peabody is only 7 years old, and roots are already pushing through the pavement and causing heaves. Who is going to pay to eventually replace it when it is no longer safe to ride bikes on it?
4. Do they plan on cutting tree roots to prevent them growing up through the pavement? It appears that's what happened on the Danvers trail, because trees are falling into abutters' yards.
5. Who will maintain the trail when it fills with acorns and leaves? Will people be using blowers behind our homes constantly to clear the trail? Will the leaves be left in the corridor of fencing to accumulate and cause a potential fire hazard? Who will remove tree limbs and dead trees as they fall onto the fencing and on the trail?
6. How long is the causeway through Reedy Meadow anticipated to last? Who will pay for the maintenance and eventual replacement of it? How long will the pylons last, and who will pay to replace them? How will inevitable trash in the wetlands be removed and who will pay for it?
7. If the plan is to put pavement under the causeway, how will that be maintained when it starts cracking?
8. If contamination is found on the rail line, like on the Newburyport trail, who will pay the enormous amount of money to have it removed?
9. If a major problem comes up after the construction of the trail, like the drainage problem on the Minuteman Trail that cost over \$240K, who will pay for that?
10. Who will pay for the inevitable calls for EMTs on the trail? Will we need to pay our police to patrol it and ticket cars that park on the nearby streets? How much liability will the town have and how much will it cost us? Could the town be sued if someone is injured because of a problem with the trail or if they are robbed, raped or murdered on the trail, all of which have occurred on other trails in Massachusetts?
11. How much parking will be required? What is the plan for dedicated parking for just the trail people? Who will pay for the construction and maintenance of the lots? Are you seriously considering using Jordan Park and the possible new library lot for out-of-town vehicles?
12. If stop lights become needed to control all the additional traffic, who will pay to have them installed and pay for the added electrical costs? Do you intend on putting flashing lights in the residential area at Pillings Pond Road?
13. Who will pay for the street signs warning drivers not to pass bikers on blind curves to avoid head on collisions, especially on narrow Pillings Pond Road? Will signs be installed to warn drivers of deer and other wildlife which may be forced into the road in order to go around all the fencing?
14. Who will be responsible for removing graffiti, as well as dog and human waste?
15. How will abutters be compensated if their property values drop?
16. An unsupervised child could climb over the barrier of the causeway and fall into the water. Will there be end-to-end video camera supervision? If so, who will pay for the cost of equipment, its maintenance and the monitoring service personnel?
17. Will this be on the ballot in spring?