

**NATICK COCHITUATE RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**February 28, 2023**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
David Camacho	Member at Large (vice chair)	X	
Barbara Coco	Member at Large	X	
Robert Mueller	Member at Large	X	
Joshua Ostroff	Board of Selectmen (chair)	X	
Barbara Sanchez	Recreation and Parks Commission	X	
Michelle Languedoc	Member at Large (clerk)	X	
William Schoenig	Member at Large	X	
Joel Barrera	Member at Large		X
Michael Walz	Member at Large	X	
Claire Rundelli	Open Space Planner	X	
Dennis Ravenelle	Member at Large		X
Sarkis Sarkisian	City of Framingham	X	
Domenic Portelli	Asst Conservation Agent Framingham	X	
George Eckert		X	
Deb Marion	Eco Natick	X	
Christopher Temper	FONT	X	
J Szretter		X	
Wendy Ware			
Chris Rehl		X	
John Brennen	Public from Framingham	X	

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM, having been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law under the provisions allowing virtual public meetings.

**1. Welcome, introductions, Announcements**

**2. Public comment**

- No public comment

**3. Natick Project Updates**

- Mechanic Street lot and trail access – we are close to opening including 4 EV charging spots, shed to contain up to 2 accessible bikes. Josh recommended fencing to contain access points to trail, Barb motion David seconded, committee approved unanimously
- Natick Center Connection – currently in design, 25% hearing in the upcoming months, would connect Natick Center to the CRT. Received \$300k in grant funding.
- Lake Cochituate Path – bring trail from RT9 bridge to Hartford extension to Speen St to connect to West Natick, proposing it as a compatible conservation use under Article 97. Design is by the state. Public hearing likely later this year.

- Route 9 Bridge repairs – uneven bridge deck has been reported to MassDOT.
- Trail usage data – corrected issue of not capturing data, great results about numbers of people using the trail
- Fisher Street signal – don't have a date but should be installed this year
- Amenities – received bike repair stations, waiting for sun shelters (may need to change vendors)

#### 4. Framingham updates

- Sarkis shared a presentation. Framingham entered into an agreement to purchase CSX right of way from downtown Framingham to Sudbury to connect to Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Early design to the Chris Walsh Trail to the Upper Charles Trail. Design idea to connect CRT to Carol Getchell trail. Talked about the importance of towns coming together to connect on regional projects.

#### 5. Other business

- Earth Day 2023 – Deb Marion spoke. The event is April 29-30. Looking for participation from the CRT committee.
- Landscaping/gardening/screening – Barb wrote up a proposal to partner with Russell's Garden Center to buy plant/tree sponsorships for trail maintenance, Josh will follow up on the procurement of the shed with the town, Claire updated that they have completed a planting guide for abutters, Claire gave an update on the process of treating invasive plants
- 2023 public art exhibit – will be during September & October, 16 works from Studios Without Walls, hope to be on the Select Board agenda on Wednesday.
- Friends of Natick Trails/Sponsorships – Chris Temper gave an update on sponsorships to raise funds to support the CRT
- All Aboard accessibility initiative – provides 1-2 cycles that would be powered by volunteers to give people with disabilities an opportunity to ride on the trail

#### 6. Meeting minutes for 11/9/22

- On a motion by RM and seconded by DC the 11/9/22 minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

#### 7. CRT Advisory Committee future

- Josh put out a recommendation to disband the CRT committee for our consideration. The Town has resources to manage operations for the trail. Committee members and visitors discussed pros and cons; there are a range of views on whether to maintain the committee. We may discuss at a future meeting. For the time being the committee will continue meeting 3 or 4 times per year.

#### 8. New Business

- **Access to the Trail from private property** – requested by Wendy Ware, Town was concerned about erosion and safety. Claire spoke to that any trail that would grant access to the CRT would have to be accessible. Both Josh and Claire let Wendy know they would be happy to walk the idea with her.
- **Golden Spike Trail event on 10/14/23**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM on a motion by Michael seconded by Will and voted unanimously by roll call.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Languedoc, Clerk