

**MANHAN RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**January 24, 2022**

**ATTENDEES:** John Bator, Peter Brooks, Scott Cavanaugh, David Jaffe, Stephen Donnelly, Wendy Hammerle, Barbara LaBombard, John Losito, Liz Sturgen

- The November minutes were approved. (There was no December meeting).
- Williston and other volunteers continue to keep most of the trail plowed. We are extremely thankful for their efforts.
- Terry, (our senior volunteer) reported that we have graffiti on the shed wall facing away from the street. We will need to paint over this when the weather warms up. John B. reports that she is doing a great job, and has blown all of the leaves off of the trail so that he didn't have to do it at all this year.
- John Losito will check the mural lighting and speak to Williston if he feels an extra light would enhance safety and visibility.
- The ice under the Park Street Bridge is still a safety issue without an answer. Cones have been placed there to warn people to be cautious when traversing the area.
- Barb indicated that some of the lower mural lettering is starting to deteriorate. We will look into fixing/replacing them with Color-Core letters.
- Barb will follow up on our Ferry Street signs.
- There is a damaged bollard that needs to be replaced or removed.
- Five new streetlights were added to the trail at the entrance to Mill Pond.
- The Union Street redevelopment project will be starting in the spring. Our crosswalk will be realigned, and flashing lights added. Also, our kiosk may need to be moved. If so, the city will do as part of the project.
- Scott reported that the city is trying to purchase some land near the Park Street Bridge to be part of the connector between the trail and the school. The CPA Committee will support this effort.
  - The city will be building a new skate park near City Hall with support from the CPA Committee. The project will include a connector from the trail to the park and onto the pond.
- Wendy, Liz, and Barb attended a Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways meeting. Northampton agreed to take the lead in developing a new trail map/brochure.

- We are hoping to fund this effort with grants rather than ads. This because ads take up map space, they can become quickly outdated, and they require a lot of effort to solicit them.
- There will be two version of the map, paper and digital.
- We will plan smaller print runs so that we will not end up with a surplus of outdated maps.
- A QR Code will be included which will provide the ability to upload the digital version of the map to your phone.
- Proposed connector trails will be represented on the map with dotted lines.
- We will need to put the money up front for the maps and be reimbursed if/when the grants become approved.
- We will request that the Chamber of Commerce provide a letter of support for the Mass recreational Trails Grant.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Manhan Rail Trail Committee meeting will be held on February 28, 2021 starting at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Donnelly