Recreational Path Committee
2020 Fiscal Year End Report
November 1, 2020

Status
Progress continues to be made on the Georgetown 4.5-mile recreational path. The trail is a part of the 30-mile Border to Boston trail that runs from Danvers north through Wenham, Topsfield, Boxford, Georgetown, Newbury, Newburyport, and Salisbury. The Border to Boston trail is part of the East Coast Greenway that runs from Calais Maine to Key West Florida. The Danvers, Wenham, Topsfield, Newburyport, and Salisbury sections are in use and portions of the Georgetown and Boxford trails are available for use.

Each year more walkers and cyclists learn about the trail and continue to make good use it despite the unimproved condition, bridges that need repair and some sections that are impassable.

Mowing and trimming is being done by volunteers in Conservation Commission authorized areas, though additional support in this area would improve the condition of the trail.

Mass DOT is managing the trail design projects, project # 607541 from Georgetown Road, Boxford to West Main St. and project # 607542 from West Main St. to Church St. in Newbury. In 2015, we finalized construction funding for both projects, and they are scheduled to be constructed in 2022 and 2024, respectively.

Accomplishments
The following are key activities and accomplishments.

- The 25% Design Plans were submitted to MDOT for both projects.
- Legal work on the ROW has been proceeding.
- A new project manager has taken over and reinvigorated the project.

Committee
The FY 2020 members of the committee are Chris Roop (chair), Julie Coolidge (clerk), Bill Hastings, Ian Deweese-Boyd and Craig Mabius.

Next Steps

- 25% Design Public Hearing by MDOT.
- Determine plan and feasibility for interim repair and opening of bridges.
- Develop “Friends of the Trail” organization and additional community engagement.
- Environmental permitting and completion of design
- Obtaining 99-year lease from National Grid following 75% design