

Ashland Upper Charles Trail Committee Minutes February 19, 2026 (260219)

Present: David Rosenblum, Tony Lewis, Tim Henderson, Judy Rosenthal, Marty Ring, Doug Costello, Rob Scherer

Absent: Preston Crow

Guests” Yolanda Greaves, Diane Mortensen, “Cole” on zoom (would not identify themselves)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm on Zoom by Rob.

Yolanda, Diane and Tony reviewed their meeting with the engineering firm Fuss & O’Neil to discuss the trail design project. The goal is 25% design of the trail. The 25% level is needed to get on the Mass Dot TIP. The firm said that the best way to handle this is in 1 mile segments. The Dike Trail to the Ashland Public Safety building was discussed. The Public Safety building will have a new parking area. It was said that easements needed to be looked at.

The firm will also “refresh” the whole trail. They will also do the scope of work for their contract. Marty said that the goal was to design the whole trail. It was reported that the firm will do 1 mile segments, with a cost of about \$1,000,000 for each segment. The above Dike Trail to Public Safety first, then looking at the whole trail by end of 2026.

Marty said that Tony has newer documentation than the Alta report. Tony confirmed that the engineers will work on access to the parcels for their work.

Rob updated us. He has met with the Framingham trails person, Ron Chick. Ron said that Framingham is working with CSX to connect to downtown Framingham. Rob and Tony have looked at Market Basket to Mulhall. There are many owners and a lot wetlands. The Bay Circuit Trail, managed by the AMC, has informal access to private parcels for their trail. We should coordinate with the AMC and it was noted that the AMC does like bicycle use of the trails.

Rob met with Hopkinton trails person, Peter Lagoy. Peter said that Hopkinton is committed to connect to Hopkinton State Park, but also is looking at a “southern route”, south of Route 135 going to Ashland State Park. Also, connection to the East Coast Greenway is needed.

We discussed the southern route. It has been considered in the past. It was noted that Legacy Farms South has many trails. We discussed whether the southern route was a distraction from developing the route we have. It was said that the southern route cuts off much of Ashland. We agreed that a map session with Hopkinton about this should be scheduled.

Judy told us that she has not yet met with Mr. Higgins and that there would probably be a zoom meeting with him. Rob thought that we should see what the consultants come up with in the Market Basket area.

Motion to approve minutes of October 30, 2025 as written, made by Marty, seconded by Tim, passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be on March 19 7pm on Zoom.

We adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm. Motion by Marty, seconded by David, Passed unanimously.

List of Documents discussed:

none