Ashland Upper Charles Trail Committee Minutes June 6, 2019 (190606) Ashland Town Hall Meeting
Room B-C

Present: Joel Arbeitman, David Rosenblum, Marty Ring, Tony Lewis, Preston Crow, Rob Scherer, Valerie
Paul, Rick Hampson

Absent: Chuck Lidz

Guests:

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.

Joel reported on his conversation with Susan Nicholl (member of Senator Spilka’s staff) about
environmental bond bill funding. Projects need to be shovel ready and approved by the town. Better to
ask for large sections of the trail (or the whole trail) at one time rather than small segments.

We discussed whether engineering has to be done after getting full control of the trail. Many of us
thought so. Marty said that River Walk engineering and some construction was done before all
easements were obtained.

Joel and Preston met with the new town planner, Peter Matchak. He will provide mapping support for
the trail.

The committee discussed invitation from Select Board for SB meeting on June 19th.
1. What we have or could get for a map for the meeting. And that we will need to explain route
   changes within some parcels.
2. Funding. Grant we are applying for and how we plan to use it. Get in town capital budget at
   some point.
3. Town staff needed for GIS mapping support
4. Easements. Town staff needed to interface with residents and acquire easements. Our list of
   (currently) 7 significant easements.
We need town planner support, GIS, easements to gain “site control”. Rob said we need to show the
route and express our needs to get the trail done. Valerie brought up whether to discuss priority
sections of the trail. We should show our progress so far—getting control of Disk Trail and Trolley Line
section—and whatever else we have control over.

We discussed whether to ask for funding. Many thought no. For us: use grant money for trolley Line
trail, CPA money (to be voted at town meeting). IF we do not get grant we need Trolley line engineering
and construction money.

Rick and Valerie to present at SB meeting. AUCT planning meeting on June 13, 6:30pm. Joel, Rick Valerie,
David and whoever else can come. Rick and Valerie will get our presentation to SB for June 19th
meeting—we think it is due on Monday morning before SB meeting.

Later in the meeting we discussed railroad gate design in downtown Ashland and bike trail. We thought
that one gate including a cycle track would be good. No need for separate gates for multiuse path.

Rick and Marty discussed their meeting with CPA committee. They currently have about $1,700.000.
And get about $440,000 yearly. Yearly money committed to bond payments. The CPA was enthusiastic
about the trail. They can fund engineering and construction, but would have to be in 2 separate grants,
1 year apart.
We discussed needing DPW support to help with trail sections.

We discussed the list of significant easements. Joel to redo the list for meeting with SB.

There is no news about Mass. Trails grant. We discussed needing RFP for engineering when the money comes through. The committee unanimously voted for Preston’s motion “If the AUCT gets the Mass Trails grant, Joel or his designee is authorized to work on the RFP with the town”.

More about meeting with CPA committee. They said that providing $28,000 match for Mass Trails grant is something they can do. A project manager needs to be identified for this, though. Town forest committee has gotten help from Boy Scouts and DPW.

Preston reported that the Whittemore subdivision is alive and will be discussed with developers soon at a planning board meeting. The plan should have same easement as before and hopefully has modification “cutting the corner”.

The Friends of the Ashland Trail has applied to the Ashland conservation committee for ability to clean up the Trolley Line trail. It is expected that meeting of July 8th will determine that trail is not wetlands and can be cleared.

We discussed downtown plan with railroad gates. Tony mentioned bike racks. Others suggested video camera surveillance of bike racks.

Minutes of 1/17/19 approved as written. Motion by Preston Seconded by Rob. Passed 8-0.
Minutes of 3/21/19 approved as written. Motion by Marty Seconded by Preston. Passed 8-0.
Minutes of 4/18/19 approved as written. Motion by Valerie Seconded by Tony. Passed 8-0

Next meeting will be June 21, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. Motion by Valerie, seconded by Preston, 8-0.

List of Documents discussed:
List of top 7 easements needed for the trail

Action Items: