

Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Committee
MINUTES
January 16, 2018

Location: *Conference Call*

Time: *7pm to 8pm*

Members Present with Representation:

Bill Boles – Mountain Biking

Charlene Saulnier – Dog Walking

Joe Geller – Rail Trails

Becky Kalagher - Equestrian

Dick Williamson - Bicycling

Mike White – 4 Wheel Drive

Meeting Minutes:

Welcome

Approve Previous Minutes

Meeting Minutes from June 2017 Approved

RTP Update

Amanda updated the group on the status of the RTP. Grant contracts are being signed for various 2017 RTP grants and more are coming in as the grantees get their contract documents signed. An event was held in September to announce the 49 grant awards, attended by the Lieutenant Governor and Commissioner of DCR. Over 100 community members and grant recipients attended as well.

The 2017 MA Trails Conference was a huge success! Over 300 participants and lots of positive feedback. Now need to start preparing for the 2019 conference.

Amanda has announced and solicited grants for the 2018 round.

2018 Grant Round Review Process Discussion

Amanda discussed the process for grant reviews and some updates to the status of the RTP and grant reviews this year. First, there will be \$2.8 million in federal share award, more than double the typical amount in an RTP grant round. Also, MassDOT has expressed interest in participating on a more involved level in reviewing and selecting grants for award. They will have a role in the process this year, though limited, and perhaps appoint staff as a MARTAB liaison, similar to Amanda's role with the board (but no administration duties). Or, just as a grant reviewer, similar to Paul Jahinge's role.

The grant deadline has been extended to Thursday, February 15th due to the additional funds and an interest in the Governor's office and MassDOT to spread the word more broadly.

Amanda described the grant review process to remind members of timelines and responsibilities. The Executive Session for grant review and recommendations will be held on Saturday, March 24th from 9-4 in Sturbridge, MA.

Meeting Adjourned