

Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Committee
MINUTES
June 7, 2017

Location: *Breakheart Reservation Conference Room*

Time: *4pm to 6pm*

Members Present with Representation:

Becky Kalagher – Equestrian

Bill Boles – Mountain Biking

Larry Tucker – Snowmobile

Dick Williamson - Bicycling

Charlene Saulnier – Dog-walking

Agnitta Knot – Alternate Equestrian

Meeting Minutes:

Welcome

Dates for next 4 MARTAB Meetings:

To be determined via email

Report on RTP Grant Round Status

The 2017

Recreational Trails Program Grant Round Updates

The 2017 grant recommendations are undergoing review and approval processes within DCR and the Governor's office. Recommendations should be approved within the month. They are simultaneously undergoing review for NEPA and Section 106 compliance through FHWA. It is estimated that this might take another one to two months. Funding for the RTP in the STIP is being amended to a total of 1,860,622 federal share as a result of the large response in RTP applications and unobligated RTP funds due to lapse over the next few years.

Education funds are currently being expended for the MA Trails Conference planning, venue and website/registration coordination. There will be one education grant awarded in the 2017 grant round at this point and Mass Audubon has been invited to coordinate an additional trails stewardship training course using Education Funds as well. The chainsaw safety workshops can also be implemented if an outside party applies for a grant to organize and implement those

Board Membership Updates and Changes

Dick O'Brien, Pam Browning and Becky Kalagher have until next summer to submit a new nomination for their user group, provided by the user group organization leadership or, absent of new credible interest, a nomination for them for another term.

Next Grant Round Changes

Discussion of changes to the current RTP Grant Application focused on strategies to create less paper waste. At this time, DCR does not have a program or ability to implement an online application portal. Paper proposals will have to be required for the next grant round. Language in the application to avoid unnecessary use of paper will be clarified and strengthened. Other minor changes will be made including strengthening language on providing clear and concise maps showing the greater picture of the project as well as the details.

Trails Conference Discussion

The trails conference discussion was deferred to another, later meeting. A list of session proposals will be sent out to MARTAB members in the coming week for their review and comments.

Meeting Adjourned