

From: [E Almeida](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#); [PlanningCommunityDevelopment](#); [Conservation Office](#); vroy@sudburywater.com; [Sudbury Water District](#)
Cc: [Emily Teller](#)
Subject: Support for Rail Trail in Sudbury
Date: Monday, January 27, 2020 9:59:20 PM

January 27, 2020

Dear Sudbury Board of Selectmen,

I am the liaison from the Westford Select Board to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, current Chair of the Westford Select Board, and a bike rider who enjoys the rail trails with my family. I am writing to you after speaking this weekend with Janie Dretler, a member of your Select Board. This letter is being sent on short notice, so I have not had the opportunity to secure a vote of support for this message from our entire Select Board, but would point out that our community has provided tremendous support for the BFRT since its beginning and we are proud and grateful to have this amenity in our community.

I understand that your Board is considering placing an article concerning the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Sudbury on your May 2020 Annual Town Meeting. Your article will ask for Town funding to acquire part or all of the CSX Right of Way in Sudbury.

I write to encourage your board's support in any way possible for this article and the purchase of as much of the CSX Right of Way as possible, and ask you to do so as soon as possible.

I am very supportive of this article, because I am aware that the voters of Sudbury have been overwhelmingly supportive of bringing the BFRT to Sudbury through every vote, both at the ballot box and at Town Meeting.

I can speak for the Town of Westford that this transportation and recreational resource has been an immensely valuable addition to our town and the region. It now allows people of all ages and physical abilities to enjoy running, bike riding, walking, skating, pushing strollers, pushing wheelchairs and, in the winter, cross-country skiing for the entire (current) 12 miles from Lowell to the Concord Rotary. This spring, construction of the "flyover" bridge over Rt 2 at the rotary will begin construction, and, when complete in 2021, connect the northern 12 miles to the segment just opened in West Concord and Concord –bringing the BFRT to Sudbury's doorstep.

This purchase of the Right of Way in Sudbury is essential to ensure progress of the BFRT further southward into Framingham.

Concord's extension of the BFRT to connect to the Sudbury portion is also dependent on

Sudbury's progress, as the newly opened segment in Concord stops at Powdermill Road, and the extension is contingent on Sudbury's progress.

I understand that Sudbury has received a reimbursement grant from the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Grant Program of \$100,000 specifically for (and restricted to) the purchase of the CSX Right of Way, and this funding must be used by the end of 2020 or it will be lost

There is legislation pending (has had its second reading) in Boston. Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Carmine Gentile's legislation will modify the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to allow CPA funds to purchase such rights of way. This will be of benefit to many towns in the Commonwealth who are hoping to have rail trails in their region.

You are so fortunate to be ahead of this CPA funding curve, as I know that Sudbury approved \$420,000 in CPA funding to acquire this corridor for a recreational trail at a prior Sudbury Town Meeting. How prescient your Board and Town Meeting were to support that vote.

I encourage you to support the proposed Town Meeting Article on January 28th to bring the benefits of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to the residents of Sudbury.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Almeida, Chair
Westford Select Board

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Elizabeth Almeida
[Fat Moon Mushroom Farm, Owner](#)