



Article 56

Pre-Engineering Services Track Road Multi-Use Path

Community Preservation Committee, Complete Streets Committee,
Conservation Commission, Planning Board

Purpose of Request

1. To create an existing conditions/topographic survey of Track Road.
2. Conceptual Design options to allow for improved pedestrian and bicycle accessibility along Track Road while maintaining existing vehicular access to Crow Island and preserving the natural feel of the corridor.



Project Overview

Track Road is a 1.8 mile roadway and trail extending northeast from Sudbury Road along the Assabet River to White Pond Road, where it meets the recently completed Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT) in Maynard. For nearly 20 years the Town of Stow has been working to make improvements to the recreational accessibility of the road. In 2004 and 2008, the Town purchased an easement to construct and maintain a recreational trail over Track Road. Making improvements to Track Road has historically proved to be a difficult puzzle, as vehicle access to Crow Island must be maintained, the roadway is quite narrow, and there are environmental constraints along the length of Track Road. With the Maynard section of the ARRT now complete, we are seeking to reach consensus on a design that works for abutting property owners, residents and trail users.

Continued

Project Benefits

- Enhanced recreational benefits of a multi-use trail, regardless of future ownership of Track Road or future change of use on Crow Island;
- Increased safety and recreational access to the full length of Track Road for bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities;
- Improved connections between Lake Boon, Gleasondale and Lower Village, the Assabet River Wildlife Refuge, the Assabet River Rail Trail and South Acton Train Station.

Next Steps

- Finalize contract with engineering firm selected to complete this work;
- Completion of existing conditions/ topographic survey;
- Using survey plans, consulting engineer will determine what types of improvements to Track Road are physically possible;
- Concept plans will narrow down design options and allow residents to express design preferences.

