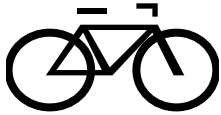


ARLINGTON  
BICYCLE  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE



NOVEMBER 30, 2015

TO: Arlington Board of Selectmen  
CC: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager  
Joey Glushko, Town Planner  
FROM: Christopher Tonkin, Chair,  
Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC)

[www.abac.arlington.ma.us](http://www.abac.arlington.ma.us)

RE: **Support for Rails-to-Trails Sign Program**

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I am writing to request your review of the opportunity presented to Arlington by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. The Conservancy is proposing to supply and install a historic marker commemorating the railroad heritage of the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway; the marker will be a ground sign, about 36" wide x 23" high. There would be no cost to the Town for design, production, or installation; furthermore, the Town would have a final say over the text included on the sign. Included below is the information we have received from the Conservancy, which provides details about the marker and its installation. Lexington and Bedford have also been approached and are proposing to install markers in their communities, respectively.

The Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) has reviewed the proposal and recommends that the Town accept this generous offer. The concept has received supportive comment from Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine, as well as former Planning Director Carol Kowalski.

Members of the committee have scouted the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Bike Trail for a good location for this marker. We recommend two locations that would allow the most impact while not interfering with existing infrastructure or use of the trail. The first recommended location is near the Alewife end of the trail across from the dog park, where there would be plenty of space around the marker for people to stop and read without impeding commuters or other users of the path. There is also clear association with the current T station at Alewife with the former railroad right-of-way stretching ahead of the viewer.

The second recommended location is the site of the former Lake Street Station, which currently has a pocket park and another historic marker. The advantage of this site is that it has park benches and some historic railroad structure still visible. However, the location of the existing marker is not ideal for allowing visitors to read without impeding cyclists and walkers on the bike path. We would recommend siting the proposed sign in such a way as to not impede pathway traffic. The Town may also want to consider relocating the existing sign.

If you view this request favorably, including either of the location recommendations, ABAC can communicate with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and share the text to be included on the marker with you before arranging for installation. See the following images of the proposed locations for the sign. E-correspondence with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy containing details of the program also follow.

Respectfully,  
Christopher Tonkin, Chairman  
Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee



Proposed RTC Sign Location - near Alewife terminus



Proposed RTC Sign Location - Lake Street, former rail-station location

## Correspondence with Ben Carter, of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy:

Hi Joey,

Nice talking with you. As I mentioned on the phone, the Minuteman trail has been selected to receive an interpretive sign through the Doppelt Rail-Trail Sign Program to be placed along the trail at no cost. This trail amenity will feature historic information about the railroad that once utilized the corridor where the trail now sits. Attached is a sign template for your review. If you elect to receive the sign, detailed copy will be developed (with your approval) to highlight the railroad history and transformation into a trail.

Here are a few highlights on how it will work:

- The design and copy will be developed by RTC, but will get finalized with your approval
- We will utilize our RTC's photo archive to locate photos to use, but we may ask for you to include some as well
- All the sign materials will get sent to you at no cost (including support posts, hardware, and signs)
- You will need to find the location on your trail for the sign to be placed
- RTC will cover the cost of installation. You assign a contractor, and we will cover the cost. We can help you identify sign installers if necessary .

The sign specs are as follows:

- Sign is 36 ½ inches wide by 23 ½ inches tall.
- Each sign will sit at a 45 degree angle with the bottom of the sign being 30 inches off the ground.
- Each sign will be supported by two weathering steel posts and will come with the mounting plate and hardware.

- The signs will be a high pressure laminate material. The sign company's website to give you some idea of their work: [www.izoneimaging.com](http://www.izoneimaging.com)

This program is made possible by one of our generous donors who wanted to see more historical information placed along trails – especially the Hall of Fame trails. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in receiving the sign. We are really excited about this project and how it will highlight the amazing history of your trail.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

All the best,

Ben Carter

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

202-974-5136

## Attachments:

File: <a href="#">Dopell Sign Template 031914 FINAL LOW RES B.PDF</a>	Size: 599k	Content Type: application/pdf
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-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Carter <[ben@railstotrails.org](mailto:ben@railstotrails.org)>  
To: Joey Glushko <[JGlushko@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:JGlushko@town.arlington.ma.us)>  
Date: Tue, 11 Aug 2015 19:37:24 +0000  
Subject: RE: Rail-Trail Sign Program

Hi Joey,

Here are the answers to your questions:

1. The sign manufacturer has indicated graffiti can be removed with mild soap and water. For more specific information, here is a link to the FAQ page on their website. Refer to the last question.

<http://www.izoneimaging.com/faq/>

2. No, there are no issues at all if it has to be removed or moved.

3. No, there is no contract to sign.

Let me know if you need any more specifics on these questions. Or if you have others.

Thanks,

Ben