

## **Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee**

The Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee (RTCAC) was created by the Selectmen in November, 2004, to provide a mechanism for the Town to examine the conversion of the unused Framingham-Lowell rail line into a recreational path and alternative transportation corridor, to help identify and address the many questions and concerns of Sudbury residents concerning this project, and to support town staff as they study the feasibility of such a conversion. The section of the rail trail in Sudbury would continue the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail whose most northern 6.8 miles opened in Chelmsford in 2009.

Three proposals submitted by RTCAC to the Board of Selectmen were approved by Town Meeting in 2007, including a four-season wildlife study and a field survey to map the corridor in detail. The completed wildlife study was posted on the Town website in November 2009. A citizen's resolution was presented to Town Meeting in 2010 to require evaluation of alternative trail alignments to address the impacts described in this study. This resolution was affirmed by the Board of Selectmen and approved by Town Meeting.

The field survey approved by Town Meeting in 2007 was not accepted by the Town prior to the end of fiscal year 2010 when the authorization of CPA funding for the survey expired. The associated wetlands delineation was not completed by the end of FY10, and no NRAD was requested by the contractor. Lacking this information, town staff has not yet begun to generate a concept plan for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Sudbury and no further hearings on the project have been held.

Selectman Haarde became liaison from the Board of Selectmen to the RTCAC in May 2010. The RTCAC continues to seek clarification from the Board of Selectmen concerning the scope and expected use of the Notebook. The RTCAC also hopes to lend its expertise to the public discussion of the trail during the coming year. The information compiled by the RTCAC is posted on the committee page of the Town website where citizens can find an up-to-date account of our activities.