MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL
Status of Weston Section

Massachusetts Trails Conference
Leominster, MA
November 4, 2017

Paul Penfield, Jr.
Member, Weston Rail Trail Advisory Committee
MCRT will go 104 miles between Boston and Northampton.
3.1 miles in Weston
Special considerations

• Electric lines, vegetation restrictions
• Semi-rural town character valued by residents
• One blockage (former bridge filled in)
• Popular trails in adjacent town forests
• Equestrian usage
• Historical assets valued by residents
Weston’s semi-rural character including view from right-of-way into neighboring Waltham
Extensive trail network
Right of way – clear cut – power lines
Eversource needs an access road for its repair vehicles
DCR will pave this access road

* SPLIT RAIL FENCE TO BE USED ONLY AS NEEDED

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
1 OF 16
MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL
Weston Rail Trail Advisory Committee (RTAC)
Weston RTAC

• Formed Summer 2016
• Nine members
• Four are liaisons to other town committees
• Charge: design the trail to best serve the town
• Activities: learn, protect ROW, communicate with abutters and community
Done so far (Nov. 2017)

- RTAC learn about the railroad and other things
- With Historical Commission, identify historic assets and advocate protection
- Get preliminary underpass design
- Assure room for informal parallel horse trails
- Mark historical items
- Contractor, fence items just marked
- Mow site, put in silt fences, wattles, and bales for erosion control
Major historical assets
(plus several minor assets)

1881
Depot

1896
Trestle & Tell-tale

1891
4 Cattle Passes
Cattle pass as seen from trailhead
(note protection fencing)
To do next (dates guessed)

• Remove rails & ties (Eversource, 2017, 2018)
• Grade & gravel for 14-foot access road (2018)
• Pave 10-foot multi-use trail with asphalt (DCR)
• Install safety features (e.g., bike guard rails)
• Install access controls (e.g., bollards, gates)
• Design & install signage (2018)
• Design & make last 0.1 mile to Waltham (2019)
• Design & create parking & trailheads (2019)
• Design & install amenities & plantings (2020)