

Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Committee
MINUTES
March 13, 2012

Location: Quinsigamond State Park – Regatta Point

Time: 4pm to 6pm

Members Present:

Bill Boles: New England Mountain Bike Association

Benton Phelps: New England ATV Association

Becky Barnes: DCR Trails Coordinator

Becky Kalagher: Bay State Riders

Dean Zuppio: Snowmobiles Association of Massachusetts (SAM)

Dick O'Brien: The Trustees of Reservations

Dick Williamson: Rail Trails

Heather Clish: Appalachian Mountain Club

Amanda Lewis: Recreational Trails Program Coordinator

Recreational Trails Program Update

- Amanda updated MARTAB on the status of the 2011 and 2012 Grant Round review processes
- Dick Williamson presented the facts on the RTP approval process and its role within the Federal Transportation Bill. Discussion about the status of the RTP in the proposed Senate and House versions of the Transportation Bill took place.
- Just after the MARTAB meeting, it has been confirmed that the Amendment presented by Senator Klobuchar and joint-sponsored by several other Senators, including Scott Brown, passed within the Senate. This ensures that the RTP will be included in the Senate version of the Bill, when it is brought to the floor for a full vote and then to the House for passage.

Dates for RTP

- The next RTP Grant Round will have a new submission deadline date of February 1st, 2013. This change will ensure approval of grants during the planning season of Fall/Winter or 2013 and allow for project implementation in the Spring/Summer of 2014.
- The 2nd Annual Massachusetts Trails Conference will be held in Spring, 2013, with the preliminary planning meeting held at the Fall MARTAB meeting, on a date to be determined in October.
- The next MARTAB meeting will be held on a date to be determined in July.
- The next RTP review meeting will be held in February or early March, 2013, on a date to be determined.

Follow-up: Amanda will send out emails to determine the next cycle of MARTAB meetings, with one in July, one in late October/early November, and one in late February/early March. The date for the MA Trails Conference will be determined at the October meeting.

New MARTAB Member Nominations and Vote

- Nomination forms for all interested new members were distributed and analyzed. The vote ensued as follows:

Dog Owners:

Dean: Motion to vote Yes for Michelle Biscoe as Member and Leslee Robinson as Alternate representing Dog Walkers on MARTAB

Dick O: Second the motion

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Off-Road Motorcycles:

Heather: Motion to accept both nominations of Nicholas Holland and David Kosla and consult with NETRA leadership on who should be Member and who should be the Alternate.

Dean: Second the Motion

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Dick W: Motion that if NETRA has no preference for either of the above-state nominees for Member vs. Alternate, then MARTAB accept Nicholas Holland as the MARTAB voting Member and David Kosla as alternate, representing off-road motorcyclists on Board.

Bill: Second the Motion

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Canoe/Paddling:

Dean: Motion to accept Pam Browning as the MARTAB representative for canoe/paddling/water trails representation.

Dick O: Second the Motion

Vote: Unanimous Approval

4-Wheel Drive Vehicles:

Before the vote, the board discussed the representation of the 4-wheel drive user group on the board. The issue is that although it was unanimously agreed upon that this user group should have an opportunity to be represented on MARTAB since the RTP requirements do allow for funding of 4-wheel drive trails that are open to the public, it was also acknowledged that there are no 4-wheel drive trails that qualify for RTP funding currently in the state of Massachusetts. If there were trails that qualified under all RTP guidelines and requirements, then they will be considered for funding, should an

application be submitted in future rounds. However, there are no known trails that qualify for funding under RTP at this time. This fact has been discussed with the nominee previously and it is believed that he understands this fully.

Dean: Motion to accept Mark Shea as a member of MARTAB representing the 4-wheel drive vehicle user group.

Dick O: Second the Motion

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Bicycling

A nomination form was submitted proposing that an additional member be added to MARTAB representing bicycling on multi-use shared paths/rail trails. It was discussed and determined by MARTAB that it is not appropriate or fair to add an additional member under this category, as the purpose of the program is to provide funding for all types of trails and user groups, and not to favor one category over another. It was determined that the nomination should instead be considered for the position of Alternate for bicycling representation, as there is no Alternate in that category currently.

Dean: Motion to accept Dick Miller as Alternate on MARTAB representing bicycling.

Dick W: Second the Motion

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Associate Members

- There were three additional inquiries into MARTAB membership or interest in becoming an “associate member” of MARTAB. Two expressed interest as voting members, but did not follow-up with the submission of a nomination form. One expressed primary interest in the category of associate membership. The Board discussed whether or not a vote should be required to officially add associate members. After discussion, it was determined that “associate member” should be first defined in the Bylaws, primarily defined as a member with “a voice but not a vote”. The Board agreed that this definition should be added to the Bylaws. The three interested persons should be contacted and asked if they would like to be associate members, according to the defined role, and a vote on their membership will take place at the July MARTAB meeting, as well as a vote to approve the amended bylaw.

Follow-up: Amanda will contact all new members and alternates and involve them in the planning of dates for the upcoming MARTAB meetings.

Amanda will update the bylaws to include the definition and role of “Associate Members” and send this out to MARTAB members for preliminary approval before it is presented at the July meeting for a vote.

Amanda will contact possible associate members, develop an associate member form to fill out, and have all interested parties fill those forms out in order to be voted in as associate members. The earliest vote on their membership will be at the July meeting.

DCR Trails School

- Gary Briere spoke briefly about the upcoming DCR Trails School event to be held at Harvard Forest on April 13th and 14th. Invitations for this event will be distributed within the next couple of weeks, and will be targeted to DCR trail partners first, as the focus of the event will be working and volunteering on DCR trails and the DCR trail approval/construction/maintenance process. This event was approved for funding under the 2011 RTP Education Grant Round.

New Scoring Methods for RTP Grants

- At the RTP Grant Review Meeting last fall, Dick Williamson had some suggestions for adjusting the method of scoring DCR grants in future rounds for greater fairness and accuracy in determining the highest scoring grants. He proposes that adjusting the method will also allow for a more fluid and quicker grant review process during the review meeting, once the scores are submitted by each reviewer. Dick will submit a summary of the proposed adjustments to RTP scoring methods to be reviewed by MARTAB members and then discussed and/or approved at the July Meeting. If approved, the scoring methods will be explained and updated on all grant documents for the 2013 round.

Follow-up: Dick Williamson will email a summary of new scoring methods/updates to the group for their review. The new scoring methods will be discussed and voted on at the next MARTAB meeting

RTP Grant Guidelines

- In preparation for this meeting, Amanda asked that all members look over the RTP Grant Guidelines for 2012 and make any suggestions for updates/changes to these for the 2013 grant round. There were no suggestions for changes to the guidelines and they will be posted online for the 2013 grant round without any changes (other than dates).

Follow-up: Amanda will post the 2013 grant application and guidelines on the web immediately.

MARTAB Positions

- The positions of Chair and Vice Chair on MARTAB will be voted on at the next meeting in July, with new members attending and possibly taking on one of those positions. MARTAB members are instructed to send an email to Amanda if they are interested in either office. These offices are defined as the following:

Chair: one year term limit
 Vice-Chair: one year term limit, then automatically becomes Chair for one year

The Chair will facilitate the meetings and author and sign any communications. Other duties will be defined as necessary. The chair term limit is one year, at which time the Vice-Chair will step up as Chair, and a new Vice Chair will be voted on.

- The first term limits for one board member will also be ending at the July MARTAB meeting. MARTAB will need to vote to keep that member on for an additional three years, or to bring up their alternate as a voting member on the Board. **If you do not currently have an Alternate on the Board, please find an appropriate alternate (or more than one option), have them submit a nomination form, and the board will need to vote on that alternate at the July Meeting.**

Current Alternates:

Board Member	Alternate
Heather Clish	Matt Moore
Bill Boles	Bob Hicks
Dean Zuppio	Larry Tucker
Michelle Biscoe	Leslee Robinson
Nick/David	Nick/David
Dick Williamson	Dick Miller

Follow-up: If you are interested in becoming Chair or Vice Chair of MARTAB, please email Amanda. Amanda will compile a list of perspective Chair/Vice Chairs to be voted on at the next MARTAB meeting in July.

If you have found a possible Alternate for your Board position, please obtain a nomination form from that person and either email it to the entire Board before the July meeting, or bring 8 copies to the meeting for review.

Other MARTAB Business

- Amanda discussed the status of the MARTAB website. At this time, since MARTAB and other organizations have initiated the development of a Trail Partnership/Coalition, as a result of the discussions held at the MA Trails Conference last fall, it was discussed and agreed that the need for a MARTAB website initiating trail advocacy and providing trail resources may not be necessary. This instead could be the purview of the Trails Partnership, which it seems will be a more appropriate outlet for this information. Since MARTAB is a

Governor-Appointed advisory board, it may not be considered appropriate for it to run the website as a primary resource for trails advocacy in Massachusetts. MARTAB also does not qualify directly for trails funding because it is not a 501(c)3 and the new trails partnership will be developed as such. There is a website currently online, within the DCR site, which describes MARTAB, its mission and background, a list of members, and posts meeting dates, agendas and minutes. This is considered sufficient information for MARTAB, and in the future, MARTAB may contribute, as needed, to the information posted on the MA Trails Partnership/Coalition website.

Follow-up: Amanda will discontinue efforts to set up MARTAB website at this time.