**Blackstone River Bikeway / Greenway Statement for Board – November 2019**

Robert Dandrade

***“Locally Inspired, Regionally Connected”***

Summary for MA portion:

* Breakthrough- Met with Dan Driscoll and Paul Jahnige of DCR to discuss details of Uxbridge and overall Bikeway. Open, frank discussion, got on same page; connected to Dan Driscoll peer – expert in DCR for easements and Amanda Lewis, program manager for Mass Trails.
* Attended DCR’s Mass Trails conference (350 attended) Friday and Saturday and learned about grants, funding and example projects ; **NOTE:** this is a “reimbursement process”; Required: 20% match = 20% construction cost; Required “ownership” or equal ; scheduled Q&A with Amanda Lewis, leader of MassTrails grants.
* Held quarterly session for overall Bikeway- guest speaker Dan Driscoll DCR; DCR is investing in Blackstone more than anywhere else; Uxbridge (Section 2) is 3rd in order for Blackstone Valley, after Town of Blackstone and SNETT. Showcased Northbridge and updated status for Uxbridge.
* Bob Contursi presented at Uxbridge Board of Selectmen , receiving a warm reception.
* Started Uxbridge easement process – Capron Corp and Cnossen Long Term Investors

Next Steps for Mass

* Continue initial first step of “soft” easement process for Uxbridge
* Prepare to engage railroad for Uxbridge crossing
* Continue follow up of Uxbridge detailed actions
* Small grants – research and decide what is worth the effort
* Prepare grant required content for multiple uses

Summary for Rhode Island (Tom Kravitz)

* Pawtucket/ Central Falls
* Repair of Bikeway “washboard sections”

Other Progress

* Lots of Massachusetts planning meets (since last status): (4) for Uxbridge and (2) Grants
* Met with CMRPC for extensive personal training to understand their role and how to leverage their processes.