



Diane N. Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

R. Eric Slagle
Director of Development Services

Shaun Shanahan
Building Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kevin Murphy, City Manager
Diane Tradd, DPD Director

FROM: R. Eric Slagle, Director of Development Services

RE: **MOTION BY COUNCILOR SAMARAS - REQ. CITY MGR. UPDATE CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS WITH GERVAIS VOLKSWAGEN REGARDING BIKE TRAIL.**

This memorandum addresses the request from Councilor Samaras for an update on the potential extension of the Bruce Freeman Trail along property formerly owned by Pan-Am Railways, recently purchased by Gervais Volkswagen.

Since this issue came up before the City Council originally last fall, City staff has been working diligently to mediate between the interests of the private property owner, Gervais Volkswagen, and other interested parties, which include the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Trail and the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust. Given the desires of the Council to come to a solution that both allowed the trail extension and supported the local business interest in the parcel, multiple meetings with the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board were held, as well as several internal meetings to come to a potential solution. Peter Gervais of Gervais Volkswagen stepped up and proposed a possible plan that allowed the trail to run between the car storage lot and the River Meadow Brook. This plan was approved by both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board. The finalization of this plan is subject to further negotiations regarding the tax implications between Gervais Volkswagen and the City.

We will update the Council regarding the outcome of those discussions.

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07/28/2017