

Town	Question/Comment	source
<b>Financial</b>		
Westford	Has the town estimated the relative cost of installing parking versus working with Acton to extend the trail to the lot at the old Grossman's (now a machine shop)?	online
Westford	Please, address the town's financial situation relative to these kind of non-critical expenditures. An article in Lowell Sun last week based on an interview with our town manager Jodi Ross stated: "Faced with a projected 3.5M\$ operating-budget deficit for fiscal 2014, including the town-side budget and the schools' budget, town manager Jodi Ross said that employee layoffs are inevitable if the town's financial situation does not change." That could mean 30-40 town employees being laid off. Does our town really want to and how can it be justified to spend town resources and money to plan and build at considerable cost a few parking spaces for convenience of very few people when many critical town employees may lose their jobs due to lack of funds and all of us will face a tax increase?	online
	How much \$ has the town spend on the BFRT to date? We voted at least at 2 separate town meeting to provide funds for BFRT. What is that contribution - Emily stated there were no funds spent on Phase I, what did we spend the \$ on.	online
<b>Request for Information</b>		
Westford	I think it is important to inform the participants in the meeting tonight of all actions (legal, financial, otherwise) that have been taken regarding parking since the meeting in August. Neighbors have seen and heard of a lot of activity and deserve to know all of the facts. I think it would go a long way toward calming some of the building fury.	online
Westford	Can we ask questions of town staff and/or meeting presenters through this page? If so, how. Thanks,	online
Westford	I believe it was stated at the meeting that submitted comments would be able to be viewed. I don't see anywhere that this can be done. Thanks,	online
Westford	The final agenda item at the meeting 'Discuss potential committee' was never covered. I think it is a good idea to bring representatives of the various constituents together to try and forge a common strategy and action plan to hopefully meet the needs/wants of all. I would like to know if anyone is taking any immediate action on this. If so, I would also like to know: - who is going to be on the committee - what is its charter/objectives - who does it report to and when Thanks,	online
Tyngsboro	So why should I have to drive to Chelmsford to park my car so that I can ride my bike (or walk) on the BFRT? Why isn't there a parking lot in Westford? Why wasn't this parking lot built during the Phase I Construction, when Westford agreed to sign on to the construction? You held a Public Meeting last night, but still didn't answer the question now did you?	online

<b>Against Parking in Westford for Rail Trail</b>		
Westford	80% of residents do not want parking per wicked local survey. For the neighborhood parking would be a huge disruption, more than trail invasion of privacy already is. NOISE factor starts at 0630 on weekend in the summer, doors, horns and voices and doors slamming. If we wanted to live next to a parking lot we would move to Lowell and pay way less in our taxes....	online
	Why do we feel the need to be responsible for parking. 1.8 miles of trail of a 20 mile trail in Westford. It's not right. Not fair. A waste of Westford's money	comment card
	Another meeting where the majority of people <u>Don't want</u> the parking but clearly our town official will ignore and continue to put their own opinions ahead of ours	comment card
	The town still is not hearing the residents of the neighborhoods that would be negatively impacted as a result of allowing parking. We simply oppose it. We are in support and favor the trail however ample parking already exists and \$\$\$ does not to advance this case	comment card
Westford	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments.</p> <p>I am both a supporter of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and a resident of the neighborhood that would be impacted by the proposed parking area.</p> <p>I support safe access by all to the Rail Trail yet one of the aspects I have enjoyed since becoming a resident of Westford is the town's commitment to the preservation of green space and avoidance of light pollution. These aspects of the neighborhood where we purchased our home when we moved here in 2006 were firm in our consideration. For those reasons I was disappointed with the scale and proposed lighting for the parking area that is under consideration. When our family uses other rail trails such as the Ayer Nashua trail we adjust our usage to where parking lots pre existed. I am disappointed that users of the Freeman rail trail have parked (and been permitted to do so) willy-nilly along it instead of finding parking in Chelmsford either at the Byam School, at Heart Pond or in the Center where they might also patronize the businesses that would be pleased to have their custom. I don't feel that Westford is obligated to provide parking because there are users who don't care to park where there is pre existing and legal parking. Instead I would rather see a program of information dissemination about appropriate parking for a period of transition and then enforcement by law where necessary. Westford residents who wish to use the rail trail but do not live in immediately adjacent neighborhoods have the same access to existing legal parking as non residents who intend to use the trail. As long as that parking is available to any users with no residency obstacles, I don't see the argument in favor of Westford non-adjacent residents warranting parking as a valid enough argument to override town's committed values of preservation of green space and minimization of light pollution.</p>	online
Westford	I live on the corner of Griffin and 225. Over the past few years, since the trail was established, I have people parking out along the road in front of my house, they dump trash, they have kids selling lemonaid. I use to be able to sit outside and enjoy my yard, but now I have cars, trash and NOISE. I built the house in that lot because of the solitude. I have lived in that area for over 55 years. I find the town not helping at all with communicating where to park (and not on side roads in front of houses). For those that want parking, have them live in a house where this will be put up and see how they like it. I am disappointed in the town and how the whole trail issue is being handled.	online
Westford	Why is the Town cooperating with efforts by the Friends and the Westford Conservation Trust to expand parking, access and "amenities" on the BFRT? No other local Rail Trail has parking located in Residentially Zoned areas. Comparisons of parking for other local footpaths are meaningless, the BFRT is a major attraction. Westford will expend money and degrade peaceful neighborhoods in an effort that benefits residents of other towns. BFRT access and parking (whether it be on lots on on-street) in Residential areas should not be promoted in any way by the Town of Westford.	online

<p>Westford</p>	<p>At his time with the information provided, I do not support any of the articles which allow for parking along the Bruse Freeman Rail Trail. As the currently posted signs indicate, there is adequate parking available just down the road in Chelmsford to access the trail. This is existing parking areas available at no cost to our town or anyone within our town to access the trail. I do support Article 18 to slow down the current momentum to thoughtfully and fiscally responsibly evaluate need, cost and impact of any parking initiatives. Thank you</p>	<p>email</p>
<p>Westford</p>	<p>The town of Westford has already wasted a substantial amount of money and time trying to come up with alternative for parking in Westford for the BFRT. Of the four options considered two are not feasible - at least for the time being - why is parking off Landmark still mentioned as a possibility? A few of the Friends of the BFRT are singular in their objective in establishing a parking lot in Westford, despite the extension to Acton will provide ample parking for anyone wanting access to the BFRT. The friends are deceitful, in one warrant they are behind establishing a "Park" as part of a Boy Scout Eagle Project - with a clear intention of using the Vose Parcel for BFRT parking. In another warrant the Friends BFRT want 5000.00 dollars for an undisclosed purpose. Since when does Westford throw money away?                  Parking at the options considered will not benefit Westford residents, the start of the BFRT is at the Westford boundary between Carlisle and Acton - they will benefit - Westford will pay both in dollars and consequences. I would only support the warrant providing the land for the Boy scouts if their was a provision prohibiting parking in the Vose Hill Parcel- at the town meeting I am sure the true colors of the few Friends of the BFRT would come through - these few don't care about the scouts - these few friends are using the Scouts as a ruse to accomplish their objectives - shame on those few friends.</p>	<p>email</p>
<p>Westford</p>	<p>Not sure how much space i have so some quick thoughts follow: 1) one should not be worried about zoning changes for a parking lot or other when buying in a residential area. 2) with the current financial situation how can a parking lot and its maintenance be even contemplated. 3) i would think you would want as few people crossing 27 as possible. I ran there yesterday and still had to scamper out of the way of a car speeding around the corner going north on 27. It is only a matter of time. 4) if you build a parking lot on landmark the bikers will not walk up to the trail... they will go along 225 and create an even worst problem. 4)acton is industrial and so close, why compromise the residential area. 5) westford has 1.75 of trail - dont make it our problem to fix the parking.</p>	<p>online</p>

<b>Supports Parking for Rail Trail in Westford</b>		
Westford	Westford needs to provide parking for the Bruce Freeman Trail in Westford.	email
Concord	The trail is not very use-able without adequate parking.	online
Needham	Please help find a way for people to use the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Most trail users are local people and need a safe convenient place to park. Out-of-town people may use it occasionally, but the vast majority of users are local. Please help solve this issue. Thanks	online
	I LOVE LOVE the trail but we do need parking if we are to use it.	online
	The BFRT is much loved and well used. However access at the southern end is limited because of lack of parking. This is particularly critical for handicapped persons and families with small children. I am encouraged by the Town's efforts to create parking for the trail.	online
Bedford	I hope you can reopen parking at the trail terminus in Westford. Our family used it often for biking and walking on the rail trail. Parking near the terminus should be a high priority. The BFRT is a wonderful resource for Westford and for the region.	online
Westford	I believe Westford should provide some parking for the BFRT; Chelmsford and Lowell do and we should also. I also favor the transfer of the Vose Parcel to Parks and Rec. This piece of land is uniquely situated to provide a limited amount of parking for the rail trail users.	online
Carlisle	As a supporter and user of the rail trail, I urge the Town of Westford to find a way to provide parking so that folks like myself can enjoy the trail without restrictions and hassles.	online
Acton	I love the BFRT, and have been impressed that so many people have been using it at all times of the day and year ever since it opened. I live in Acton, but have biked up to the BFRT and bought food at restaurants in Chelmsford and shopped for other items. On days when I don't feel like biking up Rte 27 to the start of the trail, I need a place to park my car. If I have to drive all the way up to the Heart Pond swim area to park, I am much more likely to just skip it entirely, along with purchases I might have made in Chelmsford. Please provide parking at the Acton end of the trail!	online
Westford	The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is an outstanding recreational site in Westford. My wife and I use the trail often and would find a parking area in Westford adjacent to the trail a convenience. The trail is a recreational asset the town should support with vigor. It not only serves Westford residents but attracts users from surrounding communities	online
Acton	I live about a mile south of the trailhead and I have two children age 10 and 13. Rt. 27 is not ideal for them to be riding on their bike (little to no shoulder and cars traveling 40 miles an hour or more). The ideal solution would be to put their bikes in the car and drive to the trailhead where parking was available. I am widowed and it is those simple conveniences that can make a big difference. Thanks for considering my input.	online

Westford	The rail trail is a wonderful addition to our town and needs adequate parking for people to fully appreciate it.	online
Concord	It is an unfortunate situation that our tax dollars have created such a fine rail-trail but there is no way for us to arrive and make use of it. Could this have been a wicked plan conceived by Westford abutters of the trail to keep it all for themselves? Should they be allowed to thwart progress in creating parking access for "outsiders" like me? I hope not. Everyone knows that trails like this are a huge, long-term asset to the neighborhoods around them. In fairness to people who do not live nearby, it's important that the town create an opportunity to park somewhere along the trail in Westford in order to access this expensive, beloved public resource. Please do not be afraid of the relative few oppose the idea of creating parking.	online
Carlisle	I love using the trail. I live in Carlisle and ride my bike to the beginning of the trail at 27 & 225. I am hoping the town can find a solution for parking at the trail head but it does not have to be right at that location- just nearby- perhaps a bit down on route 27 where it can serve the trail as it is extended into Acton. I want to thank the town of Acton for their support in getting folks outside and enjoying exercising and fresh air! Thanks.	online
Sudbury	Official controlled parking lots will go a long way to eliminating any problems that abutters have with trail user parking - and I think those would be minor in any case. Lots that are open to police inspection, with prohibitions on night parking, provide a civic service for everyone.	online
Lawrence	Parallel parking would be fine on the north bound side of MA 12, north of the intersection with 225.	online
	This trail is an important recreational outlet for many people. Please allow people a safe place to park at the Westford end of the trail.	online
Concord	Having designated parking for those who want to ride this beautiful trail actually serves the town, as it gives the town control over the parking spaces and where best to locate them. Having the trail in Westford enhances the town as a destination.	online
Sudbury	I hope my commenting as a nonresident of Westford is not an affront to the town, but as a member and director of the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail I can appreciate the frustration that many in Westford are experiencing now in trying to find a solution to the parking problem associated with the trail. It is extremely important that Westford solve the problem. A failure to do so will set a terrible precedent that could complicate the development of the entire trail south of Westford. My understanding is that a possible solution is to extend Phase 1 of the trail 1700 ft. to a location in Acton. That would set a wonderful precedent showing that some of the problems can be solved with cooperation between towns, making the trail genuinely regional. Good luck!	online
	I live in Forge Village and bike the trail. We need a small amount of parking. You cannot park at Byman school on weekdays while school is in session. Heart Pond is owned by Chelmsford and the parking lot can be quite full.	comment card

	Comments related to Articles	
Westford	Re: Article 18 - If parking is not allowed within 1 mile of BFRT, how could children SAFELY access the trail? It seems as though the cost for sidewalks/bike paths might be excessive? This proposal seems ludicrous to us.	email
	<b>Other</b>	
	Needs to be a forum like Westford communications board to discuss further on-line. A lot of sarcastic people out there ie "pocket park" for benches & kiosk	comment card
	Meeting - Nothing New! The group is determined to stop parking no compromise seen.	comment card
	I think there are a lot of hidden agendas happening in this issue	comment card
	Excellent forum. Zoning matters to everyone, parking lots do not belong in RA zones. Valuations are in large part based on zoning definitions, home buyers should be expressly warned by-laws are without value. Westford, Billerica will lose identities!	comment card
Newton	I must congratulate the moderator. These kinds of meetings are almost always dominated by one or two people who ask 1 (or more) questions, which get answered and the questioner does not acknowledge that an answer was given. The meeting then devolves into circular arguments ad nauseum. This did not happen though two people tried. I thank you for keeping this meeting on track and on point. I am a member of Friends of BFRT. I work in Westford. I commute by bicycle from Newton to Westford - 22 miles. P.S. I live on California St., along the Blue Heron Trail. Cars parking in front of my house all year long - people who use the trail. This does not bother me or my neighbors. Infact, the traffic has increased the level of safety in the neighborhood: vandalism and burglaries occurred in surrounding streets, but not in the immediate vicinity of the trail along the Charles River. This trail connects Waltham Center to the Museum of Science.	comment card
Acton	The southern end of the rail trail needs a sign that points people toward a nearby legal place for people to park, or else unsafe and illegal parking will continue; and the rail trail won't reach its full potential, especially for folks like me driving up from the South to use the trail.	online
	You've wasted another 2 hours of my life for rehashing the same non-answers to our questions. You don't listen you have your agenda set - another 2 hour snow job!	comment card
Westford	The parking lots should have been thought out well before now. You don't build the trail and then figure out parking lots after the fact. The lots should be at the head of the trail in Acton and in Chelmsford. No room for parking on 27 in front of 225 and 27 intersection. What were they thinking?	online
Westford	In regard to the issue regarding the creation of parking along Rt 27 I believe it is most unnecessary. There is ample parking at Hart Pond, approx. 1/2 mile over the Westford/Chelmsford border, with an additional facility at the school opposite the Agway store, no more than another 1/2 mile away. Then there is the parking in Chelmsford Center and at the Wang Towers location. How much parking is necessary? To fund town money to build another parking facility which is not needed is totally not necessary and a waste of taxpayer money. Plus the neighbors in the area certainly didn't purchase their homes with the expectation of a parking lot being put in the middle of their neighborhood. Totally unreasonable and unnecessary.	online
Westford	I do not support the placement of a parking lot in a zoned residential neighborhood. Rte 27 is a busy, narrow road and the unloading of bicycles with small children standing near the road presents a significant hazard, particularly near the 225 intersection. Has the existing lot at the old Tara Hall been considered? There are plenty of existing access points along the trail and it gets well used now. The Hart Pond lot is much safer--it gets people well off Rte 27.	online