

Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department
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Nicole Banks, Commissioner



March 16, 2022

Re: Conservation Commission Proposal for designing and constructing stairs from the Upper Falls Greenway to the Charles River Pathway

Dear Parks and Recreation Commission,

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department (PRC) is pleased to support the initiative being proposed by the Newton Conservation Commission. Please see below PRC Staff Notes.

Staff Notes on Conservation Commission Design of the implementation of stairs at the Upper Falls Greenway:

- Rectify treacherous dirt sloped path and provide a safe connection between the Greenway and the trail to the south of the Greenway.
- Serve the residential neighborhood to the south of the Greenway.
- Accommodate increased use resulting from the Northland Dev.
- Serve as a pilot for possible stair on the north side of the Greenway to connect to Bobby Braceland at the existing trail easement.
- The ConCom has secured a variance from the MAAB (521 CMR); the site will not allow a fully ADA compliant wheelchair ramp.
- Engineering firm BETA to undertake a geo-tech assessment and 100% design plans
- Foundations and finish will be coordinated between ConCom, PRC and Engineering, considering state and federal regulations required for stairs, along with any maintenance needs or finishes etc.
- Conservation Commission will fund the design and geotechnical explorations.
- ConCom and PRC, along with DPW Engineering will coordinate construction, staging areas, tree protection, erosion controls etc. and any additional permits required for the construction of the stairs.
- PRC encourages the Commission to allow the ConCom to have the stairs professionally designed and constructed.

Best regards,
Luis Perez Demorizi

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Director of Parks + Open Space
Parks, Recreation & Culture
City of Newton