

CPC USE ONLY:
 Application # FY2013-3
 Qualifies: _____
 Does not qualify: _____

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

DUE BY DECEMBER 1

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
 c/o Park & Recreation Department
 Public Services Administration Building
 500 Dedham Avenue, Needham, MA 02492
 www.needhamma.gov/CPC**

1. Applicant: Bay Colony Rail Trail Committee **Submission Date:** 9/14/12

2. Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email: **3. Purpose:**
(Please select all that apply)

Bay Colony Rail Trail
663 Greendale Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
Contact Name: Tad Staley

- Open Space**
- Community Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation**

4. Project Name: Bay Colony Rail Trail Engineering Study

5. Project Location/Address/Ownership (Control):
 Chestnut Street to the Charles River (Dover border); the Board of Selectmen would hold lease

6. Amount Requested: \$ **35,000**

7. Estimated Total Project Cost (If Different): \$ **TBD**

8. Critical Dates: (If Applicable)

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Project Name: Bay Colony Rail Trail Engineering Study

9. Project Summary: In 100 words or less provide a brief summary of the project:

The Bay Colony Rail Trail committee and the Town have been discussing the possibility of a rail trail from Needham Junction to the Dover line at the Charles River for several years. Discussions are also underway with Dover and Medfield for connecting sections in their towns. The purpose of this engineering study includes, but is not limited to, a review of safe access points, an assessment of the timber bridge crossing the Charles River, and an evaluation of parking options. The final report will be presented by the Bay Colony Rail Trail committee to the Board of Selectmen to assist in the Town's review on whether to pursue creation of the trail or not.

Though efforts will be made to fundraise for the creation of the project, it is likely that a request for CPA funds would be made if the Town decided to create a rail trail.

10. Community Need: In 100 words or less provide a brief statement of the need for and the benefits to the community.

The recent customer satisfaction survey completed by Needham residents indicated strong support for the Town's open space and trails. Having an accessible trail that creates access to the Town Forest and the Charles River, as well as to Needham businesses, will benefit residents with different motives for using the trail and will be appropriate for all ages and abilities.

Note: This application enables the Community Preservation Committee to review the request to assess eligibility. You shall be notified by January 1 of your eligibility. If eligible you will be requested to supply additional information by February 1.

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity recently to present information to you regarding the rail trail project that many of us in Needham have been working on. The name of the full project is the Bay Colony Rail Trail, which is envisioned as a 7-mile recreational path between Needham Junction and Medfield.

As discussed during the last CPC meeting, the project has broad support from resident and officials in Needham, who are committed to moving the effort forward regardless of how the other two towns proceed. The rail trail would tie in very nicely with existing trails, and provide a healthy alternative for people of all ages to travel to important areas in Needham, including the town forest, the commuter rail station at Needham Junction, shopping destinations on Chestnut St., and the beautiful Charles River Reservation.

In mid-July, the MBTA Board of Directors voted to approve extending their standard lease agreement to the four municipalities along the abandoned corridor between Newton and Medfield, including Needham. It is now up to each town to determine whether to enter into the lease agreement with the MBTA. In order for Needham officials to approve the lease, they need more detailed information the effort, and clarification on a variety of concerns ranging from parking and access points, to environmental matters, and preliminary budgeting.

Accordingly, we want to develop a conceptual plan to begin to answer these questions.

The study will also deliver some credible estimates on costs for various portions of the project. Once the plan is approved by Needham officials, we will request CPA funds for portions of the rail trail construction. We will also engage in private fund raising. The conceptual plan will be essential to both the future CPA project request and our fund-raising efforts.

On behalf of the non-profit Bay Colony Rail Trail Association, I request that the Community Preservation fund the Conceptual Planning and Design project, which has been estimated at \$26,600.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Tad Staley
President, Bay Colony Rail Trail Association