

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: December 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: January 17, 2024

### **PRESENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Bud Schmitt, Robert Weidknecht, Martha Ellis, Marc Connolly

### **ABSENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan

### **PRESENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

### **ABSENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: None

PREPARED BY: Bud Schmitt

COPIES TO: Tina Hein, Select Board  
Travis Ahern, Town Administrator  
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk  
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 1. Emergency Remote Participation.** Robert Weidknecht reviewed the special procedures for conducting the Trails Committee meeting by remote participation.
- 2. Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Herb Brockert moved to approve the minutes of the previous Holliston Trails Committee Meeting of November 29, 2023. Marc Connolly seconded the motion. The motion was 5-0-0 in favor.
- 3. Public Comment:** None
- 4. Invoices:** None
- 5. Scout Project:** Ryan Lukowiak is still awaiting approval for his plan from the Scout Council for the new Railings at Hopping Brook bridge. Timeline is TBD.

6. **Mass Trails Grant.** Robert Weidknecht is applying for Grant to help with new drainage pipe installation on the west side of the Phipps Tunnel. A discussion about piping, materials needed, calculations and possible timetable to complete. Robert Weidknecht and Herb Brockert are to meet to review the plan and submit the application.
7. **Phipps Tunnel.** Robert Weidknecht stated that we are still awaiting the consultant report for the tunnel. Report is due to us on December 29, 2023.
8. **Fiscal Year Budget Request:** Robert Weidknecht is in the process of filling out the forms and will request \$5,000 for upcoming fiscal year. For 2023 our hours of volunteer service were 600 hours. Compared to prior year 2022 we had about 1,000 hours of service. Drop in hours due to possible paid hours and manpower utilized for the tunnel pipes on the eastern side. Other project was the crossing signal at Hopping Brook Rd.
9. **Trail Conditions:**
  - a) The town is awaiting some parts to help fix the broken East Crossing Signal at Central St. at Blair Square.
  - b) The Drainage at the Gossel and Dellicker Buildings parking lots is still a persistent problem. The new pipe system installed to divert the water is working okay at times. Additional discussion included use of Blacktop or Cement to help with the water runoff from Woodland Ave down to the parking lots and on to the trail.
  - c) Some issues have arisen from the electrical work done at Hopping Brook Rd on the Griffin Electric property which resulted in digging up part of the Rail Trail. The company that did the construction resurfaced the trail incorrectly. Area around Hopping Brook and the Solect trail need additional stone dust resurfacing.
  - d) Discussion around the water challenges on the Eastern side of Monroe Dr. through to the back of the Holliston Recreation building continues to be a major problem.
10. **State of Massachusetts.** The state is very involved with the Metrowest Greenway Coalition to help in the purchase of the property/rails from CSX to complete trails from Milford and Holliston up to Framingham.
11. **Set Next Meeting Date:** Next Meeting set for Wednesday January 17, 2024.
12. **Motion to Adjourn:** Bud Schmitt motioned to adjourn meeting. Marc Connelly seconded the motion and vote was 5-0-0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht, Chair