

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: January 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: February 29, 2024

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Bud Schmitt, Robert Weidknecht, Martha Ellis, Marc Connelly, Mark Kaplan, Ken Henderson (Ken left meeting at 7:32 pm)

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: None

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: Tina Hein, Select Board

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 December 27, 2023. Marc Connelly seconded the motion. The motion was 7-0-0 in favor.
- 3. Public Comment:** Tina Hein joined our meeting about half-way through to discuss the application funding for the Mass Trails Grant which will be brought up at the next Select Board Meeting on January 22nd. Also looking at funding from Friends of Holliston Trails. Tina talked about how successful the First Night on the Rail Trail was with approximately 4,300 people attending.

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 perhaps mid-March to complete.
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. Grant application to be completed shortly.
7. **Phipps Tunnel.** Robert Weidknecht received the initial Phipps Tunnel Assessment from John Turner Consulting on January 11, 2024. The report cites many concerns they have about the walls and the slopes on the East side of the tunnel that are failing. In the consultant's opinion, these failures could cause safety issues, loss of property and possible damage to the Highland Street above. We discussed options for both short-, and long-term solutions to fix the problems. Also discussed cost considerations and possible funding sources. We will await the final consultant report to pass on to the Select Board.
8. **Trail Conditions:**
 - a) A major problem occurred with a washout at the Southwest side of Phipps Tunnel that has caused sediment to block the pipe into the tunnel. Also, a large portion of the embankment has slumped into the ditches which leads into the drain pipe. Possible use of abandoned bridge stones, located near Dopping Brook are available to fix the embankment.
 - b) The Drainage at the Gossel and Dellicker Buildings parking lots is still a persistent problem.
 - c) The past three storms have done a lot of damage on the Trail, noting the problems of drainage from 1370 Highland Street and Willowbrook Farm. This washout has resulted in soil plugging the interceptor drains, essentially blocking the recently installed drainage pipe system. Other areas washed out include west of Monroe Drive and Cote Automotive off Chestnut Street.
 - d) Robert will meet with Rob Walker to get town approved contractors to deal with tree removal. Also need to have Marc Connelly and Rolf Briggs to help with a problem tree inventory along the Trail.
 - e) There is a definite need to do a larger scale project to add stone dust top dressing on several large areas along the trail. Discussed options to accomplish this goal.
9. **Set Next Meeting Date:** Next Meeting set for Thursday February 29, 2024.
10. **Motion to Adjourn:** Herb Brockert motioned to adjourn meeting. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion and vote was 6-0-0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RW', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Robert Weidknecht, Chair