

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: March 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: April 18, 2024

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Robert Weidknecht, Martha Ellis, Bud Schmitt, Herb Brockert, Mark Kaplan, Marc Connelly

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Ken Henderson

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: Madison Colantonio of WSK Inc.

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 February 29, 2024. Marc Kaplan seconded the motion. The motion was 6-0-0 in favor.
- 3. Public Comment:** Madison Colantonio of WSK Inc. discussed the possibility of installing a ramp behind the building on 23 Water St. that would connect to the Rail Trail. The proposed ramp would run West along the embankment of the Rail Trail adjacent to the large Parking Lot. Our discussion was how to make a ramp ADA compliant, approximate length, pitch, etc. Madison was also pitching the idea of a Farmer's Market on Tuesdays from 4-8pm running from June thru October. Both ideas

were met with positive response from the Trails Committee. We would need to be involved if the plan for the ramp goes forward as it connects to the Trail. Madison talked about another idea involving Bicycle Stations along the Trail so users could “borrow” bikes and return them. The Committee thought the idea might be better suited for a City environment.

4. **Phipps Tunnel.** Discussed the invoice from John Turner Consulting for \$2K. We are still awaiting the final report from them and feel that the work is not yet completed. We will hold on paying the invoice and contact them to discuss the invoice and when the complete report may be done.
5. **Encroachments:** Discussed the home on 1864 Washington St (west of Monroe Dr.) who dumped a substantial amount of brush, limbs and logs on the Town property. This dumping is from trees cut on their property and possibly trees on the Trail property. Robert Weidknecht said the homeowner will be receiving a letter from Travis Ahern to remove the “Slash” from the Trail property.
6. **Trail Conditions:**
 - a) The Drainage at the Gossel and Dellicker Buildings parking lots is still a persistent problem even with the 4 installed drains. Possible use of Black top on a section of trail where the water flows to avoid erosion of the stone dust surface.
 - b) Need to have Marc Connelly and Rolf Briggs to help with a hazard-tree inventory along the Trail.
 - c) The trail behind Cote Automotive has been washing out again and is flowing from the Dental Office property to the west of the Cote Property.
7. **Scout Project:** Ryan Lukowiak has completed the railings on the south side of the Hopping Brook Bridge. The Rail Trail Committee will complete the north side railings. We will try to get list of materials the Scouts used for the railings that mirrors the North side railings.
8. **Tree Cutting:** A Holliston DPW Crew will be cutting trees on the trail on Wednesday and Thursday April 10th & 11th. We will need some volunteers to stop traffic.
9. **FOHT Issue:** Possible meeting between FOHT Committee, Trails Committee and Travis Ahern to be scheduled shortly. This meeting is to discuss the future of FOHT, their sponsored events and fund-raising help for the Rail Trail.
10. **Mass Trails Grant:** No new information to report.
11. **Set Next Meeting:** Thursday April 18th 2024.
12. **Motion to Adjourn:** Bud Schmitt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Marc Connelly seconded, and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.

13. Meeting Adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Robert Weidknecht, Chair