

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: July 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: September 7, 2022

**PRESENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Marc Connelly, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan, Bud Schmitt and Robert Weidknecht

**ABSENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Martha Ellis

**PRESENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

**ABSENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: None

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

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.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Marc Connelly seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0. Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the June 29, 2022 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Marc Connelly seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.
- 3. Public Comment.** Marc Connelly, speaking as a member of the Conservation Associates, stated that unknown individuals had been raking leaves from trails around town. Although apparently well

intended, this was causing erosion problems. Marc asked members to get the word out to stop this practice.

- 4. History of Rail Trail for 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he was asked to provide a history of the rail trail for Holliston's upcoming 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- 5. Election of Officers.** Bud Schmitt moved to elect Robert Weidknecht as Chair of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0. Mark Kaplan moved to elect Ken Henderson as Vice Chair of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0. Ken Henderson moved to elect Bud Schmitt as Secretary of the Holliston Trails Committee. Mark Kaplan seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.
- 6. Celebrate Holliston and Parade.** The Trails Committee discussed participating in this year's Celebrate Holliston.
- 7. 56 Lowland Street Buffer Planting Status.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he and several members performed a site walk. He has contacted Mark Ahronian to discuss recommended plantings.
- 8. Mayflower Landing Parking.** Ken Henderson reported that Rob Walker will check with the town assessor to determine boundary lines and jurisdiction over the proposed parking area at Mayflower Landing. The proposed parking area would be a gravel lot that can accommodate 8 cars.
- 9. Hopping Brook Road Signal.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Griffin Electric donated \$10,000 to the cost of a road signal at Hopping Brook Road. The Friends of Holliston Trails contributed an additional \$6,000 to cover the total cost of \$16,000.
- 10. Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project work at Phipps Tunnel area will occur this fall. The project needs to be authorized by the Town. Pre-excavation of the ditches on both sides of the tunnel is required. A discussion followed on how to dispose of the excavated materials.
- 11. Phipps Tunnel Area.**
  - a. Contract for Engineering.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Travis Ahearn has approved a consultant.

**b. Drainage Materials for East Side.** Herb Brockert is pricing materials for this project. A discussion followed.

**12. Blair Square Committee Update.** Herb Brockert reported that he will attend the next meeting and provide an update to the Committee at a future meeting.

**13. Comprehensive Long Range Plan Update.** Ken Henderson reported that there have been 850 responses to the second survey to date, and they are hoping to receive a total of 1,000 responses. The survey is open until the end of July.

**14. Trail Conditions.**

**a. Tree Maintenance.** Robert Weidknecht reported that additional tree maintenance needs were documented during another site walk.

**b. Landscape Improvements.** Bud Schmitt provided an update on landscaping plans for major street crossings.

**c. Surfaces - Rutting - Scarify and Dragging.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the trail surface was currently in pretty good shape and no work was needed at the moment.

**15. Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on September 7, 2022 at 7 p.m.

**16. Meeting Adjournment.** Bud Schmitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman