

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: March 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: April 20, 2023

### **PRESENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Martha Ellis, Ken Henderson, and Robert Weidknecht

### **ABSENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Mark Kaplan, Bud Schmitt, and Marc Connelly

### **PRESENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

### **ABSENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: None

PREPARED BY: Robert Weidknecht

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

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 4-0-0.
2. **Casey's Public House Addition.** Robert Weidknecht received documents from Karen Sherman, Town Planner, regarding a proposed outdoor dining addition to Casey's. The plans were reviewed and discussed with a number of questions or suggestions about the design concerning: setback, overhead clearance, roof drainage, elevations and surfacing, bike rack layout, grease trap/ septic tank access, and outdoor smoking location. A motion to authorize Robert Weidknecht to prepare a letter to be sent to Planning Board of the comments or suggestions was forwarded by Ken Henderson, seconded by Herb Brockert and the vote in favor of the motion was 4-0-0.

3. **Scout Projects.** Eagle Scout candidate Mihir Kodali is planning to construct and install a kiosk near the Solest Solar facility access to public parking. The specific location of the kiosk will require future review by Committee members.
4. **East Coast Greenway designation.** Robert Weidknecht has been in contact with planners from the East Coast Greenway (ECG) Alliance. The 3,000-mile route from Florida to Maine had previously been planned to run from Connecticut and Rhode Island up through Worcester and then easterly along the proposed Mass Central Rail Trail. The preferred route for ECG is along trails and greenways separated from vehicular traffic. The ECG Alliance plans a new location that will follow the completed sections of the Upper Charles Trail in Milford, Holliston and Sherborn. The ECG designation will bring additional trail users and the associated economic benefits to the communities along the route. The ECG Alliance provides signs for the ECG route for our placement along the Trail. The ECG Alliance also provided a dedication form and are seeking an approval letter from the respective municipalities. Robert Weidknecht drafted a letter for approval and signature by the Holliston Select Board. Ken Henderson forwarded a motion to approved the designation of the East Coast Greenway on the Holliston section of the Upper Charles Trail and to have Robert Weidknecht forward the draft letter to the Select Board for approval, seconded by Martha Ellis, and the vote in favor of the motion was 4-0-0.
5. **MetroWest Greenway Coalition.** A new group was established to promote the acquisition of the right of way and construction of the extension of the Upper Charles Trail from its current endpoint at Whitney Street in Sherborn up to the Framingham T station. Robert Weidknecht is active with the members from Framingham, Sherborn, Holliston, Ashland, Hopkinton and Milford. The intent is to connect the Upper Charles Trail to Downtown Framingham, and run northerly along the proposed Chris Walsh Trail to the existing and proposed sections of the Bruce Freeman Trail that then crosses the Mass Central Rail Trail in Sudbury, running between Boston and Northampton. Robert noted that eventually the East Coast Greenway will follow these trails running northerly and easterly to Canada.
6. **56 Lowland Street Buffer Plantings.** Robert Weidknecht has received one bid for the proposed buffer plantings from two prior requests. Robert will seek additional bids from other contractors.
7. **Phipps Tunnel Façade:** Robert Weidknecht was in a recent discussion with the engineer for the project, and suggested a meeting to discuss the proposed excavation work. Robert and Herb will meet with the engineer when a time is selected.

8. **Monroe Drive area drainage issues.** The high groundwater from the detention basins from the Monroe Drive development have made sections of the trail soft and unsuitable. After a discussion, a test section of panel drainage, gravel and stone dust will be installed to mitigate the drainage problem. A motion was forwarded by Ken Henderson to have Herb Brockert coordinate with the Highway Department for the purchase of panel drainage and to modify the prior approval of \$600 to increase to \$1,000 for the purchase of gravel. Filter fabric and stone dust is already available for the Trails Committee.
9. **Encroachments:** The issue of a recently fallen fence and additional materials and encroachments along the Trail was discussed. Following a discussion, Robert Weidknecht will provide notice to Travis Ahern to appropriately deal with encroachments that are not permitted by deed in the residential sections of the Trail.
10. **Next Meeting:** The date of the next meeting is Thursday April 20, 2023 at 7pm.
11. **Meeting Adjournment:** Ken Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman