

## HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

## MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2014 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: April 16, 2014

PRESENT  
VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Martha Ellis, Melissa Halstead, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan, Matt Varrell and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT  
VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly

GUESTS: Bobby Blair

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: Jay Leary, Board of Selectmen  
Beth Liberty, Finance Committee  
Paul LeBeau, Town Administrator  
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk  
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Melissa Halstead.** Robert Weidknecht announced that Melissa Halstead would be resigning from the Trails Committee in April. The Committee looks forward to honoring Melissa's contributions after the April Trails meeting.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2014.** Matt Varrell moved to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2014 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-2.
3. **Grant Status.**
  - a. **DCR 2012.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the DCR 2012 grant will expire at the end of 2014. It is anticipated that \$20,000 of the original \$50,000 grant will not be needed to complete the section of the trail with respect to which the grant was awarded, due to use of donated materials, labor and equipment. Accordingly, Robert will seek to amend the DCR 2012 grant to permit use of the funds for other purposes. A discussion followed, and the following potential uses

were identified: purchase of reusable jersey barriers; construction of permanent Arch Street Bridge; installation of curbing and jersey barriers by Casey's; correction of drainage problems at Phipps Tunnel, repair and repointing of Phipps Tunnel.

- b. **DCR 2014.** Matt Varrell will work on an RDA for the section of the trail between Cross Street and Hopping Brook Road. Erosion control barriers will need to be installed during construction.
  - c. **CPA Funding.** Robert Weidknecht stated that the Committee was not yet ready to make an additional funding request. Additional funding may be requested at the Fall Town Meeting.
- 4. **Public Comment.** Bobby Blair reported that the fountain at Blair Square needed a new motor. Bobby might plant flowers in the fountain rather than replacing the motor.
  - 5. **Keefe Tech.** Ken Henderson reported that he has a meeting scheduled with Keefe Tech to see what work the students are capable of doing on the Exchange Street Bridge and railings on the Arch Street Bridge. Ken hopes to learn if they can do design, fabrication and installation.
  - 6. **Trail Construction - South Street to Hopping Brook Road.** A discussion was held about how to improve the narrow bridge on this section of the trail. No conclusions were made.
  - 7. **Solar Farm.** Hopping Brook road. Matt Varrell attended a recent Planning Board meeting and reported that the Solar Farm project includes a proposed 25 space parking lot and connector trail to the Rail Trail. The connector trail is on a berm that may cause water to spill onto the Rail Trail, which is a matter of concern. The town would be granted an easement for the connector trail to make it responsible for ongoing maintenance.
  - 8. **Trail Symposium follow-up.** Robert Weidknecht led a discussion about the Upper Charles Rail Trail Public Forum held in Ashland on March 8, 2014. Each of the participating towns provided an update on the status of trail construction. Additional speakers included a Lexington business owner who promoted the commercial benefits of having a rail trail in her town. The event was well-attended.
  - 9. **America in Bloom goals for Trail.** Volunteers from the America in Bloom committee are looking into creating a connector trail from the Rail Trail to Pleasure Point.

10. **Bike Rack Donation.** Location/Selection. Robert Weidknecht reported that Celebrate Holliston will purchase the bike rack to be installed at Blair Square in memory of Emilee Gagnon.
11. **Blair Square.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a landscape architect from the University of Massachusetts may do a planning study and charrette for Blair Square.
12. **Next Trails Cleanup.** The next trails cleanup will be held on March 15, 2014. A cleanup will also be held on April 12, 2014 for Lions Club and Newcomers Club volunteers.
13. **Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on April 16, 2014 at 7 p.m.
14. **Meeting Adjournment.** Marc Connelly moved to adjourn the meeting. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht - Chairman