

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: July 15, 2014 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: August 6, 2014

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Marc Connelly, Martha Ellis, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan, Matt Varrell and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: None

GUESTS:

Ed Daniels
Bill Dowd

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO:

Jay Marsden, Board of Selectmen
Beth Liberty, Finance Committee
Paul LeBeau, Town Administrator
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2014 Meeting.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the June 18, 2014 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Martha Ellis seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0, with Herb Brockert abstaining.
2. **Scout Project** - Chris Kerstgens has removed railroad ties from the section of the trail near Hopping Brook Road. It is anticipated that Chris will complete his project in the near future.
3. **Grant Status –**
 - (a) **DCR 2012.** Robert Weidknecht has submitted invoices for reimbursements from this grant.
 - (b) **DCR 2014.** Robert Weidknecht has drafted a letter responding to an inquiry from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation about protection of historical and archaeological resources in connection with this grant application.

4. **Blair Square Design Study.** Ken Henderson reported that Joyce Hasting of GLM expects to finalize the Blair Square design study by September 2014.
5. **Keefe Tech—Handrails at Exchange Street.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Ben Bolger, a structural engineer who has volunteered to provide design services for the handrails, has begun working on the specifications.
7. **Phipps Tunnel Drainage Improvements.** Robert Weidknecht led a discussion about drainage improvements needed for Phipps Tunnel. The improvements should be done before winter. The Committee discussed potential solutions, which include digging new trenches and raising the grade of the rail bed through the Tunnel.
8. **Solar Farm Status.** Matt Varrell reported that he and Robert Weidknecht met with representatives of Solect Energy regarding their recent clearing of at least 100 trees within the right of way of the trail bed near Hopping Brook Road. Solect Energy indicated that the trees blocked sun from shining on their solar panels, and further indicated that they would like to adopt a portion of the trail and maintain it for 20 years. Solect Energy was advised that this matter would be reviewed by the Trails Committee. Matt further reported that initial notice of this situation has been provided to the Board of Selectmen, Karen Sherman, the Town Planner, and Peter Tartakoff, the Building Inspector. It was determined that the Building Inspector has jurisdiction over this matter. Mr. Tartakoff agreed that the actions of Solect Energy is a trespass, and that the Trails Committee should seek a settlement from the company and document the remediation.

Robert Weidknecht stated that he has taken individual photos of the downed trees to document the damage. A good number of the trees were mature and of substantial size. A discussion followed, during which the Trails Committee discussed appropriate measures of valuing the damage to the Rail Trail, potential reparations, and potential remediation to minimize the aesthetic damage. The Trails committee agreed that the next step would be to formally request that the Board of Selectmen and Town counsel provide advice on remediation and reparations in connection with Solect Energy's intentional trespass and resulting damage.

9. **"Friends of" Group Coordination.** Ed Daniels reported that he has been contacted by a group that wants to install doggie waste bag stations on the trail. Ed further reported that the "Friends of" group is looking to expand its leadership, and will be making a new push

for involvement from volunteers. Ed stated that he is eager for the survey of Blair Square to be completed so that "Friends of" can plan events and fundraising activities. Ed offered the assistance of his group in connection with the installation of the bike rack at Blair Square in memory of Emilee Gagnon. Ed reiterated the need for the Trails Committee to keep "Friends of" group apprised of any potential permanent structures in Blair Square due to the impact on fundraising activities.

10. **Push Button Flashing Sign at Summer Street.** Robert Weidknecht noted that the intersection of the Rail Trail at Summer Street is a high traffic area and signage should be installed as a safety measure. Robert proposed installation of a high visibility flashing stop sign at the intersection. Funding will need to be found in order for this project to move forward.
12. **Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on August 6, 2014 at 7 p.m.
13. **Meeting Adjournment.** Ken Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman