

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: April 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: June 24, 2015

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: None

GUESTS:

Bobby Blair
Lt. Craig Denman
P.J. Donnelly

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. **Environmental Services Contract Opening of Bids.** Bids for the environmental study required for the acquisition of the section of the Rail Trail between Cross Street and Hopping Brook Road were reviewed. After discussion, Ken Henderson moved to accept the lowest bid, from Fay, Spofford & Thorndike in the amount of \$10,547, and authorize Robert Weidknecht to sign the resulting contract, provided that the bid meets all required specifications. Matt Varrell seconded the motion, and the vote was 7-0-0 in favor.
2. **Lt. Denman-ATV Patrol.** Lt. Craig Denman of the Holliston Police Department and the Trails Committee discussed the potential use of a police all-terrain vehicle for emergency and routine patrol details on the Trail. Lt. Denman highlighted the benefits of using an ATV, which include general public safety and deterrence of crime, graffiti and unauthorized motor vehicles on the Trail. The proposed ATV has not yet been purchased and Lt. Denman hopes to work with the "Friends of" of group to secure funding. The

Committee raised concerns about wear and tear on the stone dust surface of the Trail and disruption of quiet enjoyment of the trail by a motorized vehicle. During the course of discussion, it was agreed that HPD bicycle patrols would continue to be used during peak hours of use on the Trail, with use of ATV generally limited to off-peak hours, which was understood to mean generally after dusk during spring, summer and fall, and during the winter months. Lt. Denman also agreed to look into acquiring an ATV with tires designed to minimize wear and tear on the Trail. Appropriate training for ATV patrols will also be instituted. After discussion, Matt Varrell moved to recommend support for the HPD's acquisition of an ATV, provided that the ATV will be used in a manner designed to minimize damage to the Trail bed and preserve the quiet enjoyment of the Trail by its users, in consultation with the Trails Committee. Robert Weidknecht seconded the motion, and the vote was 7-0-0 in favor.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2015 Meeting.** Marc Connelly moved to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2015 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Mark Kaplan seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 4-0-3.
4. **Blair Square Design Study.**
 - a. **Blair Square Survey.** Ken Henderson reported that Joyce Hasting of GLM Engineering has issued a revised survey which corrects a discrepancy in the boundaries of the Square that had been previously identified.
5. **Scout/Honor Projects.**
 - a. **PJ Donnelly** – Dog waste bag dispenser and receptacles. PJ provided an update of his National Honor Society project to install dog waste bag dispensers and receptacles at 6-8 street intersections along the Trail. R&R Landscaping has volunteered to empty the receptacles if the Town has a location to empty the contents. The Trails Committee will look into securing the use of the dumpster at the DPW for disposal purposes.
 - b. **Anya Carey** would like to donate approximately 20 hours for a service project on the Trail. Robert Weidknecht has suggested that she could remove invasives/vines on trees from the area around Little Folk Farm.

6. **Transportation Bond Bill Status.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Representative Carolyn Dykema has indicated that funding under the Transportation Bond Bill may still be available.
7. **Summer Street Crossing Signal.** The Trails Committee discussed the third quote it received for installation of the crossing signal at Summer Street and the potential donation of related materials.
8. **Earth Day Booth, April 18, 2015.** The Trails Committee will have a booth from 9 am - 12 pm at the Earth Day event at Holliston High School sponsored by the Ed Daniels and the "Friends of" group.
9. **Holliston in Bloom.** A trail cleanup will be held in Blair Square on May 9, 2015.
10. **Trail Construction-Cross Street to Summer Street.**

Grindings and Millings. Herb Brockert noted that the DPW would be doing street grinding on May 4, 2015, which could be installed as the sub-layer of the Trail between Cross Street and Summer Street, with erosion control as required. The Trails Committee set April 25, 2015 as the date for installation of erosion control for this project. It is anticipated that the dog waste disposal signs will also be installed on this date.
11. **Highway Department Fencing.** The Trails Committee discussed the Highway Department fencing that was installed in the right of way of the Trail. Matt Varrell will contact the Board of Selectmen to get their view on what could be done to soften the appearance of the fence, such as installing a buffer of plantings behind it.
12. **Trail Construction-South Street to Milford Trail.**

Removal of Ties. Harvey Industries will provide a dumpster for removal of railroad ties. The cost of removal is anticipated to be around \$1,500. Volunteers will be needed to fill the dumpster.
13. **Blair Square Design.** Ed Daniels informed the Trails Committee that the "Friends of" group was willing to organize and lead a charrette for the design of Blair Square. After discussion, Matt Varrell moved to approve the organization of a planning charrette for Blair

Square by the "Friends of" group. Marc Connelly seconded the motion, and the vote was 7-0-0 in favor.

14. Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on May 21, 2015 at 7 p.m.

15. Meeting Adjournment. Matt Varrell moved to adjourn the meeting. Marc Connelly seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman