

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: August 26, 2015 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: September 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  
Gary Sencio

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: Jay Marsden, Board of Selectmen  
Beth Liberty, Finance Committee  
Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator  
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk  
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Matt Varrell Appreciation.** The Trails Committee honored Matt Varrell for his many years of service and contributions to the Committee. Robert Weidknecht presented Matt with a plaque recognizing his long term commitment and dedication to the Upper Charles Rail Trail in Holliston, MA. Matt had been a member of the Committee since 2003 and had been involved with the Trail since the early 1990's. Members congratulated Matt and wish him and his family the best of luck with their move away from Holliston.
2. **Public Comment.** Gary Sencio raised concerns about the lack of railings on the Arch Street and Exchange Street bridges, noting this as a safety issue for the Trail. Herb Brockert informed Mr. Sencio about the plans to install railings, which should be installed in the near future.
3. **Railings for Arch Street and Exchange Street Bridges.**
  - a. Central Steel Supply Co. Herb Brockert presented a quote for steel to be used in the construction of the railings for the Arch Street bridge. Ken Henderson moved to

accept such quote from Central Steel Supply Co. in the amount of \$2,008.35. Matt Varrell seconded the motion, and the vote was 7-0-0 in favor.

4. **Summer Street Crossing Signal.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the Committee had obtained the posts and bases needed for the Summer Street crossing signal, and that the Highway Department will pour the concrete base. Ken Henderson moved to authorize Robert Weidknecht to coordinate the payment of up to \$6,500 for the Summer Street traffic signal to Coastal Traffic, Inc., to be paid by the Friends of Holliston Trails or some other funding source. The vote was 7-0-0 in favor.
5. **Solect Solar-Construction Status.** Herb Brockert met with the Solect project manager, who presented a list of work items and funds spent to-date. The project manager advised that the construction had cost more than anticipated, and they didn't have the funds to finish the project. After discussion, the Committee instructed Herb to inform Solect that if they were unable to finish the project, Holliston would use the \$175,000 bond to finish the project.
6. **Pulte Homes Construction Status.** Robert Weidknecht informed the Committee that Pulte Homes may have cut trees along the Trail beyond those necessary to build an access road to the housing development they are building. The Town Planner is aware of this activity and has been in contact with the developer. Marc Connelly volunteered to assess the site and take pictures of the alleged cutting in the right of way along the Trail.
7. **Acquisition: Church Street to Sherborn Town Line.**
  - a. Environmental Services Contract. Robert Weidknecht is obtaining 3 quotes for the required environmental services contract. CSX will permit the Committee to conduct the environmental site assessment prior to signing the purchase and sale agreement.
  - b. Appraisal Update. Colliers will perform the appraisal. CSX wants to complete the sale by year-end and has prepared the draft purchase and sale agreement, leaving the sales price blank.
8. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2015 Meeting.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2015 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Matt Varrell seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 4-0-3, with Martha Ellis, Mark Kaplan and Matt Varrell abstaining.
9. **Blair Square Design Study.** The "Friends of" group has formed a group to manage the Blair Square design study, and is looking for funding sources.

10. **Trail Surface Construction-Chestnut Street to Pulte Homes Construction Site.** Vines need to be cleared from the gravel sub-layer prior to installation of the stone dust surface on this section of the Trail.
11. **Cross Street Signage.** The stop sign at Cross Street needs to be reinstalled after landscape work done at that location. Mark Kaplan will see if Boy Scout Troop 73 will be willing to accept this project.
12. **Trail Construction-South Street to Milford Trail.**
  - a. Removal of Ties. Republic Waste is donating a bin and will pay for the disposal of the the pile of railroad ties at South Street.
13. **Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on September 23, 2015 at 7 p.m.
14. **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 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman