

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: January 18, 2017 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: February 15, 2017

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly and Bud Schmitt

GUESTS: Laura Nolan

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Herb Brockert moved to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2016 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 4-0-0, with Martha Ellis abstaining.
- 2. Doppelt Grant Application.** Robert Weidknecht asked for the status of the application for the Doppelt Grant, which is awarded through the Rails to Trails Conservancy, this year. Mark Kaplan said he thought it was unlikely that the Committee would receive a reward, but he may submit an application.
- 3. Volunteer Summit.** Herb Brockert volunteered to represent the Trails Committee at the Holliston Volunteer Summit on January 19, 2017.
- 4. DCR Recreational Trails Grant Application.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he was not sure if he would apply for another \$50,000 grant through the DCR.
- 5. Veterans' Monument.** Herb Brockert reported that the VFW is developing a proposal for a large Veterans' monument that would cover approximately a half acre in Blair Square. The VFW plans to discuss the project with Ed Daniels.

6. **Signals and Signage.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the Highway Department has installed crossing signs on the Trail at Lowland Street.
7. **Request for Determination of Applicability - Plans Needed.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he would commence work on the required filing with the Conservation Commission for the last 2.5 miles of the Trail towards the Sherborn line.
8. **Eamonn Powers, National Honor Society Project - Brown Trout Improvements and Invasives Removal.** Ken Henderson reported that Eamonn has met with the Conservation Commission and is still developing his project plan, which will address invasives in the trout brook at 8-Arch Bridge. Ken expects to sign off on the National Honor Society project shortly.
9. **Deloitte - Corporate Project on the Trail.** Robert Weidknecht has considered Deloitte's request to do a project on the Trail. A cleanup project on the section of the Trail between South Street and Hopping Brook Road may be appropriate.
10. **Math Works - Corporate Project on the Trail.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Math Works would like to do another trail project. The Committee agreed that a good project would be to clear the drainage ditches at Phipps Tunnel towards Milford and clear saplings from the top of the stone walls at that section of the Trail.
11. **Trail Surface - Pulte Area.** Herb Brockert reported that he has called Pulte but has not heard back from them. He will reach out to them again, but they have not been responsive.
12. **Tie Removal.** Herb Brockert reported that he has found a firm that will accept old railroad ties for disposal. Cost is \$100 per ton plus \$350 trucking fee. The Trails Committee authorized Herb to engage the firm in an amount not to exceed \$2,500, to be payable by the "Friends of" group.
13. **Transportation Bond Bill - Request for use of Remaining \$50,000.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the Board of Selectmen have signed the request to release the remaining \$50,000 from the Transportation Bond Bill for use on the rest of the Trail.
14. **DCR 2014 Grant - Amend for Section to Sherborn Line.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the amendment has been approved, and the Trails Committee will have until the end of the year to use the remaining funds.
15. **First Night Event Follow up.** Robert Weidknecht reported that at least 2,000 people attended the First Night walk. The event was a great success.
16. **Historic Information for Story Walk Boards.** Herb Brockert reported that he has touched base with Joanne Hulbert regarding historic information to be displayed on the Story Walk.

17. 8-Arch Bridge Signage. The Trails Committee discussed the need for warning signs at 8-Arch Bridge and agreed to order and install them.

18. Maintenance Equipment. Ken Henderson reported that he has done some research on weed wackers and leaf blowers. After discussion, Ken will do further research on some additional models. Ken will also look further into the possible lease of a golf cart through the Town golf course, to be used for maintenance work on the Trail.

19. Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2017 at 7 p.m.

20. 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 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RW', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Robert Weidknecht – Chairman