

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: February 15, 2017 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: March 29, 2017

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly, Martha Ellis, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan, Bud Schmitt and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert

GUESTS: Bobby Blair

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.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2017 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Marc Connelly seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0, with Marc Connelly abstaining.
2. **Request From Mr. Metcheer Regarding Limitations On Use Of Trail (By-law).** Robert Weidknecht reported that an abutter had complained about personal lights or a flashlight being used by a runner or bicyclist on the trail at night, and requested that use of the trail be limited to between dawn and dusk. Following a discussion, the Trails Committee unanimously agreed that a dawn-to-dusk restriction is not appropriate, given the public's use of the trail for commuting purposes and the fact that other towns do not have such a usage restriction on their rail trails. The Committee was not in favor of drafting usage by-laws until such time as there was a demonstrated need to implement restrictions.
3. **Public Comment.** Bobby Blair reported that three flower urns had would be installed in the existing flowerbeds at Blair Square. Bobby also reported that improper dumping of

snow on the picnic table and bike rack at Blair Square by private parties continued to be a problem.

4. **Volunteer Summit.** Herb Brockert was not present to report on the recent Volunteer Summit. Bobby Blair noted that the attendees reported on their volunteer activities and that a directory of contact persons would be developed.
5. **Signals and Signage - Design Needed.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a design for signals and signage was needed for several trail intersections, including Lowland Street and Route 16.
6. **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.
7. **Goals for 2017.** The Trails Committee agreed that the main goal for 2017 was to construct the last 2.5 miles of the Trail towards the Sherborn line.
8. **8-Arch Bridge Status.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a Notice of Intent needed to be filed with the Conservation Commission for work on the 8-Arch Bridge, and that a request for funding for the concrete cap and railing would be presented at Spring town meeting.
9. **Eamonn Powers, National Honor Society Project - Brown Trout Improvements and Invasives Removal.** Ken Henderson reported that Eamonn was moving forward with elements of his project.
10. **Ben Capello, Eagle Scout Project.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Ben has had a change of plans and will not be doing an Eagle Scout project on the trail.
11. **James Hathaway, Eagle Scout Project - Arch Street Connection.** Robert Weidknecht reported that James has determined that the project to build steps at the Arch Street Bridge was not feasible for him at this time and he is considering a different project. Bud Schmitt will reach out to James with potential alternatives, including the construction of railings at Chicken Brook.
12. **Harrison Smith, Eagle Scout Project - To Be Determined.** Ken Henderson will reach out to Harrison regarding a trail cleanup project in the Mayflower Landing area.
13. **Trail Surface - Barriers Near Casey's.** The Trails Committee discussed different barriers that could be installed to separate the parking lot at Casey's Crossing from the rail trail.
14. **Transportation Bond Bill - Request for use of Remaining \$50,000.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he received approval to use the \$50,000 remaining from the Transportation Bond Bill for trail construction.

15. **Maintenance Equipment.** Ken Henderson presented several options for renting a golf cart and selecting maintenance equipment for use on the trail. After discussion, it was agreed that Ken would approach the Board of Selectmen about funding a maintenance program.
16. **Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2017 at 7 p.m.
17. **Meeting Adjournment.** Ken Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Marc Connelly seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman