

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: October 18, 2018 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: November 14, 2018

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Chris Cain (alternate), Martha Ellis, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan, Bud Schmitt and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly

GUESTS:

Brett Askin
Susan Askin
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. **Town Meeting Warrant Article.** Ken Henderson discussed the warrant article seeking approval for the establishment of an Upper Charles River Rail Trail Revolving Fund at the impending Fall Town Meeting. Ken and Robert Weidknecht will attend the next Selectman's meeting to discuss funding of the proposed revolving fund from licenses negotiated with commercial abutters who have encroached upon the Trail.
2. **Select Designee for Blair Square Committee.** After discussion, Ken Henderson moved to appoint Herb Brockert as a Trails Committee liaison to the Blair Square Committee. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. Ken Henderson then moved to appoint Martha Ellis as a Trails Committee liaison to the Blair Square Committee. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

3. **Holliston Police Department – approval letter to Finance Committee.** Robert Weidknecht informed the Trails Committee that the Holliston Police Department had requested a letter in support of the HPD acquiring a motorcycle which, among other uses, could be used to patrol the Trail. A discussion followed, after which Bud Schmitt moved to support random police motorcycle patrols by the Holliston Police Department. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-1-0, with Mark Kaplan opposing. Ken Henderson volunteered to draft the letter for review by the Trails Committee.
4. **Fire Department Request for Trail Access Plan.** Robert Weidknecht informed the Trails Committee that the Holliston Fire Department had requested information on emergency trail access, the locations of mile markers, physical limitations on access by emergency vehicles on bridges or at any sections of the Trail, and locations where vehicles can turn around. A discussion followed. Robert will provide the requested information.
5. **Approve Minutes from September 12, 2018 Meeting.** Martha Ellis moved to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2018 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-1, with Mark Kaplan abstaining.
6. **Surface Improvements – Repair Rutting in New Sections.** Ken Henderson and Chris Cain reported that a crew of volunteers had made Trail repairs at several locations between Holliston Oil and the horse farm near Highland Street over the past two weeks. Areas in the section of the Trail between Lowland Street and the Sherborn town line also need to be repaired. Robert Weidknecht noted that the large puddle behind Casey's needs to be addressed. A discussion followed about the cause of the puddle and whether the solution to the drainage issues in that area should be the responsibility of the Blair Square Committee. Herb Brockert will review the issue for possible resolutions.
7. **Maintenance Equipment/Storage Bin.** Ken Henderson reported that that a small leak needs to be repaired in the storage bin, and that a side intake vent still needs to be installed. Ken is also looking into installing shelving inside the storage bin.

8. Volunteer/Scout Projects

- a. **Zach Nersessian, Kiosk and Picnic Table – Cross Street.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he has signed off on the necessary Eagle Scout paperwork, but the project needs to be approved by the BSA.

9. Trail Conditions

- a. **Beacon Installations – status.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the beacons have been installed.
- b. **Trail Damage at Holliston Oil.** Robert Weidknecht reported that further damage to the Trail surface is occurring by vehicles being driven over the Trail. A discussion followed. The Committee will consider extending the rail road tie barrier at that section of the Trail.
- c. **Trail Damage at NGMA.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he has reached out to the owner of NGMA regarding issues with snow removal at that section of the Trail, but has not received any response. Issues include damage to the Trail surface, damaged reflectors, dislodged railroad ties and dumping of snow.

10. Funding

- a. **Town Meeting – Safety Materials.** Robert Weidknecht will propose that the Trails Committee purchase advance warning thermoplastic pavement markings for Trail intersections, with installation handled by the Town.

11. **Trash Compactor – Offer by Friends of - Potential Pickup by Republic.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the Friends of the Holliston Trails has offered to purchase a trash compactor. A discussion followed. Robert believes the Selectmen will add this as a condition to the Town of Holliston's upcoming RFP for trash hauling services.

12. **Town Website -Restoring – Improving.** Robert Weidknecht led a discussion of the challenges in maintaining the Holliston Trails section of the Town website. Bud Schmitt offered to seek to find a volunteer with web design skills and reach out to the Town webmaster.

13. **Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2018 at 7 p.m.

14. **Meeting Adjournment.** Mark Kaplan moved to adjourn the meeting. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RW', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Robert Weidknecht – Chairman