

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: November 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: December 13, 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  
Cherie Hafford  
Tina Hein  
Bob Pierotti

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. **Interpretive Exhibits.** Cherie Hafford presented a mock-up of an interpretive exhibit of the 8 Arch Bridge for review by the Trails Committee. The dimensions of the exhibits will be 3' x 2'. A general discussion followed, during which Cherie answered questions about font size, the ratio of text to pictures in the exhibits and other matters. The general consensus of the Trails Committee was very positive and supportive of the design.
2. **Walking School Bus.** Tina Hein provided an update of the proposed Walking School Bus program. Her goal is to launch a pilot program on Earth Day, April 22, 2019. The pilot would run on Mondays through the end of the school year, regardless of weather conditions. Bus stops will be limited to within around a mile of the schools, and the Holliston Police Department has advised that crossing Washington Street is not safe and should not be permitted. Tina asked if there were opportunities to create new points of access along the Trail, given these limitations. A discussion

followed, during which the following potential locations were identified: the Professional Park on Route 16 near the transfer station; Flexhead or other commercial properties near Lowland Street; and Willow Brook Farm on Route 16. Tina will contact these property owners to seek permission for use as bus stops. Tina also asked whether there were infrastructure projects that would advance the needs of the Trails Committee that align with a safe route to school ("SRTS") and could qualify for funding by the Mass. DOT. A discussion followed, during which the following projects were identified: access at the Arch Street and Exchange Street bridges; access along Front and Railroad Streets; access at Church Street, and barriers to demarcate the trail behind Casey's Public House. Tina asked how snow removal could be arranged to keep the SRTS open. Robert Weidknecht responded that snow removal would be an open issue, and would require further review.

3. **Approve Minutes from October 18, 2018 Meeting.** Bud Schmidt moved to accept the minutes of the October 18, 2018 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 7-0-0.
4. **Blair Square Committee - Liaison Report.** Herb Brockert reported that the Blair Square Committee had held two meetings. The proposed trail design has encountered a problem due to the discovery of an easement held by Casey's, raising questions about the location of the trail. Further, relocating the trail would present serious drainage problems, which would be expensive to fix. The Board of Selectmen and the Highway Department are looking into these issues. Development of the trail in this area is currently at a standstill. Other potential development of Blair Square have also been discussed, including a proposed Veteran's park.
5. **Financial - Revolving Account vs. Town Funding.** Ken Henderson reported that he met with the Town Accountant and Town Treasurer to discuss the best way to handle encroachment issues and collection of fees. The officials noted that the Trails Committee has no leverage to enforce and collect abutter fees. Rather than attempting to do so, the officials recommended the following approach:
  - Establish a budget line item for rail trail expenses (reliable source of income);
  - Have town counsel and BOS establish/enforce the encroachments of businesses along the Trail;
  - Turn over the abutter fees process to the town to establish and collect; and
  - The Town would collect fees and enforce upon abutters if they fail to pay annually.

A discussion followed, during which the Trails Committee agreed with this approach. Next steps will be to develop a proposed budget.

6. **Crosswalks - Advance Crosswalk Pavement Symbols.** Herb Brockert reported that Tom Smith of the Highway Department planned to speak to Robert Weidknecht about advance crosswalk pavement symbols.

**7. Trail Conditions**

a. **Dead Trees - Three Reported Near Pulte Homes.** Robert Weidknecht reported that two of the dead trees were smaller and could be removed by volunteers, but one was large and would need to be removed by the Highway Department. Herb Brockert volunteered to contact the Highway Department about removing it.

8. **Town Website -Restoring – Improving.** Bud Schmitt reported that Chris Meo, the Town's technical director, was the contact person for the town website. Items such as maps, flyers, links to the Friends of the Holliston trails website, and Committee minutes can be emailed to Chris for posting on the Rail Trail page.

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

10. **Meeting Adjournment.** Herb Brockert moved to adjourn the meeting. Martha Ellis seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman