

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: July 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM, Emergency Remote Participation

ISSUE DATE: August 13, 2020

**PRESENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan, Bud Schmitt and Robert Weidknecht

**ABSENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly and Martha Ellis

**PRESENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

**ABSENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

GUESTS: Tina Hein

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: John Cronin, Select Board  
Travis Ahern, Town Administrator  
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk  
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 1. Emergency Remote Participation.** Robert Weidknecht reviewed the special procedures for conducting the Trails Committee meeting by remote participation.
- 2. Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.
- 3. Pollinator Hotel.** Robert Weidknecht reported that there was no update on this project.
- 4. Cross Street - Barriers and Signs.** Herb Brockert presented an example of the five parking signs to be displayed at Cross Street. A discussion of how to install the signs followed. Members of the Committee will seek to install them in the next week.

**5. Invoices.**

- a. Holliston True Value. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for an 18" push broom for the storage shed in the amount of \$12.34, to be payable from the Gift Account. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.
- b. 495 Rental Center. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to 495 Rental Center for a weedwacker/hedge trimmer power head attachment in the amount of \$581.94, to be payable from the Gift Account. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.
- c. Star Sign. Herb Brockert moved to authorize payment to Star Sign for 5 parking signs to be installed at Cross Street in the amount of \$150, to be payable from the Gift Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.

**6. Interpretive Exhibit Installations.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the eight exhibits have come in and that he marked proposed locations with stakes. After discussion, the Committee agreed to reposition the exhibits at Elm Street and Phipps Tunnel. The Committee then discussed a schedule for installation of the exhibits.

**7. Town Meeting – Maintenance Funding – Future Under Omnibus.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the Finance Committee informed him that on a going-forward basis, the Trails Committee should not be going to Town Meeting for funding for the maintenance budget, and should be going through the Omnibus budget process instead. However, funding for next year's budget will be approved at the upcoming Town Meeting. Tina Hein asked whether the Committee would be charging license fees for abutters and if the Committee would consider depositing the fees to a revolving fund established for trail maintenance. Robert explained that this approach had been explored but was told by the Town that a revolving account should not be established for this purpose. Tina said that she will add maintenance funding as an agenda item at an upcoming meeting of the Select Board.

**8. Public Comment.** Tina Hein noted that she was pleased to receive the trail counter data on use of the trail.

**9. Trail Work – Tree Cutting and Chipping for Arbor Day.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the trail work to be performed by local arborists has been delayed due to high trail usage, and will likely be rescheduled for the fall. A discussion followed on whether sections of the trail could be closed temporarily for this work to move forward.

**10. Scout Projects.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the three current Eagle Scout projects are on hold due to Covid-19, but the scouts are coordinating with the fire chief to restart their projects.

**11. Encroachments – Tree House, Play Equipment, Dumping, Memorials.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he has noted new encroachments on the Trail, mainly from residential abutters. A discussion on how to stop the encroachments followed, given lack of enforcement authority. The Committee agreed to develop a list of current encroachments, identify the residential abutters, draft personalized letters to the identifiable abutters, and contact Tina Hein to request that the Select Board take action to develop an appropriate enforcement mechanism. The Committee also discussed the issues arising from the installation of a permanent memorial at a bench location at Little Folk Farm by a local family. The Committee will discuss this issue with the family and the Friends of group, which is responsible for the memorial bench program.

**12. Blair Square Committee – Liaison Report.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he recently learned that CPC funds could be used for Blair Square development. Herb Brockert reviewed the current drainage design plan for the area behind Casey's. Herb also described the design plan for Blair Square, which is close to being finalized.

**13. Trail Conditions.**

- a. Phipps Tunnel – pending Mass Trails Grant. Robert Weidknecht reported that he submitted a grant request for the drainage pipe project at Phipps Tunnel, but there have been Covid-19 related delays.
- b. Phipps Tunnel Repair – Potential CPA funds. Robert Weidknecht reported that use of CPC funds is a possibility for repairs at Phipps Tunnel.

**14. Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on August 13, 2020 at 7 p.m.

**15. Meeting Adjournment.** Ken Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Weidknecht – Chairman