

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: August 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM, Emergency Remote Participation

ISSUE DATE: September 16, 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: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: None

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: Mark Ahronian, 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 July 2, 2020 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Mark Kaplan seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 4-0-0. Herb Brockert then joined the meeting.
- 3. Pollinator Hotel.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the girl scouts have finished building the pollinator hotels but still need to paint them. They will install them on the Trail after painting.
- 4. Invoices.**

- a. Holliston True Value. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for concrete used in setting sign posts in the amount of \$25.17, to be payable from the 2019 Town Meeting Maintenance Account. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.
- b. Holliston True Value. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for concrete used in setting sign posts in the amount of \$25.17, to be payable from the 2019 Town Meeting Maintenance Account. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.
- c. Holliston True Value. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for washers for the bridge at Lowland Street in the amount of \$12.82, to be payable from the 2019 Town Meeting Maintenance Account. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.
- d. Holliston True Value. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for concrete used in setting sign posts in the amount of \$25.17, to be payable from the 2019 Town Meeting Maintenance Account. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.

5. **Lowland Street Select Board Industrial Traffic Forum – August 25, 2020.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he has been asked to attend this forum because the Trail crosses Lowland Street. The purpose of the forum is to mitigate traffic concerns arising from ADESA establishing an overflow lot in the industrial park.
6. **Interpretive Exhibit Installations.** Robert Weidknecht reported that five of the eight exhibits have been installed.
7. **Exercise Equipment.** Robert Weidknecht led a discussion of possible sites to install fitness stations along the Trail that have been purchased by the “Friends of” group.
8. **Ticket Booth Donation – Repurposing Possibilities.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a Holliston resident offered to donate an old ticket booth for use on the Trail. The Committee appreciated the offer but, after discussion, declined to accept the ticket booth.
9. **Benches/Turnaround.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he provided a sketch to the Conservation Committee for the proposed turnaround at the Sherborn end of the Trail.

10. **Railroad Signal Donation.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a Holliston resident offered to donate an old railroad signal for display on the Trail. After discussion, the Committee agreed that it would make for an interesting addition to the Trail, and will consider an appropriate location.
11. **Annual Report July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.** Robert Weidknecht reviewed the annual report. After discussion, Ken Henderson moved to approve the annual report. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.
12. **Hopping Brook Park - Signal.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a developer offered to install or pay for a rapid flashing beacon at Hopping Brook Industrial Park. After discussion, the Committee decided to hold off accepting the donation pending future developments at the Industrial Park.
13. **Scout Projects.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the three current Eagle Scout projects (Matthew Walther – railings east of Village Plaza; Nicolas Doyle – picnic tables; and Brendan Irons – railings north of Lowland Street/2 locations) have recently been completed.
14. **Encroachments – Tree House, Play Equipment, Dumping, Memorials.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he and Ken Henderson met with the Select Board to discuss the town's lack of enforcement authority for resolving encroachments along the Trail. The Select Board will consider what action, if any, it should take to address this matter. The Committee will continue with its plans to provide written notices to encroaching residential abutters. Robert also reported that he tried to contact the family that converted a memorial bench location into a memorial site but has not heard back from them.
15. **Blair Square Committee – Liaison Report.** Herb Brockert reported that the Blair Square Committee is finalizing its development plan and will publish renderings for public comment. Herb also noted that the Committee may pursue CPC funding, and that the plan to improve drainage behind Casey's has been finalized.
16. **Trail Conditions.**
 - a. Phipps Tunnel –Mass Trails Grant. Robert Weidknecht reported that the Mass Trails grant request was not successful. The Committee discussed whether to apply for the grant again next year or seek alternate funding.

17. **Veterans' Park.** Herb Brockert reported that a veteran recently approached him about establishing a veterans' park in Blair Square in addition to the Flag pole currently included in the Blair Square design. The veteran will see if there is interest from other veterans in the community for pursuing this idea.
18. **Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on September 16, 2020 at 7 p.m.
19. **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 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chair