

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: February 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM, Emergency Remote Participation

ISSUE DATE: March 16, 2021

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly, Martha Ellis

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: Gretchen Prieve

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: Tina Hein, 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. Public Comment.** Gretchen Prieve of the Friends of Holliston Trails group informed the Trails Committee that the Friends of group had been fielding complaints about the maintenance of the dog-waste stations. Gretchen summarized the extensive efforts the Friends of group has put into maintaining the dog-waste stations on a volunteer basis and asked the Trails Committee for input on whether it is desirable to continue to maintain them. A discussion followed, during which the Committee expressed its appreciation for all of the efforts of the Friends of group, and asked them to continue to perform this valuable service. The Committee is supportive of exploring whether the Town of Holliston would be able to assume this maintenance function, and asked Gretchen if she could find

out what other towns do in support of dog-waste stations and to provide detail on all related costs, including the costs of disposal of the dog waste.

3. Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings. Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.

4. Complete Streets Program. Robert Weidknecht reported that the Town of Holliston has retained a consultant to work on a Complete Streets Program to make the town more walkable and connected. Robert has provided input into how to provide each neighborhood with access to the Trail.

5. Phipps Tunnel Area Improvements. Ken Henderson reported that he, Robert Weidknecht and Herb Brockert met with Travis Ahern to discuss potential improvements to stabilize, restore and resolve drainage and maintenance issues at the Phipps Tunnel area. A discussion followed, during which the Committee agreed that the first action step should be to develop a plan to address the water runoff from Highland Street and a nearby abutter, which is the root cause of many of the issues that need to be addressed. Potential sources of funding were also discussed. A comprehensive list of potential improvements and action steps is documented in a memo prepared by Robert Weidknecht dated January 9, 2021.

6. Trail Work – Tree Cutting and Chipping Day – March 2021. Robert Weidknecht reported that crews from Tree Specialists, Simkins Tree Service and Stumpy's Tree Service are planning to perform tree work in March on a date to be determined. The Trail will be closed in areas where the work is being done, and advance notice of the closures will be provided to the public to the extent possible. Ken Henderson will line up volunteers for traffic control.

7. Farmers Market Proposal June through October - Update. Robert Weidknecht reported that Bobby Blair is working on this proposal with the Select Board and the Farmer's Market is on the agenda for the Select Board's meeting on February 16, 2021.

8. Encroachments.

(a) Commercial: No update.

(b) Residential: Robert Weidknecht reported that the letter to residential abutters who continue to encroach upon the trail was mailed on January 27, 2021, and he has begun to receive responses.

- (c) Signs for Residential Dumping: Herb Brockert reported that he has not yet expended funds for signage. The Committee agreed that it may make sense to see if signs are still necessary after the mailing to residential abutters.

9. Blair Square Committee - Liaison Report. Herb Brockert reported that the Blair Square Committee recently held a virtual public forum on Zoom. The forum was well attended and the proposed design appeared to be well received. The Blair Square Committee fielded many questions, including questions related to parking, the location of a veteran's memorial and funding.

10. Trail Conditions.

(a) Drainage Issues.

- I. 1490 Washington Street Detention Basin Outflow (pipe needed): Resolution on hold until weather improves.
- II. Pulte Homes Area (drainage pipe needed at three locations): Resolution on hold until weather improves.

(b) Surfaces.

- I. Near Monroe Drive – West and East of intersection: Resolution on hold until weather improves.
- II. Near NGMA, North of Lowland Street, other areas too soft: Resolution on hold until weather improves.

(c) Phipps Tunnel – Mass Trails Grant Application: Robert Weidknecht reported that the application has been submitted.

(d) Railroad Ties - collection of remaining ones, disposal. Herb Brockert reported that the railroad ties have been hauled away.

(e) Railings – Drilling into Granite and Epoxy for Anchors. Herb Brockert reported that he is looking into alternate approaches for installing railings into granite ledge.

11. Set Next Meeting Date. The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2021 at 7 p.m.

12. Meeting Adjournment. Herb Brockert moved to adjourn the meeting. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RW', is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Robert Weidknecht – Chairman