

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: April 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM, Emergency Remote Participation

ISSUE DATE: May 12, 2021

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Martha Ellis, Ken Henderson, Bud Schmitt and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly and Mark Kaplan

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS:

Bobby Blair
Mary Greendale
John Barstow

PREPARED BY: Robert Weidknecht

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.** Bobby Blair reported that there has been a good response, about 10 vendors, to join the Farmer's Market at Blair Square. Bobby stated that he has an Eagle Scout candidate preparing signs to be used to direct trail users and vendors.
- 3. Attendees.** Martha Ellis, Trails Committee member, joined the meeting at approximately 7:19 p.m. and was acknowledged into roll call.

4. Comprehensive Long Range Planning Study. Mary Greendale presented her recommendation to Town Meeting to create a committee to review and evaluate various long range plans prepared by numerous boards and committees, such as the Master Plan, Sidewalk Plan, Economic Development, Open Space, etc, all supporting the vision and future of the Town. In some cases, there are visionary goals for the town, but follow up has been lacking in order to carry out the goal. The Committee will be tasked to follow up on the goals of the town at frequent intervals to ensure that the responsible party is moving forward to achieve the specific goal. After a discussion, a motion was forwarded by Ken Henderson, seconded by Herb Brockert to support the need for a Comprehensive Long Range Planning Study, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.

5. Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings. Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the March 16, 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.

6. Phipps Tunnel Area Improvements. Herb Brockert discussed the proposed project with a mason capable of performing the restoration work for the north wall of the tunnel. Robert Weidknecht reported that following a site walk and discussion he had received and forwarded a proposal from a geotechnical engineer to perform subsurface testing, prepare a construction report and cost estimate suitable for sending out to contractors for bidding on this work. After a discussion, it was decided to hold off on authorizing the geotechnical analysis until further review with masons are pursued. A further discussion followed about the potential causes of water seepage in the tunnel. Robert Weidknecht had visited Highland Street, above the tunnel to review the flow of surface runoff and the potential infiltration to the ground above the tunnel. Photographs were taken of ponded areas that would significantly contribute runoff to the tunnel walls, and recommended that repaving, curbing and drainage structures to divert runoff from infiltrating around the tunnel walls. Robert also noted that water is seeping into the east side of the tunnel, in the center of the tunnel, under Highland Street, and that the water is seeping at an elevation of over 3 feet from the trail surface. This means that there is a significant buildup of water pressure on the tunnel walls. A discussion of possible holes that could be drilled through the wall and connect to the drainage pipes within the tunnel as a potential solution to resolve the water pressure against the walls. Herb Brockert stated that he had met with the Tom Smith, Highway Superintendent, and they discussed that paving, curbing, and potential rip rap spillway could be constructed to reduce the runoff entering behind the tunnel walls.

7. Trail Work – Tree Cutting and Chipping Day – April 30, 2021. At a prior meeting, Marc Connelly had reported that crews from Tree Specialists, Simkins Tree Service and Stumpy's Tree Service will

perform tree work on Friday, April 30, 2021. The trail will be closed in areas where the work is being performed, and advance notice of the closures will be provided to the public to the extent possible. Ken Henderson has lined up volunteers for traffic control, and will provide high visibility vests. Ken will prepare a notice of trail closure to be sent to Holliston Reporter and to the Friends of Holliston Trails for its web page.

8. Encroachments.

- (a) Commercial: Robert Weidknecht reported that two licenses have been signed and fees paid. Robert will meet with a third abutter on Woodland Street who would like to obtain a license for a larger area than originally identified.
- (b) Residential: Robert Weidknecht reported that two abutters stated that they are not encroaching on the town property. Robert will arrange site meetings with the abutters and notify trail members to see who could attend the site walk.

9. Blair Square Committee - Liaison Report. Herb Brockert reported that the Veterans Park area was approved by the Select Board, and that construction is anticipated to be starting this spring. It was discussed that the construction will be staged from Front Street, to avoid disruption to the use of the trail.

10. Trail Conditions.

(a) Drainage Issues.

- I. 1490 Washington Street Detention Basin Outflow (pipe needed): Robert Weidknecht reported that the owner has learned that approximately one half of his property was not paved correctly, and will be modified to ensure that the surface runoff is directed to the upper Stormwater management basin. The owner stated that this may be the reason that too much water was leading to the lower basin and overflowing the trail. The need to install a drainage pipe to avoid the prior flooding of the trail will be reassessed following the changes to the site drainage.
- II. Pulte Homes Area (drainage pipe needed at three locations): Members of the Trails Committee installed five perforated cross pipes over an area of 25 feet of the trail, roughly at five foot spacing to relieve rising groundwater at the surface of the trail near the Parks Building, 1750 Washington Street. Additional piping was scheduled to be installed on April 24, 2021, 9 am to noon.

(b) Railings – Drilling into Granite and Epoxy for Anchors. Herb Brockert discussed his proposed approach for installing railings into granite ledge at the bridge west of Hopping Brook Road. Herb will investigate potential brackets and anchors, noting that the authorization to purchase the brackets and epoxy was approved at a prior meeting.

11. Set Next Meeting Date. The next meeting will be held on May 12, 2021 at 7 p.m.

12. Maintenance Equipment. Ken suggested purchasing a dump trailer for the golf cart to enable maintenance crews to deliver stone dust to sections of the trail. Ken will investigate possible costs and vendors.

13. 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 8:50 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