

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: December 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM (In-Person Participation)

ISSUE DATE: January 18, 2022

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Marc Connelly, Martha Ellis, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Bud Schmitt

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: Jay Robinson

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. Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings. Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-1, with Mark Kaplan abstaining.

2. Invoices.

Holliston True Value. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for denatured alcohol in the amount of \$8.54, to be payable from the Town Meeting 2020 Account. Marc Connelly seconded the motion, and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.

3. Public Comment. None.

4. **2022 Goals and Progress on 2021 Goals.** Robert Weidknecht led a review of reports of 2022 goals and progress on 2021 goals of the Trails Committee.
5. **Maintenance Summary.** Robert Weidknecht reported that in 2021 volunteers provided around 845 hours of service to the trail with a value of approximately \$35,000. Donations of around \$1,000 worth of materials, such as stone dust and paint, were also received. Total donated labor and materials equaled approximately \$36,000, while the cost to the town of Holliston for trail maintenance was less than \$1,700.
6. **Report of Hazard Tree.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a resident of Christopher Road near the Milford town line provided notice that a large oak tree on town property is falling down and that Leo Simkins believes there is a defect in the base of the tree, which makes it a hazard to property. Marc Connelly will ask Rolf Briggs to provide a second opinion.
7. **Phipps Tunnel Area.**
 - a. **Review Geotechnical Quotes.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he has had trouble obtaining the a third quote which is required to proceed with this project.
 - b. **Drain Cleaning.** Travis Ahearn approved hiring the contractor but the drains needs to be excavated. This work will be done tomorrow.
 - c. **Survey.** Robert Weidknecht has suggested funding a survey of the trail near Highland Street to locate the property line and formally determine the location of encroachments in this area. A discussion followed, during which it was determined that the cost of the survey (approximately \$5,000) could completely deplete the Gift Account. Ken Henderson moved to table the survey until another source of funding can be found. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.
8. **Blair Square Update.** Herb Brockert reported that the last meeting of the Blair Square Committee was cancelled. The Veterans' Monument will be engraved by spring and the public dedication is targeted for May 15, 2022.
9. **Comprehensive Long Range Plan Update.** Ken Henderson reported that a meeting of this committee is scheduled for next Monday. An online survey seeking public input has only garnered 200 responses to date, and a mailing to households will be considered.

10. Scout Projects. Robert Weidknecht reported that an Eagle Scout candidate, Mr. Shah, is planning to install railings at one of the cattle passes. Another scout is performing a service project to clean out the ditches near the Milford line.

11. Trail Conditions.

a. Railings Needed. Herb Brockert will try drilling holes into granite to install anchors.

b. Drainage At Woodland Street. Herb Brockert reported that a commercial trail abutter on Woodland Street would like to install pipes under the trail to improve drainage in the area. A permit for this work would need a permit from the Conservation Commission. Robert Weidknecht will bring this forward to the Conservation Commission next spring.

12. Set Next Meeting Date. The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2022 at 7 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman