

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: April 27, 2016 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: June 30, 2016

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS:

GUESTS: Eamonn Powers, Jose Rodriguez

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: Jay Marsden, Board of Selectmen
Beth Liberty, Finance Committee
Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1. Eamonn Powers, National Honor Society Project.** Eamonn Powers presented a proposal to lead a conservation effort along the rail trail, with an emphasis on waterways such as Bogastow Brook and Chicken Brook. The project would involve cleanup of areas near the trail, identification of local plant and animal species, and educational activities. A discussion followed. Eamonn will follow up with a refined proposal.
- 2. Barriers or Fences at 8-Arch Bridge.** Robert Weidknecht reported that families with small children have been seen walking over the 8-Arch bridge, which has no railings and is on an unimproved section of the trail. Robert led a discussion of whether temporary fencing should be installed on the bridge as a safety measure. Temporary fencing would cost \$2,500 per year and would likely be funded by the "Friends of" group. A discussion followed, during which concerns were raised that the fencing may be an attractive nuisance, causing children to climb on it. If that were to occur, the fence could fall down since it is not secured, and could cause injuries which it was intended to prevent. While town counsel has advised that the Town of Holliston would not be liable for any injuries occurring on the bridge in its current state, the

Trails Committee recommended that counsel be asked if installation of an “attractive nuisance” could change that advice. Regardless, the Trails Committee would not want to install temporary fencing unless it was reasonably secure. It was agreed that the vendor should be asked whether the fencing is stable when installed in a straight line with no support.

3. **Ben Capello, potential Eagle Scout project-Arch Street Area.** Robert Weidknecht reported Ben Capello may install steps at the Arch Street Bridge as an Eagle Scout project. The Trails Committed would provide materials.
4. **Aidan O’Sullivan, Eagle Scout project-mile marker signs needed.** Robert Weidknecht and volunteers will mark spots for markers every half mile for this Eagle Scout project on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 9 a.m.
5. **8th Grade project-HIB and others.** Ken Henderson will organize a cleanup effort on the trail near Woodland Street for the 8th grade project on Saturday, May 26, 2016 at 9 a.m.
6. **Booth at Metrofest-Bowditch Field June 25th.** After discussion, the Trails Committee decided not to have a booth at the Metrofest event in Framingham on June 25, 2016.
7. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2016 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.
8. **Acquisition-Church Street to Sherborn town line-area discrepancy.** Robert Weidknecht reported that CSX has tentatively accepted our purchase offer, but the area covered by the appraisal did not match CSX’s records. Robert has worked to resolve this discrepancy, but it will result in the acquisition of another acre of property, which will increase the sales price. The increase will be within amounts available for funding through the Mass. Department of Transportation Bond Bill. The Trails Committee is still awaiting the Notice to Proceed from the Mass. DOT, which will be required before closing on the sale.
9. **Railings for Exchange Street.** Posts for completion of the railings have been installed. Railings will be installed on June 4, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.
10. **Drainage Improvements.**
 - a. Cote Auto Discharge. Discharge from a pipe from Cote Automotive needs to be remediated before stone dust can be installed on this section of the trail.
 - b. Pulte Homes area. Herb Brockert spoke to the Pulte Homes project engineer last fall about the need to remediate water on the trail coming from their work

site. The engineer had acknowledged the need to fix this problem before stone dust can be installed on this section of the trail.

- 11. Trail Surface-Sumer to Chestnut.** Installation of the stone dust surface on this section of the trail will be scheduled for the fall.
- 12. Approach Railings for Exchange Street.** Dave Dubin of Little Folk Farm will donate use of his auger to help install the approach railings for the Exchange Street Bridge.
- 13. Tie Removal-Republic Services.** Removal of the pile of railroad ties at South Street will be scheduled for the fall.
- 14. Coalition for Recreational Trails-Achievement Awards Submission.** Robert Weidknecht has made a submission to this program.
- 15. Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on May 25, 2016 at 7 p.m.
- 16. Meeting Adjournment.** Herb Brockert moved to adjourn the meeting. Martha Ellis seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman