

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: June 29, 2022 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: July 20, 2022

**PRESENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Martha Ellis, Ken Henderson, Marc Connelly , Bud Schmitt and Robert Weidknecht

**ABSENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert and Mark Kaplan

**PRESENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

**ABSENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: None

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. Invoices.**

- a. Star Sign. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Star Sign in the amount of \$110 for the replacement sign at the parking lot on Hopping Brook Road. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.
- b. Holliston True Value. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value in the amount of \$4.74 for wasp spray. Marc Connelly seconded the motion and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.

- c. **Permaline.** Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Permaline Corporation of New England in the amount of \$561.55 for advance crossing signs at Hopping Brook Road. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.

**3. Rapid Flashing Beacon.** Griffin Electric has offered to donate \$10,000 toward a rapid flashing beacon signal at the Hopping Brook crosswalk. The Friends of Holliston Trails has committed to fund the remaining amount of approximately \$7,000. Ken Henderson moved to go forward with purchase of the rapid flashing beacon and installation in the approximate amount of \$17,000, upon the receipt of the funding. Marc Connelly seconded the motion and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.

**4. Mass Trails Funding.** Robert Weidknecht reported that MassTrails awarded funding in the amount of \$29,741 to improve the drainage on the east side of the Trail, between Phipps Tunnel and Lil Folk Farm. The funding will include installing perforated drainage, gravel and stone dust, with matching funds include in-kind volunteer work and funds from the Friends of Holliston Trails.

Ken Henderson read a draft press release to be issued to announce the grant award. Ken Henderson moved to issue the press release. Marc Connelly seconded the motion and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.

**5. Signals.** Martha Ellis reported that during her crossing guard work near Central Street, she has noticed that the signal at that intersection appears to only work about 50% of the time. Robert Weidknecht will contact DPW to see if the detector can be checked for operation and if needed, readjusted to capture approaching trail users.

**6. Tree Maintenance.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he had discussed tree work contracts with Travis Ahern. Travis recommended coordinating any contracts through the DPW, since they have approved contractors on board to perform such work. Robert met on site with Sean Reese, DPW Director, and flagged trees with him in the priority areas. Sean will have DPW perform the initial tree work, and those trees that they cannot get with their equipment, or staff availability, Sean will coordinate with us and an approved contractor to perform the work. Editor's note- Funds were previously committed to by the Friends of Holliston Trails.

**7. 56 Lowland Street.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he, Martha Ellis, and Bud Schmitt had attended a site meeting with the new owner of this industrial building located next to the Trail. A.J. Rich, owner, would like to trim the tree branches overhanging the building. The trees are located on the rail trail right of way. A.J. has also committed to installing trees to replace the pine trees

removed by the previous owner that were also on town land. After discussion, the Trails Committee has no objection to pruning the branches on such trees. Committee members recommended the use of Western Arborvitae to replace the trees due to fast growth, effective screening, deer resistance and less horizontal growth that could encroach on the trail or the building. Robert Weidknecht will reach out to the residential abutters on Regal Street to seek their opinion on tree types to be used to restore the buffer.

**8. Signage.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the replacement sign at Hopping Brook Road parking lot was installed by Herb Brockert. Robert Weidknecht also reported that advance trail crossing signs were installed in both directions along Hopping Brook Road, near the crosswalk.

**9. Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project.** Robert Weidknecht met with representatives of the CMMCP on site to discuss the project to restore the ditches on the west side of the Trail between Phipps Tunnel and Lil Folk Farm. The CMMCP will do the project in the fall. The material will be disposed of farther down the Trail at a designated location to be established.

#### **10. Phipps Tunnel Area.**

**a. Proposals from Engineers.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he is still waiting to receive a proposal for repairing the north face of Phipps Tunnel. He recommended moving forward with the low bid, pending approval from the Town Administrator. Robert will discuss the matter with Travis Ahern.

**11. Blair Square Committee Update.** Martha reported that the project was funded and will be going out to bid for construction. A fundraising component is being pursued, including possible name of donors for the pavilion, as well as selling bricks for pavers. The potential relocation of the gazebo was discussed. Martha will discuss the possibility to relocate the gazebo, with the Veterans group who purchased it. One location was considered in a location near the Veterans memorial.

**12. Comprehensive Long Range Plan Update.** Ken Henderson reported that a second survey is currently being conducted and members were encouraged to participate in the survey.

#### **13. Scout Projects.**

**a. Thomas Whynot – Drainage at Monroe Drive Area.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the project was completed, installing 300 feet of underdrains in the area behind the municipal building at 1750 Washington Street.

- b. Vyom Shah – Railing. Robert Weidknecht reported that the project to install railings at the cattle pass north of Washington Street was completed.

**14. Landscape Improvements.** Bud Schmitt discussed potential landscape improvement projects to be performed at a number of intersections. Bud will prepare some sketches to determine materials needed and work with Herb Brockert to obtain boulders for landscape. Ken Henderson mentioned that Mathworks was looking for a potential project to have for volunteers. Bud thought that this could be a match for his project. Bud will prepare some sketches, discuss with Herb Brockert and Rick Irons regarding the potential for Mathworks to assist with the project. Ken requested that the wood rail near Washington Street that is rotted and leaning be removed or shortened, to ease the access at this entrance for the golf cart.

**15. Mayflower Landing Parking.** It was discussed that Mayflower Landing was approved as a Town way at the May town meeting. That opens the potential to install parking near the trail crossing. Ken will discuss the potential improvements with Rob Walker, Highway Department.

**16. Whistle Posts.** Bud Schmitt stated that there are two more Whistle Posts that will need to be restored and painted. He will arrange to perform that work.

**17. Surfaces.** Ken Henderson reported the Herb Brockert has purchased a trailer-mounted scarifier and grader that can be attached to the golf cart and be used to repair the rutted surfaces of the Trail near Washington Street and Monroe Drive. The machine will need a small battery, or alternatively a fuse, connection and cable to operate off of the golf cart battery.

**18. Celebrate Holliston.** Martha Ellis stated that Celebrate Holliston will occur on September 24, 2022 and will include a parade. She asked if the Trails Committee would like to have a booth and/or have a float in the parade. This will need to be discussed further at our next meeting.

**19. Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on July 20, 2022 at 7 p.m.

**20. Meeting Adjournment.** Ken Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Marc Connelly seconded the motion and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman