

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

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

ISSUE DATE: October 18, 2022

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Mark Kaplan and Marc Connelly

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: Sarah Baroud

PREPARED BY: Bud Schmitt

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. Little Free Library.** Sarah Baroud of 21 Lowland St, Holliston offered to build and maintain a Little Free Library on the Trail at the location off of Lowland St. She told the story of how her family loved to find these Little Free Libraries on their travels to get books to enjoy. The Baroud Family would be happy to monitor and maintain the Trail library. They are proposing to have a design by Dick Ball of the Regal Street Workshop to mimic a railroad car (Caboose, Engine, etc.) to fit the rail trail history. There is also a large national organization that registers the Little Free Libraries around the country for internet access of locations. Robert surveyed the area and there would be a location on the northeast side of the Trail between Lowland St and the commercial facility. A motion to approve the concept of the proposed Little Free Library, subject to review of details of the project from Ken Henderson, seconded by Herb Brockert, and was voted unanimously.

3. **Approve Minutes from Prior Meeting:** Ken Henderson moved to approve the minutes of July 20, 2022. Herb Brockert seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. **Invoices:** None at this meeting.
5. **Tree maintenance:** Ken Henderson mentioned the concern from a Christopher St. neighbor about a tree that could pose a danger to people. Holliston Trails Committee will work with the Town arborist to assess the tree and possibly add to list of trees needing attention.
6. **Metrowest Landline Trail:** Robert Weidknecht discussed the need to get someone to take the lead to participate and represent Holliston. No volunteers at this time.
7. **Bike and Listen Tour:** Scheduled for September 18, 2022 to conduct a tour from Blair Square to Stoddard and Pleasure Point. Need Volunteers.
8. **Celebrate Holliston and Parade:** Bud Schmitt will participate in parade with the Rail Trail Golf Cart. No field day booth needed.
9. **Lowland St. Buffer Planting:** Robert reported that the developer at 56 Lowland Street will donate \$10,000 to help in the planting of various trees beside their building to buffer the aesthetics of a large commercial building. Need to have the Town and Trails Committee work together to plant the trees/shrubs in the area. Number of plantings is to be determined. Robert also scoped and marked out an area that we could move the Rail Stop closer to the Trail, clean it up and use it as an interpretive exhibit.
10. **Hopping Brook Road Signal:** Work to install the road signal is in the works. Date is to be determined. This follows a donation from Griffin Electric and Friends of Holliston Trails.
11. **Central Mass Mosquito Project:** Plan is to do the project in November, to excavate the ditches on the north side of Phipps Tunnel to Lil Folk Farm.
12. **Trail User Questionnaire:** Tina Hein, Select Board, suggested performing a trail user questionnaire to gain information about users and tourism. Members asked to see if Friends of Holliston Trails would be interested in conducting this survey.
13. **Phipps Tunnel Area:** Discussion about contract for engineering narrative for the restoration of the north face of Phipps Tunnel. Contract is authorized, awaiting start of work by the engineer. Also

discussed the drainage on the east side of the Trail. Herb to estimate the pipes and materials needed, and discussed a possible date to install in late October or November.

14. Blair Square Committee Update: Discussion with Herb and Martha about the ongoing status to revamp Blaire Sq. Also discussed the new Veterans Memorial.

15. Comprehensive Long Range Plan Report: Ken updated the Committee that the survey is done and they are now putting together information collected on eleven different categories to better understand and prioritize the needs of the community.

16. Trail Conditions:

- a. Landscape Improvements: Chestnut St. site visit with Herb and Bud was established to determine possible proposal to improve the entrances to the Trail. This would involve large equipment, personnel for work and traffic control, tools, timing, etc.

17. Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on October 18, 2022 at 7 p.m.

18. 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 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman