

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: February 16, 2023 at 7:00pm (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: March 23, 2023

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Mark Kaplan

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: None

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. **Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2023 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.

3. **Invoices.** Herb Brockert moved to pay Coastal Traffic Co. \$16,860.00 from the Gift Account. This new signal on Hopping Brook Rd was due to donations from Friends of Holliston Trails and Griffin Electric. Motion was seconded by Ken Henderson and the vote for approval was 6-0-0
4. **Open Space and Recreation Plan.** Robert Weidknecht reviewed the comments added to update the plan regarding the Rail Trail portion of the plan.
5. **Metrowest Greenway Coalition.** Robert Weidknecht discussed the new organization formed to address the Rail Trail opportunities and projects of the various towns in Metrowest Massachusetts. Very exciting news that will help towns to share ideas and best practices and to extend the Upper Charles Trail into downtown Framingham, connecting the Upper Charles Trail to the Bruce Freeman Trail to the Mass Central Rail Trail.
6. **Blair Square Committee Update.** Herb Brockert and Martha Ellis updated the Committee on the great progress of the Blair Square construction which is ahead of schedule due to the warmer winter weather. Martha Ellis said that a large sign detailing the new square plan was hung up on the fence for public view.
7. **Holliston 300th Anniversary.** The committee is planning the celebration in 2024 is still looking for stories about the railroad.
8. **56 Lowland St Buffer Plants.** Will revisit the new plantings when the weather improves. Also, we need to paint the Rail Stop display.
9. **Phipps Tunnel.** The Company that is to fix the walls east of the tunnel has been contacted to determine next step and timetable. Ken Henderson brought up the situation regarding the new covers for the recently installed pipes that allow access the the system. Ken felt that the height and location of the covers could present a potential hazard. There is a need to create a visual marker to alert passersby.
10. **Trail Conditions.** Robert Weidknecht to contact the tree companies to assess help needed on the Trail. Noted the large leaning tree at Wenakeening.
11. **Surface Conditions.** Discussion regarding the wet areas east of Monroe Dr. with ideas such as raising the level of the Trail with stone base and stone dust on top or doing a test area to determine effectiveness. May try test within the next few weeks.

12. **Tree Protection.** Marc Connelly discussed the idea of protecting the valuable trees on the trail from some predators, especially the Spotted Lantern Fly. This invasive bug is already in the Worcester area and Metrowest.

13. **Thank You Note:** Robert Weidknecht received a Thank You note from Cub Scout Pack 2 for allowing them to place Snow Scouts along the trail.

14. **Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on March 23, 2023 at 7 p.m.

15. **Meeting Adjournment.** Ken Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht, Chair