

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: August 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: September 27, 2023

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Ken Henderson and Bud Schmitt

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. **Remote Participation.** Robert Weidknecht read the special procedures for conducting the Trails Committee meeting by remote participation.
2. **Public Comment.** None.
3. **Random Acts of Crochet Kindness.** Proponents were not available to present this proposal.
Invoices. None.
4. **Celebrate Holliston.** There was insufficient support to have a booth at Celebrate Holliston.
5. **Phipps Tunnel.** Robert reported that recent calls and emails to the consultant authorized to perform the work were not returned. Herb Brockert suggested that we discuss with the engineer the potential to leave the currently stepped wall in place, rather than attempt to reconstruct the entire wall in order to achieve the original flush condition of the vertical wall. An informal poll was unanimous that

the step condition would be acceptable if it saves on reconstruction costs. Robert Weidknecht will raise this possibility with the engineer.

6. **Tree Maintenance.** A number of trees, and tree branches, have fallen in recent weeks due to numerous storms and saturated soil conditions. Robert will contact DPW to have contracted tree services performed using the funding in the Gift account received from Friends of Holliston Trails.
7. **Incoming mail.** Trail Committee members were sent the draft Strategic Plan and were encouraged to issue comments since an important part of the plan is to improve access and encourage trail users to support downtown businesses.
8. **Drainage conditions.** An area of severely eroded channel exists at the Dellicker building, 340 Woodland Street. Herb Brockert will contact Rob Walker, Highway Department about installing a berm to control Woodland Street runoff from discharging onto the abutting properties. If the timing is delayed, we should investigate installing a catch basin and cross pipe, including a filing with the Conservation Commission.
9. **Drainage Conditions.** The installed drains at 360 Woodland Street are significantly plugged with sediment, caused by eroded soil at the edges of the parking lots in three locations. Robert will contact Mr. Gossels to discuss curbing improvements to remedy the condition.
10. **Drainage Conditions.** Robert Weidknecht asked if there was an interest in installing underground drainage pipes in Phipps Tunnel on the southwest side of the tunnel, similar to the work done on the northeast side. Herb Brockert will discuss with Rob Walker to see if the DPW is interested in performing the work again, and if so, Robert will seek a Mass Trails grant for the project.
11. **East Coast Greenway.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Milford and Sherborn have both approved the East Coast Greenway designation on its sections of the Upper Charles Trail.
12. **56 Lowland St. Plantings.** Herb Brockert mentioned that he had discussed the plantings with Mark Ahronian and will discuss with Rob Walker about support for the planting at this location.
13. **Next Meeting Date.** Set for Wednesday September 27th.
14. **Motion to Adjourn.** Motion to Adjourn by Mark Kaplan, seconded by Marc Connelly. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chair