

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: September 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: October 25, 2023

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: None

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

GUESTS: Gretchen Rice Prieve (video)

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.** There was a previous Holliston Trails Committee Meeting Minutes that needed to be approved from 5/24/2023. Bud Schmitt moved to accept the minutes of the May 24, 2023 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded and the vote in favor of the motion was 7-0-0. Bud Schmitt moved to accept the minutes of the August 23, 2023 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded and the vote in favor of the motion was 7-0-0.
3. **Public Comment:** None

4. **Election of Committee Officers:** Mark Kaplan moved to accept Robert Weidnecht as Chair, Herb Brockert seconded, and the vote was 7-0-0 in favor. Mark Kaplan moved to accept Ken Henderson as Vice Chairman, Herb Brockert seconded. and the vote was 7-0-0 in favor. Mark Kaplan moved to accept Bud Schmitt as Secretary, Herb Brockert seconded, and the vote was 7-0-0 in favor.
5. **Annual Report:** Ken Henderson moved to accept the Annual Report as presented. Marc Connelly seconded, and the vote was 7-0-0 in favor.
6. **Memorial at Little Folk Farm:** Gretchen Rice Prieve from Friends of Holliston Trails was present for this portion of the meeting. Gretchen acknowledged that there have been many negative comments about the area from the DPW to Little Folk Farm. Comments are that it feels like a “cemetery along that stretch”. There has been major recent changes/additions to the “memorial” near Lil Folk Farm, including pictures of deceased family members, a gravestone like memorial, more shrubbery and flowers. Gretchen said the original hope for the bench program was for use by organizations and families. The bench program ended when the family involved with the Lil Folk Farm location pushed the boundaries of the Town-owned site adding many unauthorized additions, signs, solar lights, and small boundary walls. We are going to speak to both families involved in the two most active decorated “memorials” to remove any additional materials, flowers, signs, candles, etc. Only the bench is to serve as any memorial. Bud Schmitt moved to contact the families, Ken Henderson seconded the motion, vote was 7-0-0 in favor.
7. **122 Union St. Fence:** The fence at 122 Union St is located on the Rail Trail which is Town Property, and has fallen down after years of disrepair. Ken Henderson asked if we had the authority to remove the fence. Marc Connelly asked if we could lease the portion to the homeowner and Robert Weidknecht commented that the Town cannot lease land for residential use due to deed restrictions. Robert Weidknecht said that this issue should be resolved by the Building Inspector or Town Counsel, and that he would speak to Travis Ahern regarding resolution to this problem.
8. **Neighborhood Parking for Mayflower Landing:** Our Town and DPW has plans for a small parking lot located on the south side of Mayflower Landing after the Trail. Residents in the Mayflower area have requested that the Town build a playground on the north side of the road.

9. Random Acts of Crochet Kindness: Doreen Martel & Pooja Pal have decided to hold off on this proposal for the time being. Will be back in touch when ready.

10. Phipps Tunnel: Still awaiting the consultant report for the repair of the North side walls entrance of the tunnel from Steve Lanne.

11. Trail Conditions:

- Robert Weidknecht will talk to Sean Reese at DPW to request help with tree cutting on the Trail.
- Herb Brockert announced that the trees to be planted at 56 Lowland St building will be delivered soon. Cavicchio Greenhouse will be delivering 20 Green Giant Arborvitae to the site. DPW and volunteers to help in planting. Watering possibly needed in the future.
- Trail Repairs with Stone dust. Large areas needing additional stone dust include off Woodland Ave behind Gossels and Dellickers (4 locations) and the Solect area that needs an additional 1-2" plus. Robert Weidknecht suggested that we do some smaller stone dust areas with the golf cart. Herb Brockert will check to see if we can use bigger equipment to do a larger area in need.
- Gossels Building. Herb Brockert discussed a possible plan with the owner to add telephone poles horizontally to the back of the parking lots to control water runoff.
- Veterans Memorial. The new Blair Square construction has left an area adjacent to the new Veterans Memorial unfinished or not "attached" to the square. Herb will address the small area to be fixed up.
- Drainage. On the south side of the Phipps Tunnel to remove the drainage ditches and install a pipe system similar to the successful work on the north side completed last year. Robert Weidknecht will submit a Mass Trails grant application for funding to do the project and he will reach out to the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project for assistance. Herb Brockert will reach out to Rob Walker for their help also. Ken Henderson noted that the North side pipes installed have been very successful and will be easier to remove leaves in the future.

12. **Celebrate Holliston:** The Committee will not participate in Celebrate Holliston in either the parade or a booth.
13. **Scout Project:** Ryan Lukowiak has proposed a possible Eagle Scout project. The bridge at Hopping Brook needs railings. His project is waiting approval from Scout Council.
14. **Set Next Meeting Date:** Next Meeting set for October 25, 2023.
15. **Motion to Adjourn:** Ken Henderson made a motion to end the meeting, Herb Brockert seconded and the vote was 7-0 in favor, at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht, Chair