

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: October 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: November 29, 2023

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly

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.** Mark Kaplan moved to approve the minutes of the previous Holliston Trails Committee Meeting of October 25, 2023. Ken Henderson seconded the motion. The motion was 6-0-0 in favor.
- 3. Public Comment:** None
- 4. Invoices:**

- a) Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to D&M Auto Supply for \$181.95 for a Cart Battery from the Maintenance Account. Herb Brockert seconded the motion and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.
- b) Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Cavicchio Greenhouses for \$2,860 for Arborvitae Bushes that were planted along the building that runs next to the Rail Trail on Lowland St. from the Maintenance Account. Herb Brockert seconded the motion and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.
- c) Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Holliston Hardware for \$3.32 for a Spark Plug for Rail Trail Equipment from the Maintenance Account. Martha Ellis seconded the motion and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.
- d) Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment to Holliston Hardware for \$26.38 for materials needed for planting of trees off Lowland St. from the Gift Account. Herb Brockert seconded the motion and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.

5. **Scout Project:** Ryan Lukowiak has a possible plan for November/December start to install Railings on the Hopping Brook Bridge. Need to decide on anchors and installation. Ken Henderson moved to allow Herb Brockert to purchase necessary materials for Anchors (including bolts, pins, drill bits, etc.) not to exceed \$500.00. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.

6. **Envisioning Future Holliston Draft Strategic Plan.** We discussed several sections of the plan that affected the Rail Trail. The Environmental, Sustainable & Natural Resources section was discussed regarding the ongoing maintenance of the Canopy over the trail, removing invasives and Building Code Updates. Under Flourishing Economy it stated utilizing Public Space to help bring visitors and business to town. The Rail Trail with Blair Square and events around the linear park will help to bring in more visitors to town. And lastly there was a discussion about the need for Restrooms at Blair Square including possible Porta-Johns.

7. **Phipps Tunnel.** Robert Weidknecht stated that we are still awaiting the status of a consultant report for the tunnel.

8. **Trail Conditions:**

- a) Blair Square issues surrounding the Granite Rumble Strips protruding above the surface. Plus maintenance needed for other areas needing additional Stone Dust such as bridges, roads where eroding stone dust has created lips creating tripping hazards.

- b) Possible Tree Inventory along the trail was discussed to get a better handle on areas needing help for trimming or removal. Need further discussion about what a report like that would look like including timing of inventory, what information is needed, etc.
- c) Surfaces needing additional Stone dust were discussed again.

9. Set Next Meeting Date: Next Meeting set for Wednesday November 29, 2023.

10. Motion to Adjourn: Bud Schmitt motioned to adjourn meeting. Herb Brockert seconded the motion and vote was 6-0-0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Robert Weidknecht, Chair