

## HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: February 29, 2024 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid Participation)

ISSUE DATE: March 21, 2024

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Robert Weidknecht, Martha Ellis, Bud Schmitt, Herb Brockert (Herb arrived at 7:06pm), Mark Kaplan, Ken Henderson

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: Ed Daniels & Phil Gibson from the Friends of Holliston Trails

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 approve the minutes of the previous Holliston Trails Committee meeting of January 17, 2024. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion. The motion was 5-0-0 in favor.
- 3. Public Comment:** Ed Daniels and Phil Gibson from the Friends of the Holliston Trails (FOHT) spoke at length about the problems facing their organization. Basically, with the lack of new volunteers to help keep the program going and current volunteers leaving after years of service, they will probably disband the organization this year. The last program will be the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Trail Run (5K/10K) this year and no First Night Event. They have been searching for volunteers for a

long time and they are not getting anyone to step up in leadership roles. Currently, Ed Daniels who has served as Treasurer has come back to be the President of the organization for this last year. Ed was the President for most of organizations existence. Part of Phil Gibson's participation is that he picks up and maintains 9 Dog Waste Stations. Phil was responsible for the many exercise stations dotting our Rail Trail. FOHT strongly feels that the Town of Holliston needs to take some more control and support of the Trail and its events. FOHT is a huge contributor to the work and projects that our Trail Committee has done over the years. Losing the support of this critical fund-raising organization would hurt our ability to maintain and improve the Rail Trail.

#### **4. Invoices:**

- Herb Brockert moved to pay Home Depot \$223.83 for Brackets needed for Hopping Brook Bridge railings to be paid from the maintenance account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion. The motion was in favor 6-0-0.
- Herb Brockert moved to pay Home Depot \$209.06 for epoxy needed for Hopping Brook Bridge brackets to be paid from the maintenance account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion. The motion was in favor 6-0-0.

**5. Scout Project:** Ryan Lukowiak is still on to complete railings on half of the Hopping Brook Bridge on Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup>. Still awaiting detailed information regarding time, help needed, equipment, etc.

**6. Mayflower Parking Project:** Robert Weidknecht met with Rob Walker to discuss the new parking lot planned for Mayflower Dr. The plan is for 11 spaces on the Southwest side of the street. Rob Walker and the DPW will be searching for funding.

**7. Phipps Tunnel.** Still awaiting the final report from John Turner Consulting.

#### **8. Trail Conditions:**

- a) The Drainage at the Gossel and Dellicker Buildings parking lots is still a persistent problem even with the 4 installed drains.
- b) Need to get with Rob Walker to get town help with tree removal. Also need to have Marc Connelly and Rolf Briggs to help with a problem Tree inventory along the trail.
- c) Home on Washington St (west of Monroe Dr.) dumped a substantial amount of brush, limbs and logs on the town property. This dumping is from trees cut on their property and possibly trees on the trail property.
- d) The trail behind Cote Automotive has been washing out again and is flowing from the property housing a Dental Office to the west of the Cote Property.

- e) Continuing problem with drainage from the property at 1370 Highland St. that flows onto the trail and causes ongoing damage.

**9. Set Next Meeting Date:** Next Meeting set for Thursday March 21, 2024.

**10. Motion to Adjourn:** Herb Brockert motioned to adjourn meeting. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion and vote was 6-0-0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Weidknecht, Chair