

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: August 15, 2014 at 7:00 PM, Hopping Brook Trail site

ISSUE DATE: September 17, 2014

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly, Martha Ellis, Ken Henderson, Matt Varrell
Herb Brockert, Mark Kaplan

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Robert Weidknecht

GUESTS: Mark Schultz, Chris Bajdek, Paul LeBeau, Donald Bates, Bill Dowd, Jay Leary, Kevin Conley, Bobby Blair, Brian Loughlin, David Wolfson

PREPARED BY: Ken Henderson

COPIES TO: Jay Marsden, Board of Selectmen
Beth Liberty, Finance Committee
Paul LeBeau, Town Administrator
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

1. Matt Varrell described the purpose of our meeting on the site of the tree removal by Solest, Inc. Our task was to develop a 1st draft of proposals we will make to Solest as to reparations due to the unauthorized cutting of trees and disturbing the landscape on rail trail controlled property.
2. Selectman Kevin Conley spoke and emphasized their support for our efforts. Further permits needed by Solest will be withheld until a settlement is made.
3. Mark Kaplan asked about legal issues that we need to know of in making our recommendations. Herb Brockert asked for clarity as to what Solest has offered. Mark Shultz spoke about other solar projects that also have violated property rights in town. Ken Henderson asked about binding the agreed sum of money for building and repairing the trail be held by bond or escrow account knowing we will not be able to make our improvements as quickly as Solest wants to complete their solar project.
4. Topping of the trees across the trail adjacent to the trail was also discussed where no further work on any land on town controlled rail trail is to be done.
5. Selectman Conley stated that we need to bring our facts and figures to the selectman's meeting in two weeks to review our proposal.
6. Mr. Wolfson voiced his concern about a matter on South St and was asked to come to a regular trails meeting since this was a single focus meeting.

7. Points to be considered for the proposal to Solect:
 - a. Hopping Brook Bridge needs to be designed and built 10' across with railings for safe crossing of bikes in both directions and needs to be able of carry the weight of a rescue vehicle in the case of an emergency.
 - b. Rework the approaches to the bridge due to erosion over time. The bridge design ideally would be scalable for use elsewhere making for uniformity of bridges along the trail.
 - c. Removal of log piles along that rail section
 - d. Erosion control is to be used during construction as advised by Holliston ConCom.
 - e. A Clerk of Works needs to supervise stages of this work since prior errors have occurred with Solect in charge.
 - f. Once determined by Holliston Rail Trail Committee, trees along the trail and overhanging branches need removal and supervised by the Clerk of Works.
 - g. Place a barrier to the woods road into sand pit adjoining the trail.
 - h. Build and secure a berm between the trail and Solect installations to visually separate the two uses along the trail.
 - i. Large boulders relocated as directed by the Clerk of Works.
 - j. Add a railing along the cattle crossing on this section of trail.
 - k. Alter the crossing Hopping Brook Road to include signage as directed by the Clerk of Works.
 - l. Once the project has been completed, signage noting Solects part in improving the trail.
8. Paul Lebeau made note of additional working of the soil and land beside the rail trail that is on town controlled property. Another violation by trespassing.
9. August 27 was set as the date to meet with Selectmen during a regular meeting to share our "punch list" thus far.
10. Mark Kaplan motioned for adjournment, Herb second, passed 6-0 at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman