

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: January 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: February 11, 2015

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Martha Ellis, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan, Matt Varrell and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Marc Connelly

GUESTS:

Bobby Blair
Arlen Johnson
Jack Olson
Mark Mastroianni
Matthew Leidner

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2014 Meeting.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Matt Varrell seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 4-0-0.
- 2. Donation - Ahronian Landscaping & Design.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Ahronian Landscaping has donated \$3,000 worth of plant materials to be used on the Trail at the discretion of the Trails Committee. The Garden Club is also donating \$450 for the purchase of two flowering trees at the Cross Street intersection, which will need to be installed by Arbor Day in April 2015.
- 3. Public Comment.** Arlen Johnson of the Mount Hollis Masons presented a check for \$430, representing funds raised from the Hit the Trails for Charity event in the fall of 2014. Jack Olson was also in attendance. The event will be held again in 2015 and is tentatively scheduled for September 27, 2015.

4. Solect Solar, Agreement Status. Matt Varrell reported that he has asked Peter Barbieri for an update on the agreement with Solect Solar several times but has not received a response.

5. Pulte Crossing. Pulte Homes obtained an easement across the Rail Trail in an agreement dating from around 2006. Pulte will be building a development consisting of 66 2 bedroom age restricted homes (age 55 and over) on 43 acres near the Post Office. Access is off of Washington Street and crosses the Trail. Pulte is required to pave 500 feet of the Rail Trail in exchange for the easement. Since that time, Trail construction plans have changed and the Trail is being built with a stone dust surface rather than pavement. Mark Mastroianni, Land Project Manager for Pulte Homes, and Matthew Leidner, Pulte's Civil Engineer, presented their proposal to lay 500 feet of stone dust and pay \$10,000 in lieu of the paving work. A discussion followed, during which the following items were agreed upon in principal:

- a. Pulte will install a four-way stop sign at the Trail crossing.
- b. Pulte will use the Trail Committee's specified gradation of stone dust and obtain it from Kimball Sand Co.
- c. Pulte will not be responsible for maintenance of the Trail outside of its right of way.
- d. Pulte will coordinate with the Trails Committee to limit disruption of Trail use during construction.
- e. Pulte will consider extending the parking spots dedicated for Trail users to accommodate the offloading of bicycles.
- f. Pulte will make a \$14,000 financial contribution but will not install wood chips. Timing of remittance of the payment has not been finalized. The Trail Committee desires that payment be made to the Friends of the Holliston Trail.

Ken Henderson moved to authorize Matt Varrell to act on behalf of the Trails Committee with respect to Pulte Home's proposal before the Planning Board. Mark Kaplan seconded the motion, and the vote in favor was 5-0-0.

6. Acquisition.

- a. Cross Street to Hopping Brook Road. The draft purchase and sale agreement has been approved and the acquisition will move toward due diligence.

- b. Church Street to Sherborn Line. Due to uncertainty over the status of the Transportation Bond Bill, acquisition of this portion of the Trail is on hold.

7. Grant Status

- a. DCR 2012. The request to amend and extend this grant has been approved.

8. Summer Street Crossing Signal. Two quotes for this project have been obtained and a third quote is being explored.

9. "Friends of" Group Coordination. Ed Daniels reported that \$1,200 in donations were raised at the First Night event. The event was a great success. An Earth Day event is being planned for April.

10. Scout/Honor Projects

- a. P.J. Donnelly – Dog Waste Dispenser and Receptacles. The Trails Committee noted that this project cannot move forward until action is taken by the Town to dispose of trash from the Trail. Ed Daniels will approach the Board of Selectmen about the need for the Highway Department to pick up waste.

11. Highway Department – Installation of Fence on Trail. The Trails Committee discussed the Highway Department's installation of a fence on the Trail rather than on the property line. After discussion, it was agreed that Matt Varrell would approach the Board of Selectmen with a proposal to have the Highway Department move the fence approximately 6' back from its current location.

12. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on February 11, 2015 at 7 p.m.

13. Meeting Adjournment. Ken Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Matt Varrell seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman