

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: December 17, 2014 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: January 21, 2015

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Marc Connelly, Martha Ellis, Mark Kaplan,
Matt Varrell and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Ken Henderson

GUESTS: Bobby Blair
Bill Dowd

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 November 19, 2014 Meeting.** Matt Varrell moved to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2014 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Marc Connelly seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.
2. **Invoices:**
 - a. Willowbrook Landscaping. Co. Matt Varrell moved to authorize payment for spreading of loam, seeding and post reinstallation in the section of trail from South Street to the Milford trail in the amount of \$1,777.88 to Willowbrook Landscaping Co., to be paid from the DCR 2012 account. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote was 5-0-0 in favor.
3. **Public Comment.** Robert Weidknecht has learned that an unleashed dog has bitten someone on the Rail Trail. The Trails Committee agreed to install signs requiring dogs to be leashed or under the control of their owners.
4. **Solect Solar, Agreement Status.** Matt Varrell reported that the final Letter of Agreement has been sent to Solect Solar for their review, along with a request for establishing the

money in the escrow account. Herb Brockert suggested that Paul Coan could serve as clerk of the works.

5. **Annual Report.** Robert Weidknecht reviewed the draft annual report, which was approved by the Trails Committee.
6. **Summer Street Crossing Signal.** The “Friends of” Group will fund the installation of the crossing signal at Summer Street with funds raised from the First Night Lantern Stroll. Specifications are needed for the solar-powered signal.
7. **Keefe Tech—handrails at Exchange Street.** Robert Weidknecht has obtained the structural design for the handrails.
8. **Trail Construction—South Street to Hopping Brook Road.**
 - a. Pulte Homes Meeting. Pulte Homes obtained an easement across the Rail Trail in an agreement dating from 2007. As part of that agreement it is required to pave 500 feet of the Rail Trail. Robert Weidknecht reported that Pulte Homes has offered to lay 500 feet of stone dust and pay \$10,000 in lieu of the paving work. After discussing the value of the stone dust and the value of the pavement that would otherwise be installed, the Trails Committee agreed that Robert should ask for a \$15,000 payment.
9. **Trail Construction—Church Street to Cross Street.**
 - a. Decking for Arch Street. Herb Brockert will reach out to another structural engineer for help in a design for the decking for the Arch Street Bridge. The Trails Committee discussed several design alternatives.
10. **Trail Construction—South Street to Milford Trail.**
 - a. Removal of Ties. Matt Varrell reported that Iron Horse will likely not take the railroad ties and other options are needed for their removal.
11. **“Friends of” Group Coordination.** Volunteers are still needed to man fire pits for the First Night Lantern Walk.
12. **Status on Goals—Update Goals for 2015.** Robert Weidknecht lead a discussion on 2015 goals, which will include construction of the sections of trails from Cross Street to Hopping Brook Road and Cross Street to Summer Street; installation of a crossing signal at Summer Street; and completion of the design for Blair Square.

13. Scout/Honor Projects.

- a. **Aidan O'Sullivan** - Mile marker posts. Aidan O'Sullivan has proposed placing mile marker posts on the trail as an Eagle Scout project. The Trails Committee discussed where to locate the first mile marker in relation to the Town of Holliston or in relation to the entire Upper Charles Trail (including Milford).
- b. **P.J. Donnelly** - Dog waste bag dispenser and receptacles. P.J. Donnelly would like to install dog waste bag dispensers and receptacles along the trails as a National Honor Society project. The Trails Committee will coordinate with the Selectmen to provide waste removal of receptacles prior to moving forward with this project.

14. Leaves at Phipps Tunnel. Leaves from the recent storm have been raked out of the drainage channels at Phipps Tunnel. Robert Weidknecht will request the Highway Department to remove the piles of leaves from the Trail. The Trails Committee also discussed ways to deal with periodic leaf removal that will be required near the Tunnel.

15. Student Conservation Association. Matt Varrell suggested that the Student Conservation Association could potentially be retained to work on the Eight Arch Bridge handrail project in 2016. The Trails Committee gave approval to being placed on the Association's potential project list.

16. Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2015 at 7 p.m.

17. Meeting Adjournment. Marc Connelly moved to adjourn the meeting. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman