

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: March 13, 2019

**PRESENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan and Robert Weidknecht

**ABSENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly, Martha Ellis, Bud Schmitt

**PRESENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

**GUESTS:**

Tina Hein  
Bob Pierotti

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: Jay Marsden, Board of Selectmen  
Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator  
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk  
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Safe Routes to School Program.** Tina Hein provided an update on the Safe Routes to School pilot program. Two bus stops have been arranged, at the Baptist Church and at Willow Brook Farm. The Holliston Industrial Park is a possible third location. The number of volunteer bus drivers is a limiting factor in the number of stops. The pilot program is set to begin on Earth Day, April 22, 2019, and will run on Mondays through the end of the school year. The walking school bus will run during the morning commute to school but not in the afternoon when students are released. A few Committee members will walk the Trail with Tina on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 10 a.m. to conduct a safety audit and identify any areas of concern.
2. **Drainage at Boston Honey Company - Chestnut Street.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Boston Honey Company has requested that a drainage channel be installed along the Trail near their property. A discussion followed, during which it was determined that the drainage issues were a

private matter and should be resolved by the property owner. A site visit was scheduled to review the conditions.

3. **Gypsy Moth Spraying.** Robert Weidknecht led a discussion of Rolf Brigg's offer to spray for gypsy moths along certain sections of the Trail. Herb Brockert will contact Rolf with questions about where the spray would be applied, whether there would be overspray concerns, and whether the Trail would need to be closed for any period of time.
4. **Letter on Encroachments - Selectmen.** The Trails Committee discussed the draft letter on encroachments that was prepared by Town Counsel and will be sent to certain commercial abutters. Mark Kaplan will mark proposed edits on the draft letter and circulate it for further review by the Committee.
5. **Approve Minutes from January 23, 2019 Meeting.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2019 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.
6. **Blair Square Committee - Liaison Report.** Herb Brockert reported that the Blair Square Committee has applied for a \$108,000 grant application to Mass Trails to develop the area behind Casey's. GLM is reviewing the design for the Trail in this area. An easement granting access to the former State Street Lumber building from the Trail has not yet been finalized.
7. **Cost Estimate for Maintenance.** Ken Henderson will set up a meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss a budget for Trail maintenance.
8. **Maintenance Equipment/Storage Bin.** Ken Henderson discussed the need to paint the storage bin and fix any leaks. The Trails Committee plans to set a date for this project at the next scheduled meeting.
9. **Trail Conditions**
  - a. **Phipps Tunnel - Drainage Design.** Herb Brockert reported that he spoke with Putnam Pipe regarding pipe sizes for the drainage project at Phipps Tunnel. A discussion followed, during which the Trails Committee discussed various options for the drainage design. Herb will do further research into various options.

- b. **Soft Surface - Various Sections of Trail.** Robert Weidknecht noted that the Trail surface between Lowland and Washington Streets was soft, which has resulted in significant rutting. The problem has resulted from a different mix of stone dust than was used in other sections of the Trail. A discussion of potential solutions followed, but the Committee is uncertain as to whether the problem can be fully remediated. A discussion of issues with the Trail surface in the Pulte Homes area was tabled until the next meeting.
- c. **Railroad Tie Removal.** Herb Brockert has identified a company that will haul away the pile of railroad ties at South Street. Trucking and tipping fees are estimated to cost around \$2,500. After discussion, Ken Henderson moved to authorize Herb Brockert to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,000 for trucking and tipping fees for railroad tie disposal, to be paid from the Gift Account. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.
- d. **NGMA.** Robert Weidknecht reviewed issues on the Trail behind NGMA relating to snow removal, damaged reflectors, damage to the trail surface and dislodged railroad ties. The Trails Committee will monitor for further damage in this area.
- e. **Railings Needed.** Robert Weidknecht reported that railings were still needed at various spots between Summer and Chestnut Streets and at Hopping Brook Road. A discussion followed.

## **10. Funding.**

- a. **Town Meeting - Safety Materials.** Herb Brockert moved to authorize the purchase of chaps and spare chainsaw chains from Milford 495 Rental Center in an amount not to exceed \$200, to be payable from the Town Meeting 2017 Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.

- 11. 10th Annual Massachusetts Walking Tour.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a musical concert program known as the Massachusetts Walking Tour will be performing in Holliston on June 17, 2019. As indicated by the name, the group walks from town-to-town giving live performances. A local author named Marjorie Turner Hollman is helping to organize the tour, and she has asked for help finding a suitable site for the performers to camp while in Holliston.

12. **Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2019, 2019 at 7 p.m.
13. **Meeting Adjournment.** **Ken** Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RW', is centered below the text 'Respectfully Submitted,'.

Robert Weidknecht – Chairman