

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: August 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: September 11, 2019

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Marc Connelly, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan, Bud Schmitt and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Martha Ellis

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: Claudette Fowler
Jan Porter
Paul Porter

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: Mark Ahronian, Select Board
Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Land Donation - Generazio - Results of Site Visit.** Robert Weidknecht reported that on June 22, 2019 he, Ken Henderson and Mark Kaplan had walked the property that has been offered by Mike Generazio, a local developer, to the Town of Holliston. The property will provide access to Sherborn conservation land and will allow trail users to connect to the Bay Circuit Trail. A small, simple bridge will need to be built over a stream to access the Sherborn conservation land. Otherwise, the property will require little in the way of maintenance. The Select Board has agreed to accept the property but a Town Meeting vote is required because the Conservation Commission refused to accept the offer in order to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest regarding the developer, who frequently appears before the Commission. After discussion, Bud Schmitt moved that the Holliston Trails Committee accept responsibility for management of the property offered by Mike Generazio. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0. Marc Connelly was not present for this motion.

- 2. Friends of Holliston Trails Proposal.** Claudette Fowler of the Friends of the Holliston Trails presented a proposal to install two bike repair stations along the trail. The stations will include a repair stand, tools and a tire pump. A discussion followed, during which it was agreed that it would be appropriate to start with the installation of a single repair station along the trail at Cross Street, and then evaluate its use by trail users. Robert Weidknecht will serve as liaison for this project.
- 3. Public Comment.** Jan and Paul Porter appeared before the Committee to discuss a resolution to the Depot Package Store's minor encroachment upon the trail. Compressors behind the store extend 6 to 12 inches into the trail's right of way. Robert Weidknecht explained they could obtain an annual license from the Town of Holliston to address the encroachment. A discussion followed, which included the need to address improper deposit of snow onto the trail by snowplow operators. The Porters explained the actions they have taken to address the snow plow issues, and proposed to obtain a license covering a two-foot strip of land the length of the building (approximately 200 square feet). The Committee noted that the Porters were the first encroaching abutters to appear before the Committee and thanked them for their neighborly cooperation. The Committee will follow up with the Porters on the license process after finalizing a formula for determining licensing fees.
- 4. Axton Cross Property - Potential Cleanup and Uses.** Bud Schmitt noted that the problem of truck drivers using the Cross Street parking area near Axton Cross as a rest stop has not been resolved. A discussion followed, during which new signage was proposed, reading: "No Tractor Trailer Parking - Police Take Notice - Either Side." Ken Henderson will review the proposed language with the Holliston Police Department and then present final language to the Select Board for approval. Robert Weidknecht reported that the Select Board may take the Axton Cross property and develop the property for other uses. A discussion followed, during which members of the Committee agreed that they had no objections to this action.
- 5. Historical Signage - Status.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Mary Greendale is working on producing higher resolution photographs to be used in the historical signage to be installed along the trail.
- 6. Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0. Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the

April 24, 2019 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0. Marc Connelly was not present for these motions.

7. **Annual Report Draft.** Robert Weidknecht review the draft Annual Report. Ken Henderson moved to accept the Annual Report. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.
8. **Invoices.**
 - a. Holliston True Value. Marc Connelly moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for a rubber strap in the amount of \$4.55, to be payable from the Town Meeting 2017 Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.
 - b. Holliston True Value. Marc Connelly moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for wasp spray in the amount of \$4.55, to be payable from the Gift Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.
 - c. Holliston True Value. Marc Connelly moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for fence post bases in the amount of \$159.52, to be payable from the Gift Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.
9. **Elections.** After discussion, Bud Schmitt moved to re-elect Robert Weidknecht and Mark Kaplan as Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the Holliston Trails Committee. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote was 6-0-0 in favor.
10. **Scout Projects - Mathew Walther - Railings Near Village Plaza.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Mathew Walther has submitted this Eagle Scout project to the Boy Scouts for approval and may be performed this fall. Robert has done the drilling needed to facilitate this project.
11. **Celebrate Holliston September 21, 2019.** Robert Weidknecht and Bud Schmitt indicated that they are available to staff a booth at the upcoming Celebrate Holliston. The Committee may share a booth with the "Friends of" group.
12. **Isabella Ceresia Cleanup – Follow-up.** Robert Weidknecht reported Isabella Ceresia had completed her National Honor Society project over two days, amassing 48 contractor bags full of invasive weeds. Robert and Mark Kaplan collected the bags and disposed of them at the Recycling Center.

- 13. Signs at Summer Street - Ronald Pfeifer Email.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he had received a complaint from a trail user that no one was pushing the walk button to cross Summer Street. The Committee discussed possibly installing additional signage or converting to an automated motion sensor. It was noted that the cost of a motion sensor is estimated to be around \$1,700 and their reliability is questionable.
- 14. Signs at Mayflower Landing.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the Highway Department has striped the walkway at Mayflower Landing and will install the crossing sign.
- 15. Tree Cutting Requested at Lowland Street.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a potential tenant at the vacant Flexhead Industries building had requested that tree branches hanging over the building be cut back. Robert may arrange a possible site meeting with the tenant. Marc Connelly will consult with Rolf Briggs to see if extensive branch cutting can be done on only one side of the trees.
- 16. Blair Square Committee Liaison Report.** Herb Brockert reported that the Blair Square Committee had recently done a site walk from the Exchange Street Bridge to Central Street, and that another site walk was scheduled for tomorrow with Beals & Thomas to start the formal planning process.
- 17. Maintenance Equipment/Storage Bin.** Ken Henderson reported that the work on the roof of the storage bin needed to be completed. Members of the Committee will meet on Saturday September 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to work on this project.
- 18. Trail Conditions - Railroad Tie Removal.** Herb Brockert reported that he is looking into alternative vendors to remove the pile of railroad ties at South Street.
- 19. Joint Meeting with Parks Commission.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a joint meeting with the Holliston Parks Commission may be scheduled in anticipation of the eventual transfer of responsibility for Trail maintenance from the Trails Committee to the Parks Commission. Robert also reported that the Select Board may appoint a facility manager to support Trail maintenance needs.
- 20. Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2019 at 7 p.m.

21. Meeting Adjournment. Marc Connelly moved to adjourn the meeting. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Weidknecht".

Robert Weidknecht – Chairman