

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: September 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: October 16, 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:

Ed Daniels
Tina Hein, Select Board
John Losch
Matt Ristaino

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. **Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2019 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.
2. **Land Donation - Generazio - Results of Site Status.** Robert Weidknecht reported that an article has been placed on the Warrant for Fall Town Meeting to seek approval of the acquisition of the Generazio property. Robert also reported that approval to build a bridge connecting to Sherborn town conservation land will be required from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers.
3. **Signage At Cross Street.** Ken Henderson reported that he spoke with the Holliston Police Chief about the signage to prevent truckers from parking by the trail at Cross Street. "Rail Trail Parking Only" is enforceable. However, the Town only owns the portions of the roadway that are 50' from

center, so parking restrictions may not cover the entire parking area. Ken will take measurements.

4. **Bicycle Pedicab Discussion.** John Losch presented a proposal to establish a program to provide elderly residents with pedicab rides on the trail. Mr. Losch sought permission to establish a committee to develop the proposal. Mr. Losch noted that he would not participate in such a committee, but he believed that other Holliston residents were interested in participating. A discussion of the details of Mr. Losch's proposal followed. The discussion also focused on alternative ways to expand trail access to seniors and other with limited mobility, and the Trails Committee expressed its support of such objectives. The Trails Committee suggested that Mr. Losch present his proposal to the Select Board, which is the entity responsible for authorizing such a committee. The Trails Committee also suggested that Mr. Losch contact the "Friends of" group as a possible resource for launching such a committee.
5. **Public Comment.** Tina Hein reported that the Safe Routes to School "Walking School Bus" will run on Mondays for eight weeks in October and November. Tina also asked if there was a way to expand trail access to children who live in the Johnson Street area. Robert Weidknecht responded that the Town is looking into efforts to expand sidewalk access from Johnson Street to the Parks and Recreation Building. State approval would be required to install a flashing beacon and crosswalk across Route 16. Tina also reported on safety concerns raised by school crossing guards about certain intersections, including at Church Street by Depot Liquors. Tina will contact the Blair Square Committee about installing a sidewalk by Depot Liquors, the cost of which is estimated to be \$8,500. Tina expressed interest in the parking signage issue at Cross Street and indicated she would discuss this with Chief Stone. Tina also noted that she would like to arrange for an automated count of trail users, as such data would be of value to the Economic Development Committee.
6. **Scout Projects -**
 - a. **Mathew Walther - Railings Near Village Plaza.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Matthew Walther is submitting his Eagle Scout project to the Boy Scouts for approval.
 - b. **Drew Mahoney - Arch Street Stairs.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Drew Mahoney will seek a different scout project due to concerns about requirements for railings and the need for a Massachusetts Architectural Access Board Variance at the proposed stairs at Arch Street. A discussion about construction designs followed. Robert and Herb Brockert will visit the site to determine what can be done.

7. **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 will share a booth with the "Friends of" group.
8. **Tree Cutting Requested at Lowland Street.** Marc Connelly reported that he discussed this request with Rolf Briggs, who said that the building owner is responsible and that cutting branches from just one side of the tree wouldn't necessarily damage the tree.
9. **Encroachments.** Ken Henderson reported that he spoke with Kathy Peirce, the town assessor, about the valuation methodology for commercial encroachments. Kathy provided recommended land valuation methods to be used to assess a license amount, based on square footage desired.
10. **Ambassador Day.** Ed Daniels reported that the "Friends of" group will hold several Ambassador Days to educate trail users on trail etiquette and to offer bike tune-ups. Ambassador Days will be held on September 15, September 22 and October 1. Milford Bicycle is sponsoring these events.
11. **Trail Conditions - Railroad Tie Removal.** Herb Brockert reported that he has obtained a quote of a minimum of \$2,400 (8 ton minimum) for removal of the pile of old railroad ties at South Street. A discussion followed on how to satisfy the vendor's requirement that the minimum payment be made at the time of disposal. Ed Daniels indicated that the "Friends of" group could fund this expense and that he could bring a check in his role as treasurer.
12. **Maintenance Equipment/Storage Bin.** Members of the Trails Committee will meet Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to finish painting the storage bin.
13. **Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on October 16, 2019 at 7 p.m.

- 14. 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 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RW', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Robert Weidknecht – Chairman