

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: October 16, 2019 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: November 20, 2019

**PRESENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Martha Ellis, Mark Kaplan, Bud Schmitt and Robert Weidknecht

**ABSENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly, Ken Henderson

**PRESENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

**ABSENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: Leaders, Parents and Members of Girl Scout Troop 75346:

Kathy Walters

Kerri Caruso

Cathy Phillipson

Christie Carriker

Sarah, Hannah, Kacey, Caitlin and Cayla

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.** Martha Ellis moved to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.
2. **Invoices.**
  - a. Holliston True Value. Bud Schmitt moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for putty knives and painting materials in the amount of \$15.73, to be payable from the Gift Account. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote was 5-0-0 in favor.

3. **Trail Maintenance – Thank You Letter.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he forwarded a letter to Tom Smith, drafted by Ken Henderson, to thank the Highway Department for mowing down the weeds on the edges of the entire trail.
4. **Safe Routes to School – Letter of Support.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he drafted a letter in support of Tina Hein's grant application to the Mass DOT for funds to install a sidewalk, flashing beacons and signage at Holliston Oil on Woodland Street, opposite the Adams and Miller Schools.
5. **Pollinator Hotel Proposal – Girl Scouts.** Sarah, Hannah, Kacey, Caitlin and Cayla, all members of Girl Scout Troop 75346, presented a proposal to install "Pollinator Hotels" along a portion of the trail between Church and Lowland Streets. The project would include eight hotels, which are designed to allow mason bees, butterflies and beetles survive the winter. The hotels would be installed on trees five feet above the ground, with adjacent sign posts bearing QR codes to educate trail users about declining bee populations and other pollinators, and the need to protect these valuable resources. The girl scouts brought a working model of a pollinator hotel and demonstrated how it works. They plan to build the hotels over the winter and install them in the spring of 2020. The girl scouts have identified the eight trees they would like to use and asked permission to proceed with the project. A discussion followed, after which Herb Brockert moved to approve the Pollinator Hotel project as presented. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0. Mark Kaplan will serve as liaison to Troop 75346 for this project.
6. **Traffic Advisory Committee - Members - Status.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Tina Hein had requested a Trails Committee member to serve on the Traffic Advisory Committee, but the Select Board has determined that members of the Traffic Advisory Committee would be appointed from the general public.
7. **Scout Projects -**
  - a. **Matthew Walther - Railings Near Village Plaza.** Robert Weidknecht reported that this project is not scheduled to be implemented in the near future.
  - b. **Drew Mahoney – Railings Near Village Plaza.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Drew Mahoney plans to install railings near Village Plaza on October 26, 2019. The Trails Committee reviewed the quantity of materials Drew has estimated for this project. Herb Brockert noted that he will be out of town that weekend and will not be able to provide assistance.

8. **Celebrate Holliston – Follow-up.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the event went well but did not attract a lot of visitors.
9. **Access Path to 1750 Washington Street; Crosswalk Near Johnson Drive.** Herb Brockert reported that initial construction of the access path created a slope that was too steep and did not meet applicable requirements. Herb has emailed Mark Frank, the Director of Recreation, but he has not yet heard back.
10. **Blair Square Committee – Liaison Report.** Herb Brockert reported that the Committee agreed to install bathrooms on a temporary basis to see if they could be successfully maintained. The location has not yet been determined. Two designs for Blair Square are currently under review; each will place the trail in different locations. Herb also reported that the Committee now anticipates installing a gazebo structure with a wood cover rather than a fabric structure that had initially been proposed. Holliston DPW will clean up brush in Blair Square, and Mark Ahronian will identify which trees should be preserved.
11. **Trail Conditions – Phipps Tunnel – Drainage Design.** Robert Weidknecht and Herb Brockert led a discussion of possible drainage designs at Phipps Tunnel.
12. **Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on November 20, 2019 at 7 p.m.
13. **Meeting Adjournment.** Herb Brockert moved to adjourn the meeting. Martha Ellis seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman