

## **HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: February 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: July 2, 2020

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

VOTING MEMBERS: Martha Ellis and Mark Kaplan

**PRESENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain (Partial)

**ABSENT**

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

GUESTS: Bob Pierotti, Kathy Walters and Sarah Walters

PREPARED BY: Robert Weidknecht

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 1. Pollinator Hotels.** Kathy and Sarah Walters reported that the pollinator hotels are planned to be installed in the coming months. They are currently determining the amount of materials that will be needed, and will be seeking some assistance from the Trails Committee for funding some of the materials. The members will support the Scouts with the materials needed.
- 2. Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.
- 3. Trail Counters (MAPC).** Robert Weidknecht reported that the trail use counters are still in place. Ed Daniels has the software to download the data.

4. **Town Meeting warrant article.** Ken Henderson proposed to seek \$1,000 funding for repair and maintenance of the Trail, similar to the request at last year's town meeting. Robert Weidknecht will send a request to Jeff Ritter.
5. **Tree Cutting.** Marc Connelly reported that Rolf Briggs, Tree Specialists, has coordinated with Simkins Tree Services and Stumpy's Tree Service to each perform a day of tree cutting and chipping on sections of the rail trail on Arbor Day, April 24, 2020. We discussed focusing their effort on any of the larger unhealthy trees along the corridor, and if time permits, to chip the stacked brush and branches from prior cuttings by volunteers. Marc Connelly will walk the trail and determine areas of focus and flag trees to be cut.
6. **Framingham Earth Day.** The City of Framingham is having an Earth Day Fair on April 25, 2020 and suggested that we have a booth to promote the rail trail connecting up to the MBTA train station at this event. We discussed the desire to connect the Holliston trail to downtown Framingham that would connect to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail heading northerly to Lowell. That trail crosses the Mass Central Rail Trail in Sudbury, providing the connections of these trails to Boston and Northampton. The Committee decided to not have a booth at the Earth Day Fair.
7. **Potential Land Donation - Former Lista Property Near South Street.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Sudbury Valley Trustees are willing to accept the land donation of nearly 26 acres near the Milford town line, off of the rail trail.
8. **Encroachments - Commercial - Status of License Agreements.** Ken Henderson provided Jeff Ritter with the various locations, and contact addresses for the areas of commercial encroachments. Town counsel will prepare the license documents and send to the addresses.
9. **Tree Donation, Garden Club.** The Garden Club has offered to fund an Elm Tree for the rail trail. There is interest in accepting a donation, but it appears that the planning, pickup, installation and watering would be needed to be performed by the Committee. Committee members did not want to commit to this project at this time.
10. **Exercise Equipment.** Phil Gibson, Friends of Holliston Trails, is interested in pursuing the donation of exercise stations along the trail. The Committee discussed possible locations including the Blair Square area closer to Exchange Street, the Cross Street area, and at the Parks Building. Robert Weidknecht will contact Phillip regarding the possibilities.

- 11. Interpretive Exhibits.** The Committee received a request to select options for the mounting of the interpretive exhibits for the Trail, from Carol Holly. After review of the options, the frameless, metal two-post option was selected. Possible alternatives to consider include installing two wooden posts, but brackets would be needed to found that could attach the angle frame to the posts. Robert Weidknecht will discuss with Carol Holly the mounting options.
- 12. Etiquette Signs.** Bob Pierotti reported that about six signs have been vandalized in the section from Blair Square to Phipps Tunnel. Robert Weidknecht will discuss with the Friends of Holliston Trails for repair/replacement.
- 13. Golf Cart.** Ken discussed that the Golf cart requires maintenance, specifically the tires have been leaking and have significant dry rot. New tires are needed as well as general greasing and preventative maintenance. Moved, seconded and approved. to authorize use of up to \$500 from Golf cart maintenance from maintenance fund.
- 14. Blair Square Committee – Liaison Report.** Herb Brockert reported that the Blair Square Committee had “painted” the proposed layout on the site. The layout was reviewed and minor adjustments will be made. Herb will prepare a revised plan for the park area.
- 15. Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2020 at 7 p.m.
- 16. Meeting Adjournment.** Bud Schmitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman