

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: September 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM, Emergency Remote Participation

ISSUE DATE: October 14, 2020

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

GUESTS: Tina Hein

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: Tina Hein, Select Board
Travis Ahern, Town Administrator
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1. Emergency Remote Participation.** Robert Weidknecht reviewed the special procedures for conducting the Trails Committee meeting by remote participation.
- 2. Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Herb Brockert then joined the meeting. Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2020 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 5-0-0.
- 3. Invoices.**
 - a. Holliston True Value. Herb Brockert moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for concrete used in setting sign posts in the amount of \$16.78, to be payable from the 2019 Town Meeting Maintenance Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.

- b. Holliston True Value. Herb Brockert moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for a wrench set and bolts to be used for golf cart maintenance in the amount of \$39.56, to be payable from the 2019 Town Meeting Maintenance Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.
 - c. Holliston True Value. Herb Brockert moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for concrete used in setting exhibit posts in the amount of \$25.17, to be payable from the 2019 Town Meeting Maintenance Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.
 - d. Holliston True Value. Herb Brockert moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for concrete used in setting mile marker posts in the amount of \$16.78, to be payable from the 2019 Town Meeting Maintenance Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 5-0-0 in favor.
4. **Pollinator Hotel**. Robert Weidknecht reported that the girl scouts completed the pollinator hotel project. Several members commented that they have seen the pollinator hotels installed along the Trail between the middle school and 8-Arch Bridge and they look great. Martha Ellis joined the meeting.
5. **Interpretive Exhibit Installations**. Robert Weidknecht reported that all eight exhibits have installed along the Trail, and he has received positive feedback from the public.
6. **Exercise Equipment**. Robert Weidknecht reported that the exercise equipment purchased by the "Friends of" group will be installed along the Trail in three locations: behind 330 Woodland Street; between Cross Street and Phipps Tunnel; and the sand pit access point across from the Solect solar farm. The "Friends of" group will maintain the equipment and replenish the hand sanitizer on a weekly basis.
7. **Benches/Turnaround - RDA Hearing**. Robert Weidknecht reported that he submitted an RDA for the proposed turnaround at the Sherborn town line. The Mass. Department of Environmental Protection has notified him that the ditch along the Trail may be a wetland resource area, and the project will require the filing of a notice of intent under the Mass. Environmental Protection Act and Massachusetts Endangered Species Act update filing ("MESA"), and that requires a \$300 filing fee. Robert does not believe the location is subject to wetlands protection and has contacted former member Matt Varrell for his view. The Committee will consider further action on this project at a future meeting.

- 8. Railroad Signal Donation.** Marc Connelly was not present to give an update on the proposed railroad signal donation.
- 9. Trail Work - Tree Cutting Delayed.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he and Herb Brockert identified a large number of distressed trees along the Trail. Robert will see if local arborists Tree Specialists, Simkins Tree Service and Stumpy's Tree Service, all of whom had volunteered their services for the Arbor Day project that was postponed, could help clear the trees. If they are not available, the Committee should consider hiring a crew or see if the Holliston DPW has time and resources to help. Tina Hein said she would raise the issue with the Highway Department. Tina also mentioned that the Town has applied for a grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council ("MAPC") for funding for a tree inventory that would include problem trees along the Trail.
- 10. Trail Counters (MAPC).** Robert Weidknecht reported he was trying to get the latest count of Trail users from the MAPC.
- 11. Scout Projects.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Trevor Fleischman has identified locations for his picnic table Eagle Scout project and needs to obtain BSA approval of the project.
- 12. Encroachments.** Robert Weidknecht led a discussion of issues related to residential encroachments, including lack of enforcement authority by the Trails Committee and the Town, the best use of the Trails Committee's time and resources, and the implications for the Town and the Trail if enforcement was selective or non-existent. Tina Hein noted that the Building Inspector is leaving and the Town is also experiencing other enforcement issues. Tina will bring this issue to the Town Administrator for review. The Committee will table the issue until it hears back from the Select Board. Robert informed the Committee that he had been in touch with a member of the family that had installed a memorial area around a bench they had purchased to honor a family member. The family member said they would take down the signs that were installed too close to the Trail. A discussion followed. Robert also mentioned that the "Friends of" group may suspend the memorial bench fund raising program as a result of these issues.
- 13. Blair Square Committee – Liaison Report.** Herb Brockert reported that the work to improve the drainage behind Casey's has been completed. This area will be graded and repaved within the next two weeks. Herb also reported that the general plan for Blair Square has been completed, and structures will be selected at the next meeting of the Blair Square Committee. Preparation of the general plan will cost \$5,000 and the detailed construction plan will cost \$45,000. Funding is being sought for these expenses. Tina Hein provided an update on the revised traffic design plan for

Front Street, which will be implemented shortly. Tina noted that the plan is a pilot program that will run through April 1, 2021; public feedback will be solicited.

14. Set Next Meeting Date. The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2020 at 7 p.m.

15. Meeting Adjournment. Ken Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RW', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Robert Weidknecht – Chairman