

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: October 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM, Emergency Remote Participation

ISSUE DATE: November 17, 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: Travis Ahern
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.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2020 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 7-0-0.
3. **Invoices.**
 - a. Gatehouse Media. Mark Kaplan moved to authorize payment to Gatehouse Media for publication of a required advertisement for the proposed turnaround at the Sherborn Line in connection with an RDA under the Wetlands Protection Act, in the amount of \$40.96, to be payable

from the Gift Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 7-0-0 in favor.

- 4. Parking at Mayflower Landing.** Ken Henderson reported that it was unlikely that Fafard Real Estate would assist with installation of a road cut and diagonal parking area at Mayflower Landing. The Trails Committee discussed alternate plans for creating parking spots, including installation of signage limiting parking to one side of the street.
- 5. Exercise Equipment.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Phil Gibson of the “Friends of” group installed exercise equipment 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.
- 6. Benches/Turnaround - RDA Withdrawn.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the proposed turnaround at the Sherborn Line would also require a filing under the Endangered Species Act, with an additional \$600 filing fee. After discussion, the Trails Committee determined that alternate locations may be available nearby and decided to table the RDA for the time being.
- 7. Trail Work - Tree Cutting Delayed.** Robert Weidknecht reported that a lot of seemingly healthy trees were downed in the last storm. It was noted that this might be due to the ongoing drought. The delayed Arbor Day project to clear injured trees will continue to be put on hold because the local arborists Tree Specialists, Simkins Tree Service and Stumpy’s Tree Service, are booked solid. Rolf Briggs of Tree Specialists indicated that he would try to coordinate this work with the other arborists. Rolf noted that sections of the trail would need to be closed completely to do this work. A discussion followed on how to accomplish a trail closure and redirect traffic.
- 8. Land Donation - Generazio Property - Status.** Robert Weidknecht reported that the Generazio Realty Trust wished to donate their property but requires assistance with the title search and preparation of the deed. Generazio indicated that it hoped to close on the transfer by the end of November. Travis Ahern, the Town Administrator, noted that \$5,000 had been appropriated for this work at 2019 Town Meeting, and said he would prioritize the transfer with town counsel.
- 9. Scout Projects.** Robert Weidknecht reported that Trevor Fleischman has made progress on his picnic table Eagle Scout project, which should be completed within a few weeks.
- 10. Blair Square Committee - Liaison Report.** Herb Brockert reported that great progress had been made at the area behind Casey’s, with installation of the stone dust trail and paving of the parking

area. Fencing is scheduled to be installed next week. The Blair Square Committee will soon be voting on the structures for Blair Square, and final drawings are TBD.

- 11. Encroachments.** Robert Weidknecht led a follow-up 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. The listing of residential encroachments has been provided to Tina Hein. Tina indicated that she would seek the Trails Committee's input at a future Select Board meeting.
- 12. Maintenance of Dog Waste Receptacles.** Robert Weidknecht reported that he had received an email on the status of the dog waste receptacles, which had not been emptied recently and were overflowing. The Trails Committee discussed whether there was any way the Town of Holliston would take over responsibility for the receptacles from Jimmy Read of R&R Landscaping, who has been providing voluntary support since their installation. Tina Hein agreed this should be addressed, and indicated that she will raise the matter with the DPW.
- 13. Set Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2020 at 7 p.m.
- 14. 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 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman