

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: March 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM, Emergency Remote Participation

ISSUE DATE: April 14, 2021

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Martha Ellis

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: Bobby Blair

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. Public Comment.** Bobby Blair reported that the Holliston Select Board has approved the proposal for the farmer's market at Blair Square. The farmer's market will operate on Sundays between 9:00 a.m. and 1 p.m. from June through October. A discussion followed.
- 3. Approve Minutes from Prior Meetings.** Ken Henderson moved to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.

4. Phipps Tunnel Area Improvements. Ken Henderson reviewed potential first steps to resolve the erosion problems at Phipps Tunnel. Robert Weidknecht reported that a local contractor has recommended that the Town expend funds on an “engineering narrative” that would provide enough information for contractors to bid on the work. A discussion followed about the potential causes of water seepage in the tunnel, and whether it was necessary to obtain an engineering narrative. Herb Brockert will speak with the DPW about the need to fix the runoff of spill water at Highland Street.

5. Trail Work – Tree Cutting and Chipping Day – March 2021. Marc Connelly reported that crews from Tree Specialists, Simkins Tree Service and Stumpy’s Tree Service will split the trail into three pieces and perform tree work on Arbor Day, Friday April 30, 2021. The trail will be closed in areas where the work is being done, and advance notice of the closures will be provided to the public to the extent possible.. Ken Henderson will line up volunteers for traffic control.

6. Encroachments.

- (a) Commercial: Robert Weidknecht reported that two licenses have been finalized with a commercial abutter, and that the abutter at Route 16 is moving and won’t need a license. Robert will meet with a third abutter on Woodland Street who would like to obtain a license for a larger area than originally identified.
- (b) Residential: Robert Weidknecht reported that will be speaking with a residential abutter who claims not to be encroaching on the trail.

7. Blair Square Committee - Liaison Report. Herb Brockert reported that the Select Board has approved the location for the Veterans Park. Fund raising activities will include the sale of memorial bricks. Funding in the amount of \$54,000 is needed for construction drawings and the parking proposal.

8. Trail Conditions.

(a) Drainage Issues.

- I. 1490 Washington Street Detention Basin Outflow (pipe needed): Robert Weidknecht reported that the owner will install a drainage pipe when the weather improves.

- II. Pulte Homes Area (drainage pipe needed at three locations): Members of the Trails Committee will install a test strip of perforated pipes in this area to see if it cures the drainage issues. Work is scheduled for April 3, 2021 at 9 a.m.

(b) Railings – Drilling into Granite and Epoxy for Anchors. Herb Brockert discussed his proposed approach for installing railings into granite ledge and proposed that the project be done this summer. After discussion, Ken Henderson moved to authorize Herb Brockert to purchase anchor bolts, epoxy and brackets for installation of posts at Hopping Brook Road. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.

9. DPW and Leo's. Ken Henderson reported that he provided coffee and coffee cake to the DPW in appreciation for all the work they do in support of the trail. Ken also reported that around 15 Leo's participated in a trail cleanup with Ed Daniels last Thursday from Blair Square towards South Street. The DPW picked up and disposed of the many bags of refuse collected by the Leo's.

10. Set Next Meeting Date. The next meeting will be held on April 14, 2021 at 7 p.m.

11. 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 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Weidknecht – Chairman