

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: May 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM, Emergency Remote Participation

ISSUE DATE: June 16, 2021

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly

PRESENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: None

ABSENT

ALTERNATE MEMBERS: Chris Cain

GUESTS: None

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 April 14, 2021 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Bud Schmitt seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.
- 3. Invoices.**
 - a. Holliston True Value. Mark Kaplan moved to authorize payment to Holliston True Value for a shovel in the amount of \$24.69, to be payable from the Town Meeting 2019 Account. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call was 6-0-0 in favor.

4. Raia Auctioneers - License fee/Parking. Robert Weidknecht reported that Raia Auctioneers notified him that trail users are using their parking lot for trail access. Raia maintains a license agreement for their encroachment on the trail and has asked that the Town of Holliston waive the license fee in exchange for public use of the parking lot. A discussion followed about whether this arrangement might raise potential liability concerns to either the property owner/landlord or the Town of Holliston if accidents in the parking lot occurred. Robert will raise this question with Creative Playthings and town counsel.

5. Phipps Tunnel Area Improvements. Robert Weidknecht reported that he and Herb Brockert drilled holes in the tunnel walls to check whether water pressure was causing the leaks in Phipps Tunnel. Very little water dribbled out, indicating that high water pressure doesn't seem to be the issue. Herb stated that he obtained a quote from a stone mason who estimated the job would take 12 days and cost \$25,000 - \$30,000. Robert will review with the town administrator and see if funding might be available from the Friends of Group. Robert, Herb and Ken Henderson will also discuss the possibility of obtaining a substantial trail maintenance budget with the town administrator.

6. Encroachments.

- (a) Commercial: Robert Weidknecht reported that Mark Dellicker at 340 Woodland Street has requested a license that would permit him to expand the parking lot behind his property for equipment storage purposes. He would like to remove three trees and bamboo/Japanese knotweed, and put in a 40' storage unit on about 1,200 square feet of land. He has agreed that the area will not be paved; that he will install drainage pipes should any runoff occur; and he will not plow snow onto the trail. After discussion, Ken Henderson moved to recommend to the Select Board that it issue a license for 1,200 square feet of unpaved land for the installation of a storage unit no greater than 40', with permission to remove 3 trees and bamboo/japanese knotweed, subject to an ongoing obligation to mitigate any drainage issues and agreement to not plow snow onto the trail. Mark Kaplan seconded the motion, and the vote by roll call in favor of the motion was 6-0-0.
- (b) Residential: Robert Weidknecht reported that only a few residential abutters have cured their encroachments. Robert will document the continuing encroachments and notify the Select Board.

7. Trail Work – Tree Cutting and Chipping Day – April 30, 2021. Ken Henderson reported that crews from Tree Specialists, Simkins Tree Service and Stumpy's Tree Service performed tree work on Friday, April 30, 2021. A group of volunteers did a good job directing foot traffic away from the areas that were worked on. Ken has sent a letter to the Select Board recognizing these three companies for their volunteer efforts and will send thank you letters to the firms directly.

8. Blair Square Committee - Liaison Report. Martha Ellis reported that Blair Square was getting lots of use. Herb Brockert reported that Spring Town Meeting voted to fund \$50,000 for design plans, and the Blair Square Committee was moving forward to put design plans out to bid. Herb also reported that initial construction of the Veterans Memorial had begun.

9. Trail Conditions.

(a) Drainage Issues.

- I. Monroe Drive Area: Robert reported that a Scout group is looking for volunteer projects on June 6, 2021, National Trail Day, and may be available to dig ditches need for installation of drainage pipes in this area. He also suggested a few other possible projects along the trail.

(b) Railings – Drilling into Granite and Epoxy for Anchors. Herb Brockert that he has obtained the necessary brackets and is evaluating specialized drills and drill bits needed to do a test drilling.

10. Maintenance Equipment - Dump trailer investigation. Herb Brockert reported that he has purchased an inexpensive used trailer that he is willing to make available for trail work. Ken will hold off on other purchase options.

11. Town Email Addresses for Committee Members. Robert Weidknecht will approach the Town Administrator about obtaining town email addresses for Committee members.

12. Set Next Meeting Date. The next meeting will be held on June 16, 2021 at 7 p.m.

13. 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 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Robert Weidknecht – Chairman