

Holland Trails Committee Minutes

Date: December 9, 2020

Present: Richard & Chris Haller, Jackie Proko, and Bob Pellicane

Due to COVID-19 concerns, this meeting was convened remotely. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Dick Haller. The minutes of the meeting held October 28th were approved.

Chris presented the treasurer's report. The balance is \$2,350.

Old Business

A discussion of trail cam policy was tabled until Anne Hall can be present.

Janine Drake is still awaiting word from Land Court. In the meantime she is working to make sure that all other documents are prepared. \$44,000 was appropriated at the special town meeting to begin payments on the loan which must be made despite the fact that the land has not been secured. Chris will check with Linda Blodgett to make sure that the funds from the loan are not expended for some other purpose.

Dick has contacted Tom Chamberland about tree planting at the Community Center. Tom has undergone knee surgery, but expects to ready to have a conversation tomorrow or the next day. Dick will phone him then.

New Business

Brian Johnson has committed the resources of the Highway Department to creating a parking area for six to eight cars. Brush will be cleared, the area will be scraped to subsoil, and the Department will pick up, deliver, and spread the 3/4" minus gravel. The Trails Committee is committed to paying for the material.

The Selectmen have approved application for a Massachusetts Trail Grant for the property. The grant is due February first, so, unless the property is acquired by early January, application might not be possible. The grant will require a twenty percent minimum match. The match can include funds

expended, labor and equipment contributed by the town, and the value of volunteer labor.

The match could include: creating a trail head featuring parking, installation of the kiosk and its cost, repair of the existing bridge, planning a the trail system, clearing and marking trails, and installing informational signs. Time spent leading trail walks could also count. The grant could fund the materials to accomplish these tasks as well as the design and installation of a second bridge. The grant could also fund a pamphlet and maps.

It was decided to hold off on creating a calendar until it is clearer what the pandemic will allow.

The Committee voted unanimously to submit a budget request for \$2,350. Dick will write up the specific expenses we expect to incur, but these items will be estimates which can be revised as the year unfolds. They are as follows: 40 tons of 3/4" minus @ \$12 per ton (\$480), delivery, if needed (\$180), signs (\$400), trail marking (\$50), rebuilding bridge (\$600), maps and pamphlet (\$450), and kiosk additions (190).

We meet next on Wednesday, January 27th at 7:00, however, a meeting may be convened at an earlier date, if closing on the Sichol property transpires.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31.

Richard Haller
Chairman