

Holland Trails Committee Minutes

Date: May 25, 2016

Present: Richard & Chris Haller, Jackie Proko, Howie Fife, and Andy Harhay

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Dick Haller. The minutes were approved as read.

Old Business

The portable toilet is in place. So far, there have been no problems.

The cost of the portable toilet has been added to our budget. The Annual Town Meeting is May 31st, and questions may be raised about the increase.

At the budget hearing, some interest was expressed in a town-wide clean-up. Chris will look into the potential cost and into possible grants. Perhaps, an event could be scheduled in the fall.

The town website has been updated. Please check it every now and then.

The test pits and borings have been completed for the Brimfield bridge. The Brimfield 5 K was successful with over 70 runners.

Holland workday was stopped early due to rain. Four volunteers participated for 1 1/2 hours. The trail looks good.

Our first organized day to canoe/kayak the Quinebaug went well despite a few sprinkles. There were 12 participants. There is interest in organizing another, possibly in the afternoon.

Dick contacted Globe Signs. We can have trail markers made, similar to those in Brimfield, for \$6 each. Arrow decals will be included to indicate direction. 5 or 6 will be needed. The Committee voted unanimously to purchase 12 (\$72) so that replacements will be available.

New Business:

The Holland 5K was successful, and two committee members were medal winners. It is not clear if the Runner's Club is continuing.

The Sichel property may be available with the owners interested in preserving the land, nearly 174 acres, as open space. It is also a potential site for senior housing, but probably not other town facilities. There is a lot of potential for trail development.

Opacum is looking for partners to finance the acquisition of this piece. 62% reimbursement from the Commonwealth is a possibility for the portion which remains open space. Howie suggested that 20 acres could be a good amount for senior housing. This would include 920 feet of frontage on Stafford Road.

The Center trail should be completed this spring. The Highway Department will do the work, if we fund the surfacing. The Department will haul the material directly from the yard or quarry.

Stone dust at John S. Lane in Oxford is \$6.35 per ton. Dick is looking into the quarry in Union. The price is likely to be about \$10 per ton, however, the distance is much less, and 1/2" minus, the preferred surface, may be available. The estimate of the material needed for this project is 169 tons. The Committee voted unanimously to spend up to \$1,800 on the surfacing of the Center Trail.

Sen. Gobi advised us to contact the Architectural Compliance Board as this trail must be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Approval by the Board has been obtained for our plan.

The language for the sign to be placed at the trail has been submitted to Paula Bak, Director. A 12" X 16" sign is \$25. This is an appropriate size for mounting on a single 4"X4" post. A sign listing the length of the trail is required for it to be A. D. A. compliant. The Committee voted unanimously to fund the sign.

Our next activity is a trail ride which is scheduled from 10:00 to 12:00 on June 4th.

All present members have indicated that they wish to continue on the Trails Committee. Dick will submit their names to the Selectmen.

upcoming dates:

Tue., May 31st: Annual Town Meeting

Sat., June 4th: trail ride 10-12

Mon., June 13th: town elections

Wed., June 22nd: our next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Richard Haller
Chairman / Secretary