

Envisioning Future Holliston

MINUTES OF MEETING held Monday, July 17, 2023

12:00pm – Travis Ahern called to order and took attendance. Roll call attendance:

Peter Eagan – present
Dee Phair – present
Ben Sparrell – present
Pat Boyd - present
Stacey Raffi – present
Rich Rosenberry – present
Glenn Brown – present
Viktoria Sadlovska Anshu – present
Barbara Peatie (Chair) – present
Jack LeWinter – present
Annie Singh – present

Travis explained the structure the meeting’s agenda, then handed the meeting to Charline Kirongozi, from BerryDunn, to review the draft Strategic Plan document (including mission statement, vision statement, guiding principles and strategic priorities). Charline stated the intention would be to incorporate feedback from the Committee and then post the draft online (via Social Pinpoint) for community feedback during the month of August 2023. Travis indicated written feedback from Marlene Fine was available as she was unable to attend.

Charline reviewed the guidelines for effective communication and reviewed the draft mission and vision statements, with the guiding principles.

The Committee reviewed the mission statement and preferred by consensus to change the opening from “Holliston is...” to “Holliston aspires to be...”.

The Committee recommended alterations to wording the six (6) Strategic Priorities, Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures. Recommendations included combining some objections for clarity.

The Committee requested an explanation on why “Healthy and Connected Community” objectives included a desire to “outsource” or use 3rd party vendors and Travis explained how despite efforts to bolster community outreach, the Town still gets requests for greater communication. Travis explained that the creation of the Assistant Town Administrator / HR Director position led to clear improvements, and the Town is now looking to build on that with additional 3rd party support, instead of additional staffing.

Stacey Raffi expressed concern that the Strategic Priorities did not expressly illustrate the community’s feedback through surveying that goals should focus, in large part, on “Infrastructure,” “Public Safety,” and “Schools”. Charline acknowledged and discussed next steps for “Alignment” discussions regarding existing Departmental Strategic Plans, such as the Holliston Public Schools FY24-28 Strategic Plan.

Due to time restraints, the last two (2) Strategic Priorities and associated Objectives could not be fully discussed. Travis asked that any member of the Committee with thoughts provide those by email to be incorporated prior to BerryDunn posting the draft for community feedback in August.

Charline and Travis explained that other deliverables coming after Labor Day would be a Cost-Benefit Analysis and an Alignment document that compares this Town-Wide Strategic Plan to existing Departmental Strategic Plans.

Travis also indicated dates for September Public Forum(s) would be arranged soon and posted to the Town's website.

2:10pm – Barbara Peatie made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Annie Singh. Roll call.