

Holliston Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2019

Present: Chairman Peter Barbieri, Matt Coletti, David Thorn, Christine Carosella and Oksana Levchenko. Lisa Zais was absent.

Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room (#105) of Town Hall and welcomed new members Christine and Oksana.

General Business:

1. **Downtown Updates** – Members discussed the vacant TD Bank building and its potential re-use for Town and library needs as well as the potential sale of Santander Bank and re-opening of the former Gulf Station at the corner of Green Street. It was noted that a new gas pump canopy is being proposed and a question was asked about circulation and access through the site given the traffic signal location on Washington, controlling flows on Exchange and Green Streets. It was noted that the Green Street Committee has scoped work for hire of a Licensed Site Professional and will seek a Reserve Fund Transfer for funding. No final determination of a use for the site has been determined.
2. **Industrial Parks** – Hopping Brook Park Phase II has secured a P&S agreement and permitting is expected through the Conservation Commission and Planning Board in the next month or so for a 800,000 s.f. distribution facility. Proponents will be contacted and invited to attend the January meeting.
3. **Zoning/Planning Applications** – The Zoning Board has granted an extension to the Comprehensive Permit for the Bird property but has received an update from the applicant that they have selected a solar vendor to install a large ground-mounted system in place of housing. Permitting is set to begin in January.
4. **EDC Grant Program** – After some discussion of its purpose and next steps, Mr. Coletti made a motion to recommend to the Selectmen that the proposed legislation go forward as drafted given the opposition by the Finance Committee to program development that would be town-funded. Mt. Thorn seconded with all in favor (Ms. Carosella and Ms. Levchenko).
5. **Miscellaneous** –The Chairman updated members on the Blair Square Committee activities, noting Beals & Thomas has agreed without charge to complete the design and no public restrooms are included at this time. The DCR MassTrails Grant has been secured and the easement to relocate the trail in that area is being secured from the owners of Casey's Crossing. That project is slated to begin in spring. The Chairman asked if anyone was interested in representing the Town at the 495 Partnership. A letter of interest should be submitted to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Coletti agreed to draft a letter to the Holliston Business Association as an open invitation for collaboration. Discussion will be continued in January. Some discussion of committee goals was begun and will continue at the next session, including potential for small business networking and mentoring. Mr. Thorn noted that the owners of Bar Athena had expressed an interest in visiting the committee.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sherman
Town Planner

Approved Jan. 6, 2020 Vote 5-0 (Lisa Zias Absent)