

Holliston Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2018

Present: Chairman Peter Barbieri, Susan Russo, Lisa Zais, David Thorn and Matt Coletti. Also present was Town Administrator Jeff Ritter.

Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room (#105) of Town Hall.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mr. Coletti, with all in favor, the members approved the minutes of May 3, 2018 as written.

General Business:

1. **Downtown Discussion:** Mr. Ritter provided an update on the traffic signal installation project. Completion remains slated for the end of June. The Chairman stated that the Blair Square Committee has met and is discussing expanding and formalizing public parking. It was noted that the septic system at the Superette Building will be replaced shortly and that 9 Green Street remains under agreement with ongoing due diligence.
2. **Industrial Park Updates:** Paving has been completed on Kuniholm Drive at the entrance of New Englander Industrial Park. The Chairman noted that Select was before the Conservation Commission regarding their planned building for 58 Hopping Brook Road as well as the retrofit and close-out of permit for the Upper Charles Trail parking lot and the stormwater management system for the overall site. Mr. Ritter noted that DEP Solid Waste Section had issued a permit for the continued use of 157 Lowland Street for asphalt, brick and concrete recycling.
3. **Large Business Tours:** Ms. Sherman noted that SE Shires is willing to host a tour at their new facility at 260 Hopping Brook Road. The Chairman will schedule a visit with Wayne Griffin Electric and potentially WEB Industries in Hopping Brook Park. Mr. Ritter will schedule with Harvard BioScience et al in New Englander Industrial Park. The goal is for teams to visit the businesses to discuss concerns and opportunities.
4. **Economic Development Funding Programs:** All were in agreement that the Town should pursue a funding program (likely grants) for signs and facades and potentially rental assistance, similar to Ashland's programs. Additional models will be reviewed, including the potential for programmatic gifts and partnerships with local banks under the Community Investment Act. The issue will be discussed again and then brought to the Board of Selectmen.
5. **Other Business:** Mr. Ritter noted that the 495/Metrowest Partnership has recently issued two calls for sites, one for a tap room with retail and office space and the other for 1.2 million square feet for corporate offices and distribution. The Chairman noted that he had responded to the tap room request with the Highland Farm site. Hopping Brook Business Park has submitted a response for the distribution facility. Mr. Ritter also confirmed that Herb Chambers had donated a vehicle for use by the Council on Aging. Mr. Coletti expressed an interest in pursuing a nuisance by-law to spur property maintenance. Mrs. Russo announced the Garden Club weekend tours scheduled for June 9 & 10.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded with all in favor. The next meeting was scheduled for July 5th.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sherman
Town Planner