

Holliston Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2019

Present: Chairman Peter Barbieri, Matt Coletti, David Thorn and Lisa Zais

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.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Coletti, seconded by Mr. Thorn, the members approved the minutes of October 9, 2019 as drafted, noting there was no quorum, but no votes taken either.

General Business:

1. **Downtown Updates** – Members discussed the vacant TD Bank building and its re-use and marketing as well as the potential sale of Santander Bank.
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. Potential development of 2019 Washington Street located just east of Hopping Brook was briefly discussed. Mrs. Zais noted that she had experienced an inquiry about re-use of the ABC Glass building across the street.
3. **Budget** – On a motion by Mr. Thorn, seconded by Mr. Coletti with Mr. Barbieri abstaining, members approved the annual dues payment to the Metrowest Chamber of Commerce.
4. **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. A Special Permit petition for a cell tower proposal to be located on an existing NSTAR transmission line pole has been continued until late January based on requests for additional information.
5. **Miscellaneous** – Some discussion followed on the potential for Cumberland Farms to locate on Washington Street in West Holliston, across from Popoe Industrial Park. The issue of a cap on available tobacco licenses from the Board of Health was raised as a potential roadblock to their location in the community. Members were supportive of lobbying the Board of Health to either grant a variance or amend its cap based on the scale of the retail business being proposed. The Chairman updated members on the Blair Square Committee activities, noting Beals & Thomas has been contracted 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.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded with all in favor. The appointment of new members will be confirmed with Mr. Ritter for a meeting in December.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sherman
Town Planner

Approved Jan. 8, 2020 Vote 3-0-2 (abstentions Christine Carosella and Oksana Levchenko, absent Lisa Zias)