

Holliston Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2021

Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Legislation. A roll call vote of Members present was taken. **Present:** Chairman Peter Barbieri, Glen Brown, Matt Coletti and Christine Carosella. David Thorn and Lisa Zais were absent.

1. **Budget:** The Chair reviewed with the Committee the draft of a level funded budget per the guidelines of the Finance Committee and reported that it did not appear feasible at least for the upcoming year to share a Director's position with the Town of Hopkinton. Upon motion by Matt Coletti seconded by Glenn Brown the committee voted unanimously to approve the level funded budget.
2. **Industrial Park Discussion 555 Hopping Brook Road Economic Impact.** The Committee reviewed the draft of letter to the Planning Board in support of the economic impact from the proposed development of 555 Hopping Brook Park. Edits to the letter included requesting that the Planning Board include a request for preference of jobs to Holliston residents, correcting of language relative to abutters receiving funds rather than having had received funds and including specific information on the makeup of the Town's Industrial Property tax base and the impact of the identified taxes from the Development.

Several residents expressed their concern as to the impact of the development on the value of their property due to the increased traffic and size of the development and questioned the town's receipt of the taxes.

The Committee believed that overall the project would provide economic benefit to the Town and the Committee upon a motion by Matt Coletti, seconded by Christine Carosella vote unanimously to send the letter as revised to the Planning Board of the economic benefits from the Development.

3. **Downtown Discussion.** Travis Ahern reported that funding was approved at the recent town meeting to proceed design, engineering and planning for the demolition of the 9 Green Street Building and the creation of a parking lot.
4. **Website.** The Chair inquired as to the Committee's opinion on the development as part of the Committees webpage a business directory. The Committee was in support and upon motion by Christine Carosella seconded by Matt Coletti, the Committee voted unanimously to proceed with the business directory.
5. **Minutes.** The minutes of December were reviewed. On a motion by Matt Coletti seconded by Christina Carosella the minutes of December 17, 2020 were approved by unanimous vote.
6. **Zoning/Planning Applications.** No new commercial zoning/planning applications were received.

Holliston Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2021

7. Economic Development/ Master Plan. The Committee acknowledged receipt of the current (1999) Master Plan for the Town. Travis Ahern noted that the Select Board is discussing conducting an update of the Master Plan. The Committee is in support of updating the Master Plan and agreed to send a letter to the Select Board in support of updating the plan.
8. New Business. There was no discussion of any new Business

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Barbieri
Chairman

Approved Feb. 10, 2021