

Holliston Economic Development Committee
January 12, 2021 – Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Legislation. A roll call vote of Members present was taken.
 - Present: Chairman Matt Coletti, Glen Brown, Christine Carosella, David Thorn, John Drohan, and Patrick Hafford
 - Absent: Travis Ahearn
 - Also in attendance: Tina Hein

Budget/Staffing/Membership:

- Don't anticipate any changes to budget amount or how its allocated. Matt will provide update to Travis.

Downtown Discussion:

- **Two updates provided by Travis via email.**
 - Downtown 1- The 9 Green Street demolition is complete and PARE Corp. will be with the Select Board on February 7th to discuss the final scope for bidding the construction project to start in the spring for a lot to support downtown businesses and Goodwill Park
 - Downtown 2 - On January 18 a public forum (announcement attached) will be held during the Select Board meeting to solicit input on the desire of the community to conduct a feasibility study related to the existing WWTP on Linden Street. I expect a lot of feedback, and official EDC feedback would be welcome in the form of a letter or a representative coming to that meeting.

Member Reports:

- **Select Board 1/4/2022 Activity re: Host Community Agreements:** Matt interested in hearing from Tina on recent Select Board discussion. Tina informed the group that it was not a hearing, and happy to discuss how they would approach an HCA. For commentary, the recording is now available. This particular applicant had several points of questions over three meetings. Two opportunities to come back with additional information. Select Board is not saying no to Cannabis, Select Board has a long history of approving HCAs, but the board is going to be selective in applicants. It is a Planning Board review as well for special permit process. Matt asked how EDC could participate as advocates for economic development in Holliston. Tina informed the group that we are all working under the town master plan. That the committee can provide input into LRRP/ARPA requests; have a member of committee to come to forums (ex. The downtown sewer meeting happening on 1/18 at 7pm). 2/7 forum for 9 Green street parking. Action for EDC is to monitor Select Board meetings and take part as necessary.
- **LRRP/ARPA update:** Tina provided an update on requests. Two focus areas – Central Street; EDC is in sync with Select Board. Two awards through State - \$650M for water and sewer projects.

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Leaning towards waste water facility and sewer. Appropriate 27,500 for promotional video for town, fairly final draft.

- **Update from Travis via email:** Provided the Funding Assistance Report that the LRRP program provides to tell the community where to find funding on both (1) the Central Street branding/wayfinding and (2) Blair Square placemaking projects. See page 26 of a summary for the grant opportunities that I will look to apply for.
- **EDC grant program:**
- **Envisioning Future of Holliston:** Glenn provided an update from meeting and group did not think there was need to do a mailer, or funding for gift certificates. No action needed from EDC moving forward.
- **EDC website / directory:** No updates
- **Grant opportunities:** No updates

Other Business:

- **How can we make this committee more effective?**
 - Most work needs to be done outside of meeting, need additional roles established. Liaison with committees; town administrator; communication from this group to Town.
 - Map out 2022 calendar – what events do we want to participate in; what events do we want to be involved in.
 - Matt – continue to communicate with Travis and Select Board
 - Christine – own calendar, town events, next meeting people bring ideas of what we want from the town
 - Patrick – update group on town meetings attended. You can email group; you just can't discuss via email.
 - Glenn – website the key to communication with small business community and town
 - John – help with communication to small business; make a plan to get everyone on the website
 - David – liaison with some of the other groups. Keeping up with other boards and what's going on there.
 - Newsletter – information to businesses in town on what's happening
 - February Forum – John to reach out to 4 businesses to join February meeting.
- February meeting moved from Feb 9 to Feb 2.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Coletti
Chairman