

# **TOWN OF HOLLISTON FALL TOWN MEETING**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex, ss.

Town of Holliston

To any Constable of the Town of Holliston, Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Holliston who are qualified to vote in Town Affairs to meet in the Holliston High School Auditorium, 370 Hollis Street, Holliston, MA:

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023**

at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following Articles, to wit:

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|--|--------|
| 1. General Stabilization Fund (Transfer to Fund)                         | pg. 2  |
| 2. Pension Stabilization Fund (Transfer to Fund)                         | pg. 2  |
| 3. Capital Expenditure Fund (Transfer to Fund)                           | pg. 2  |
| 4. Capital Budget  | pg. 3  |
| 5. Sidewalk and Ramp Repairs & Reconstruction (Year 2)                   | pg. 4  |
| 6. Temporary Signalization of Whitney Street at Washington Street        | pg. 4  |
| 7. Establish Opioid Settlement Stabilization Account                     | pg. 5  |
| 8. Opioid Settlement Stabilization Account (Transfer to Fund)            | pg. 5  |
| 9. Envisioning Future Holliston Presentation of Town-Wide Strategic Plan | pg. 6  |
| 10. Architectural and Conceptual Design of Senior Center Improvements    | pg. 6  |
| 11. Community Preservation Committee (CPC)                               | pg. 7  |
| 12. Historic Commission Survey & Planning Grant Match                    | pg. 8  |
| 13. Transfer to EV Charging Revolving Fund                               | pg. 8  |
| 14. Tree Bylaw (General Bylaw)   | pg. 9  |
| 15. MBTA Zoning & Mapping – Professional Services                        | pg. 11 |
| 16. Town Zoning Map Adoption   | pg. 12 |
| 17. Conveyance of Land of Low Municipal Value (15 Winthrop Street)       | pg. 12 |
| 18. All-Alcohol Liquor License (Special Legislation) - Petition          | pg. 13 |
| 19. Citizens' Petition: Lowland Street                                   | pg. 13 |

## **ARTICLE 1: GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND**

**SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

**ESTIMATED COST: \$250,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the General Stabilization Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** The Stabilization Fund, with Town Meeting approval, can be used to address extraordinary expenses. This Article ensures that the balance of the General Stabilization Fund stays within range of the Town's Financial Policies as updated in Nov. 2021, specifically moving funds to stay above the target of 12% of General Fund Expenditures, but below the maximum ratio of 18%. With an estimated balance of \$9.21 million at the end of the prior fiscal year, and no planned use within the Warrant below, the projected ending balance of the fund after Oct. Fall Town Meeting would be \$9.46 million, or 13% of the FY24 budgeted expenditures. *(\$250,000 from Free Cash)*

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## **ARTICLE 2: PENSION STABILIZATION FUND**

**SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

**ESTIMATED COST: \$250,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Pension Stabilization Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** The May 2021 Annual Town Meeting established a fund to address the unfunded liability associated with pensions of municipal employees. State statute dictates that pension systems must be fully funded by 2040, and both the Middlesex County Retirement System (MCRS) and the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System (MTRS) are approximately 50% funded. The Fund will allow the Town to address its unfunded liability between now and 2037 while continuing to meet its current obligations. Should the legally required contributions to MCRS increase significantly in future years, this fund can also be used to protect the Town from negative budget impacts related to meeting this obligation. With an estimated starting balance of \$646,000, this appropriation would bring the balance to approximately \$896,000, invested with the State's PRIT system, consistent with the Town's OPEB Trust Fund. *(\$250,000 from Free Cash)*

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## **ARTICLE 3: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUND**

**SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

**ESTIMATED COST: TBD**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Capital Expenditure Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** The Capital Expenditure Fund (CapEx) is used to fund capital expenses. An illustrative example of those capital expenses can be found under the Capital Budget (Article 4) in this Warrant.

The Town also appropriated \$2.35 million into the CapEx Fund at the May 2023 Annual Town Meeting. However, with approved spending in May 2023 and the articles herein that will utilize the CapEx Fund (Articles 4 and 5), the total balance of the fund has been drawn down from its peak balance of just under \$9 million to \$2.7 million as of July 1, 2023, in order to accomplish

significant capital projects with cash as opposed to borrowing, namely the DPW Facility Project. The balance cannot be drawn down below \$1.5 million or the Town would be at risk of conflicting with the Financial Policies. Articles 4 and 5, below, are the primary uses of CapEx funding in October 2023, and therefore the ability to replenish the fund with this article will determine the extent to which all capital requests can be accomplished at this Fall Town Meeting. *(From Free Cash, amount TBD)*

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#### **ARTICLE 4: CAPITAL BUDGET**

**SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

**ESTIMATED COST: \$1,260,800**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of capital expenditures, including replacement of old vehicles and equipment, for the following departments: Police, Ambulance, DPW (Highway & Grounds), Facilities, Parks & Recreation, and Schools, including the expenditures listed below, and authorize the Select Board to trade or sell equipment toward part of the purchase price; or take any action relative thereto.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Estimated Amount</b>
EMS (ALS) Technology & Equipment	Ambulance	\$253,000
Fire Personal Protective Equipment	Fire	\$78,000
Police Vehicles (2 Cruisers & 1 Admin. Hybrid)	Police	\$170,800
Public Safety Drone Program	Public Safety	\$27,500
Reconfiguration of Public Safety Dispatch	Facilities	\$40,000
1750 Washington St. HVAC Units & Reconfig.	Facilities	\$40,000
Library ADA Access Improvements	Facilities	\$20,000
Bucket Truck with Attachments	DPW (Hwy. & Grounds)	\$241,000
Rail Trail Parking at Mayflower Landing Crossing	DPW & Trails Comm.	\$12,500
High School Baseball Field Screening & Backstop	Parks Comm.	\$228,000
Student Technology Devices – Grades 5 & 8	School	\$150,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$1,260,800</b>

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** It is the custom of the Town to fund and appropriate to departments specific project requests during the Fall Special Town Meeting. At the May Annual Town Meeting, \$1,270,060 was authorized to be spent from the Capital Expenditure Fund for the Capital Budget, and with the \$1,260,800 proposed in this article, a total of \$2,530,860 would be authorized for these purposes in total for May and October 2023.

There are other articles (May and October) that may independently request the utilization of CapEx funding, and those are also considered when determining appropriate allocation. See comments for Article 3 related to cash flow (in and out) for the Capital Expenditure Fund.  
*(\$1,260,800 from Capital Expenditure Fund)*

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## **ARTICLE 5: SIDEWALK AND RAMP REPAIRS & RECONSTRUCTION (Year 2)**

**SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

**ESTIMATED COST: \$1,000,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for localized repairs or reconstruction of existing public sidewalks or ramps, including the labor, cost of materials and disposal of materials, or take any action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** A previously approved and procured evaluation of the Town's sidewalk infrastructure has highlighted a "backlog" of sidewalks and ramps that require repair for various reasons, with ADA-compliance being the driving factor in prioritizing these repairs. The consultant, Stantec, listed projects in the [2021 Pedestrian Accessibility Report \(link\)](#) to be done over a 10-year period by applying Network Priority Ranking (NPR) scores to the condition and use of the infrastructure. The purpose of this article is to address only projects listed in the Stantec report as "reconstruction" or "localized repair," and this funding will not be used to address any project in the Stantec report that refers to "new" construction.

A Working Group of Select Board and Finance Committee members determined that the initial article to address this backlog would be done through the use of "at least" \$1 million in cash at the Oct. 17, 2022 Fall Town Meeting, with a commitment to annually fund these "backlog" costs through cash, with a potential borrowing only to be considered should this funding method not prove viable. In the first year, DPW was able to address a significant portion of the backlog and to maintain momentum in scheduling construction into spring 2024, the request is to fund the second year of this plan with cash to continue to address the backlog. *(\$1,000,000 from the Capital Expenditure Fund)*

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## **ARTICLE 6: TEMPORARY SIGNALIZATION OF WHITNEY STREET AT WASHINGTON STREET**

**SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

**ESTIMATED COST: \$150,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the rental or lease of equipment to signalize the intersection of Whitney Street and Washington Street and to make recommended physical changes to allow for a left turn lane and right turn lane when exiting to Washington Street; or take any action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** The Town engaged a traffic engineer (McMahon, a Bowman Company) to evaluate heavy commercial vehicles (i.e. trucks over 2.5 tons) utilizing local residential roads as a means of access to and from the industrial park. McMahon identified the lack of a traffic signal at Whitney Street and Washington Street as a prime reason why vehicles are utilizing other means of access to and from the park, as the unsignalized entrance/exit of the industrial park can be difficult for large commercial vehicles.

The Town will work with MassDOT to pursue grant funding for permanent signalization at this intersection, however, to improve the traffic flow of this area immediately, McMahon recommended pursuing a temporary signal solution, which is estimated at a rental of approximately \$7,000 per month with other physical improvements also needed. From community discussion, it appears that improvements at Whitney Street and Washington Street are anticipated to benefit business and resident concerns alike, and therefore if the Town is in

favor of temporary signalization, the funding should be considered necessary until such time that a permanent solution can be finalized, which may take up to 2-4 years, in a process initiated with the State's regional transportation planning organization this past summer. ***(\$150,000 from Free Cash)***

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**ARTICLE 7: ESTABLISH OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION ACCOUNT**  
**SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of MGL c. 40, s. 5B, to create a new special purpose stabilization fund, to be known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and further, to adopt the last paragraph of said s. 5B and dedicate to such fund, without further appropriation, 100% of the opioid litigation settlement funds received by the Town; or take any action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** The Town has followed the guidance from the Mass. Department of Revenue (MassDOR) stipulating that the funds received in FY2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) must flow to "Free Cash" and then be appropriated. The Town is segregating these funds on the books because Opioid Settlement funds must be used for specific purposes, listed below. The Town will work with various stakeholders between October 2023 and May 2024 to develop the future use of these funds and the funds anticipated to be received over the coming 10 years.

Allowable uses in the future, per Massachusetts State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements:

1. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment
  2. Support People In Treatment And Recovery
  3. Connection To Care
  4. Harm Reduction
  5. Address The Needs Of Criminal-Justice-Involved Persons
  6. Support Pregnant Or Parenting Women And Their Families, Including Babies With Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
  7. Prevent Misuse Of Opioids And Implement Prevention Education
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**ARTICLE 8: TRANSFER TO OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION ACCOUNT**  
**SPONSORED BY: Select Board** **ESTIMATED COST: \$61,500**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** The Town received \$61,500 in Opioid Settlement funds in FY2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) with additional funds anticipated over the coming 10 years. Whereas Article 7, above, clarifies that future funding will be directed into the newly established account, the funds already received must be moved by Town Meeting. This Article does not prescribe the use of funds, but future use will require 2/3 vote by Town Meeting and must align with the Settlement Agreement, described in Article 7. ***(\$61,500 from Free Cash)***

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## **ARTICLE 9: ENVISIONING FUTURE HOLLISTON PRESENTATION OF TOWN-WIDE STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **SPONSORED BY: Town Administrator**

To hear a report of the Envisioning Future Holliston Committee and the Town's Consultant, BerryDunn, or take any action relative thereto.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:** The Envisioning Future Holliston Committee, with the support of the consultant BerryDunn, has engaged the community through the use of public forums, public meetings, online surveys and workshops, to align the priorities of Holliston stakeholders within a Town-Wide Strategic Plan including: (1) Mission Statement, (2) Vision Statement, (3) Guiding Principles, and (4) Strategic Priorities. Within the seven (7) Strategic Priorities in the Plan, each strategic priority has Objectives for the next five (5) years (FY25-29).

A summary presentation will be made at Town Meeting with additional materials provided, but updated Strategic Planning documents can be found via [www.townofholliston.us](http://www.townofholliston.us) by going to the Envisioning Future Holliston Social Pinpoint Website.

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## **ARTICLE 10: ARCHITECTURAL AND CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF SENIOR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS**

### **SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

**ESTIMATED COST: \$25,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to engage an architectural firm to perform conceptual designs of options to maximize and optimize the space at the Holliston Senior Center located at 150 Goulding Street; or take any action relative thereto.

**COA COMMENTS:** Commissioning an architectural study for the Holliston Senior Center's existing facility is a vital step in our growth and transformation efforts. Here are some of the most compelling reasons to request funding for the study:

#### **Short-term Benefits:**

- 1. Immediate Safety Concerns:** The study can identify any safety hazards or areas of non-compliance with current codes, ensuring immediate rectification.
- 2. Efficient Space Utilization:** The architect can suggest quick changes to make the best use of the existing space, potentially enhancing service offerings without requiring large-scale construction.
- 3. Cost Savings:** A preliminary study can highlight inefficiencies in the current setup, such as poor insulation or outdated HVAC systems, which when addressed, could lead to immediate cost savings.
- 4. Accessibility:** Ensuring the facility meets ADA standards or other local accessibility guidelines can open the center up to a broader demographic sooner rather than later.
- 5. Community Engagement:** Showing proactive steps toward improvement can boost community morale and encourage greater participation, thus reinforcing the need for

more advanced changes down the road.\*Note: this is of particular importance given the growth in this segment of the population.

**Long-term Benefits:**

1. **Strategic Planning:** An in-depth architectural study lays the groundwork for long-term planning, helping us understand what's feasible in terms of expansions or renovations.
2. **Modernization:** The study will provide insights into how the facility can be updated to cater to the evolving needs of the 55+ community, from technology infrastructure to multipurpose spaces.
3. **Sustainability:** Recommendations from the study can guide how the center can adopt environmentally sustainable practices, an increasingly important concern for public funding.
4. **Grant and Funding Eligibility:** A professional study can strengthen grant applications and funding requests, providing data to substantiate the need for future investments.
5. **Local Economic Development:** An updated, modern facility can serve as a community hub, attracting more residents and thereby indirectly boosting local property values and quality of life.
6. **Interagency Collaboration:** An updated and attractive facility can better support partnerships with other community departments, creating a more cohesive community service network.
7. **Adaptability:** The study will provide a framework for how the center can remain adaptable to future needs, ensuring its relevance for years to come.
8. **Political Leverage:** A well-documented study can provide the necessary data points and projections for future community dialogues regarding budget allocation and focus.

***(\$25,000 from Free Cash)***

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**ARTICLE 11: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

**SPONSORED BY: CPC**

**ESTIMATED COST: \$14,325**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money for the following uses; or take any action relative thereto.

Service Area	Description	Reserve Use	Cost
Historical Society	Repair and repainting of the ell of the Asa Whiting House (sunset June 30, 2024)	Historic Resources Reserve	\$ 11,000
Historical Society	Partial repairs to cornice/soffit of the Historical Society barn (sunset June 30, 2024)	Historic Resources Reserve	\$ 3,325

**CPC COMMENTS:** At Town Meeting. *(\$14,325 from Community Preservation Fund)*

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**ARTICLE 12: HISTORIC COMMISSION SURVEY & PLANNING GRANT MATCH**  
**SPONSORED BY: Historic Commission** **ESTIMATED COST: \$15,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to match grant funds from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to conduct an inventory of historic places in downtown Holliston; or take any action relative thereto.

**HISTORIC COMMISSION COMMENTS:** Holliston's historic resources are currently under- or un-documented. The last systematic effort to document historic buildings, cemeteries, landscape, and objects took place in the 1980s. Some places that we consider significant today have never been documented. Historic preservation has also changed since the 1980s, and the standard for documenting a historic place exceeds the capabilities of the volunteer historical commission. The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) provides federally funded, reimbursable 50/50 matching grants to towns to complete this work through the Survey and Planning Grant program. MHC matches successful applicants with approved consultants and would support the Holliston Historical Commission in managing the work. The survey will focus primarily on buildings located on Central, Norfolk, and Railroad Streets; undocumented buildings on Washington Street or other nearby streets may also be added on the advice of the consultant and as funding permits. The project will complete the state register of historic places documentation for approximately 100 structures and provide a foundation for future preservation planning including demolition delay decisions and supporting the goals developed in the Town's strategic planning process. *(\$15,000 from Free Cash)*

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**ARTICLE 13: FUNDING OF EV CHARGING REVOLVING FUND**  
**SPONSORED BY: Town Administrator** **ESTIMATED COST: \$10,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to provide seed funding of the EV Charging Revolving Fund, previously established by Town Meeting, for the purpose of paying for the upfront costs of installment of EV charging units in municipal lots and partially offset the operations and maintenance of said EV charging units, for which the Select Board has adopted a fee structure for public use of EV parking in municipal lots; or take any action relative thereto.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:** The Town's first EV charging station with a pay station for payment per kWh is set to go live on Green Street with the completion of this new municipal lot. Costs of the Green Street project were offset significantly by State funding and therefore the upfront costs of operating and maintaining EV charging stations was borne by the project. To progress with other publicly available pay stations for EV charging, the Town will need to cover the upfront costs prior to executing contracts and requesting Eversource to put in the conduit needed via their Make Ready Program. These potential next locations include the municipal lot on Exchange Street (behind the Central Fire Station), the municipal building at 1750 Washington Street which is in close proximity to the Rail Trail, and Pinecrest Golf Course. *(\$10,000 from Free Cash)*

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## **ARTICLE 14: TREE BYLAW**

### **SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaws by adding a new Article XLVII, entitled “Tree Protection & Preservation Bylaw” as follows:

## **ARTICLE XLVII**

### **TREE PROTECTION & PRESERVATION**

#### **Section 1. Intent and Purpose**

Trees are recognized for their abilities to improve air quality, protect from glare and heat, reduce noise, aid in the stabilization of soil, provide natural flood and drainage control, create habitats for wildlife, enhance aesthetics and property values, contribute to the distinct character of certain neighborhoods, provide natural privacy to neighbors, and reduce ambient carbon in the atmosphere.

Therefore, the Town deems that the preservation and protection of Public Shade Trees pursuant to General Law Chapter 87 and plantings on public grounds, the requirement to replant trees to replace those removed, and/or the collection of financial contributions to support the Town’s tree planting and maintenance efforts are public purposes that protect the public health, welfare, environment and aesthetics.

This article is adopted in accordance with the authority granted by Amendment Article 89 to Article II of the Massachusetts Constitution, Chapter 294 of the Acts of Massachusetts 1920, as amended, and the powers granted to cities in the Massachusetts General Laws.

#### **Section 2. Definitions**

Public Shade Tree – Any tree within the public right-of-way except for state highways that, as determined by the Tree Warden, has any portion of the stem actively growing into the public right-of-way.

Town Tree - Any tree within a public park or open space under the jurisdiction of the any Town board, body, officer or agent, on public school grounds, or on any other Town-held fee or interest in land or land under the care, custody and control of any Town board, body, officer or agent.

Tree Warden - See Article XXXIII of the General By-Laws. Additionally, the Tree Warden shall be authorized to expend funds appropriated for planting trees and enforce provisions of this by-law. The Tree Warden shall utilize the standards of ANSI A300 to the extent practicable in all aspects of tree planting, maintenance and removal.

#### **Section 3. Applicability**

1. Applicability: The requirements of this Article shall apply under any of the following circumstances:
  - Proposed cutting of existing public shade trees on public ways including those subject to review under Section 3 of Article IX on designated Scenic Roads, or
  - Proposed cutting of Town Trees

2. Exemptions: The requirements of this Article shall not apply to:
- Those areas of property under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c. 131 s. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00 *et seq.*) and the Holliston Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Article XXXI), wherein the Conservation Commission regulates the retention and/or replacement of trees
  - Emergency projects necessary for public safety, health and welfare as determined by the Building Inspector, Tree Warden, or Fire Chief.

#### **Section 4. Public Shade Trees and Town Trees**

A Public Shade Tree or Town Tree shall not be cut, pruned, removed or damaged by any person or the Town until and unless the Tree Warden issues a written permit pursuant to this section which may contain conditions as deemed appropriate by the Tree Warden including mitigation. This permit shall be in addition to, and not in place of, any other necessary license, approval or permit which may otherwise be required.

Any person seeking to prune or remove a public shade tree or Town tree shall submit an application to the Tree Warden in accordance with any published application requirements. The Tree Warden shall hold a public hearing on applications for removal, at the expense of the applicant, in accordance with provisions outlined in MGL c. 87. Any permit issued by the Tree Warden may specify schedules, terms, and conditions as deemed appropriate by the Tree Warden.

#### **Section 5. Town of Holliston Tree Gift Fund**

Any contributions collected per this Article shall be deposited in the Tree Gift Fund. Funds contributed for specific purposes must be clearly stated and accepted by the Holliston Select Board. Funds voluntarily contributed as mitigation for removal of trees as part of public or private development shall clearly state the purpose of the mitigation and be communicated clearly to the Holliston Select Board with the deposit of funds.

#### **Section 6. Rules and Regulations**

The Tree Warden may promulgate or amend Rules and Regulations which pertain to the administration of this Article, and shall file a copy of said rules in the office of the Town Clerk. Such rules may prescribe the size, form, contents, style, and number of copies of plans and specifications, the procedure for the submission and approval of such plans, the procedure for determining final compliance with these regulations. The adoption or amendment of Rules and Regulations shall be after a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed or amended Rules and Regulations. The public hearing shall be advertised once in a newspaper of general local circulation, at least 14 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

#### **Section 7. Enforcement**

A Public Shade Tree or Town Tree shall not be cut, pruned, removed or damaged by any person or the Town until and unless the Tree Warden issues a written permit pursuant to this section, nor shall any person or the Town fail to comply with any enforcement order issued pursuant to this Bylaw.

The Tree Warden shall have authority to enforce this Bylaw, its Regulations, and permits issued thereunder by letters, phone calls, electronic communication and other informal methods, violation notices, non-criminal citations under G.L. Ch. 40 s. 21D, and civil and criminal court actions.

Any person who violates provisions of this Bylaw may be ordered to restore the property to its original condition and take other action deemed necessary to remedy such violations, or may be fined, or both.

Upon request of the Tree Warden, the Select Board and Town Counsel shall take legal action for enforcement under civil law. Municipal boards and officers, including any police officer or other officer having police powers, shall have authority to assist the Tree Warden in enforcement.

Any person who violates any provision of this Bylaw, Regulations, permits, or administrative orders issued thereunder, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300. Each day or portion thereof during which a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense, and each provision of the Bylaw, Regulations, permits, or administrative orders violated shall constitute a separate offense.

As an alternative to criminal prosecution in a specific case, the Tree Warden may issue citations with specific penalties pursuant to the non-criminal disposition procedure set forth in G.L. Ch. 40 s. 21D, which has been adopted by the Town in Article XXIV s. 9 of the general bylaws. The penalty shall be \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the second violation, and \$300 for each and all successive violations.

#### **Section 8. Severability**

The invalidity of any section or provision of this bylaw shall not invalidate any other section or provision thereof, nor shall it invalidate any permit, approval or determination which previously has been issued.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** The Tree Ordinance is a required component of the Town's application to become a Tree City USA Community. It builds a basic framework for regulating public shade trees within our street network as well as other Town trees under the jurisdiction of the Tree Warden pursuant to the Shade Tree Act (MGL c. 87, s. 3). The implementation of regulations will need to follow adoption of this Article through a Public Hearing process in order to develop standards for application, tree replacement and mitigation.

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#### **ARTICLE 15: MBTA ZONING & MAPPING – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

**ESTIMATED COST: \$50,000**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund consultants and related expenses to assist in the development of zoning by-law amendments to comply with the multi-family zoning district provisions of MGL c. 40A, s. 3A, the MBTA Communities Zoning Law; or take any action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** As an MBTA Adjacent Community, Holliston has until December 2024 to implement provisions that meet the Compliance Guidelines for establishment of a zoning district capable of producing 750 housing units with a minimum gross density of 15 units per acre “as of right.” The Town’s ability to comply with the new state guidelines is impacted by septic restraints, and this article would allocate funding to engage specialized professional services (a consultant) to support the Town’s efforts to address housing needs through the MBTA Communities Zoning Law and beyond. The Town Administrator, Town Planner, Health Agent and representatives from the Select Board, Planning Board and Board of Health would form a Working Group to interface with the consultant on the potential implementation of the provisions in the Compliance Guidelines. *(\$50,000 from Free Cash)*

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## **ARTICLE 16: TOWN ZONING MAP ADOPTION**

### **SPONSORED BY: Planning Board**

To see if the Town will amend Zoning By-Law at Section II-B Location of Districts by replacing the record maps in their entirety with the following consolidated parcel-based map entitled “Town of Holliston Zoning Map” 1”=1500’ prepared by Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated (dated September 2023); no district changes are contemplated as this is a change to the base map itself; or take any action relative thereto.

**PLANNING BOARD COMMENTS:** The Planning Board voted in favor of sponsoring this article on September 14, 2023 and a Public Hearing is advertised for October 12, 2023. The Zoning Map is an integral informational layer in the Town’s GIS system (SimpliCITY Mapping by People GIS) as well as being an anchor component of the Town’s Zoning By-Law. It is used daily as a vital tool for town departments and residents as well as professionals in the real estate and development fields. [Direct link to Zoning Map \(here\)](http://www.townofholliston.us) can also be found via [www.townofholliston.us](http://www.townofholliston.us)

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## **ARTICLE 17: CONVEYANCE OF LAND OF LOW MUNICIPAL VALUE (15 WINTHROP STREET)**

### **SPONSORED BY: Select Board**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town, acting by and through the Select Board, to convey a portion of Town owned property located at 15 Winthrop Street, so as to correct longstanding lot line conflicts, all as shown on a plan on file with the Town Clerk’s Office; or take any action relative thereto.

**SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:** The property at 15 Winthrop Street has conflicted with Town property lines for over 100 years due to the layout of the roads and the construction of the building that sits between Winthrop Street and Front Street. The property owner is working with the regulatory boards on a project and in the process, the Town and property owner are correcting the property line issue to remove the conflict.

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**ARTICLE 18: ALL-ALCOHOL LIQUOR LICENSE**

**SPONSORED BY: Petition**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the State Legislature on behalf of Central Café & Convenience, 92-94 Central Street, for one additional off premise license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages. This license would be granted to the Central Café & Convenience, who is currently operating under a 'Wine & Malt' Beverages license; or take any action relative thereto.

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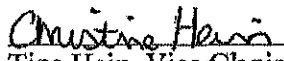
**ARTICLE 19: CITIZENS' PETITION: LOWLAND STREET**

**SPONSORED BY: Citizens' Petition**

To see if the Town will vote to advise the select board that the citizens of Holliston do not support the installation of a locking pipe gate or any barrier intended to restrict vehicular traffic in any capacity at any point along Lowland Street as enforcement of the heavy commercial vehicle exclusion on Woodland Street and that the citizens of Holliston do support the installation of signs and police patrol as enforcement of the heavy commercial vehicle exclusion on Woodland Street.

Given under our hands this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September A.D. 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Cronin, Chair

  
Tina Hein, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
SELECT BOARD

  
Ben Sparrell, Clerk

I have this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023, posted true copies thereof, attested, on and within the Town Hall, Public Library, Police Department, Senior Center and on the Town Website as herein directed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable

BARRY SIMS

A true record, ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Sanderson, Assistant Town Clerk