

**Holliston Planning Board  
Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2016**

**In Attendance:** Chairman Geoffrey Zeamer, Warren Chamberlain, and David Thorn. Nikki Borman and Taro Matsuno were absent.

**Call to Order:** The Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 105 of the Town Hall, 703 Washington Street.

**General Business:**

1. Planning Advisory Board/Downtown Traffic Discussion

Mr. Zeamer and Ms. Daniels presented the following draft as compiled by Rep. Dykema after a meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>:

õBoard of Selectmen  
Town of Holliston  
704 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746

Dear Holliston Board of Selectmen:

We are a group of concerned citizens, public safety officials, town board members, and local business leaders who like you, are concerned about the safety of residents and visitors to our downtown. We agree that improvements are overdue and thank you for your willingness to incorporate our comments and considerations into the planning process as we work toward a permanent solution.

Our group met to discuss the õoption aö plan and we offer the following comments. It is our hope that by providing these consensus-based recommendations, we can help advance a solution that is right for our community and that will gain the needed support from town meeting.

We submit the following for your consideration:

1. We support the addition of three new signals at the intersections of Washington Street with Hollis Street, Central Street, and Exchange Street to ensure pedestrian safety and orderly traffic flow. We also offer these requests/suggestions:
  - Clarify sequencing of downtown traffic lights and coordination with the light at Highland /Washington Street
  - Install roadside pedestrian and traffic signals in addition to overhead signals to maximize visibility
  - Specify signal technology including recommendations on the use of emergency vehicle preemption systems for public safety vehicles and audible pedestrian crossing features
2. We very strongly recommend eliminating the multiple through lanes which have been proposed in the current plan. We believe the addition of new lanes will result in additional safety concerns due to merging, passing, and weaving that outweigh any potential decrease in queuing. Specifically, we propose the following changes:

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- Northbound at Exchange St. ó Replace second through lane with right turn only onto Exchange or review if a single through-right lane is appropriate to reduce drivers using the right lane to queue up for Central Street
  - Northbound at Central St. ó Replace second through lane with right turn only onto Central Street
  - Southbound at Green St. ó Replace second through lane with left turn only onto Exchange Street
3. We support restoration of on-street parking throughout the corridor as a result of eliminating multiple through lanes
  4. We strongly recommend making all travel lanes 12ø wide and preserving all existing turning radii for safe passage of emergency vehicles
  5. We support replacing painted medians with slightly raised medians with mountable curbs to create the impression of a narrower roadway while preserving maximum turning radii for emergency vehicles
  6. We request an evaluation of the following alternatives for crosswalk placement:
    - Green/Exchange: Evaluate straightening crosswalk and moving northbound to the corners of Green and Exchange Streets. This may require reconstruction of the gas station curb cut further to the south
    - Central/Washington: Evaluate straightening crosswalk and moving it slightly northbound. Evaluate adding bump-outs in the area where parking currently exists so there is no reduction in turning radius from Central Street
    - Some of us have concerns about the proposed elimination of the crosswalk at the library. Please provide more analysis on whether itø possible to retain this crosswalk while still ensuring pedestrian safety and a crossing at Hollis Street
  7. We request an evaluation of time-of-day turning restrictions to minimize impacts of possible cut-through traffic on surrounding neighborhoods (Pleasant Street, School Street, etc.)
  8. We request an evaluation of ways to safely incorporate bicycle traffic, such as the addition of a bicycle lane or shared lane markings
  9. We request the incorporation of centrally located bicycle racks and/or singular bike racks (such as city of Cambridge standard)

The recommendations above are for a permanent solution which we understand will require time to implement. Given this delay, we support interim measures to address pedestrian safety concerns until the permanent solution is complete. We are available to work with you to determine what these interim solutions might be if that would be helpful.

Thank you again for your consideration and attention to these requests. We look forward to working with you to increase the safety of our downtown in a way that is consistent with the needs, priorities, and values of our community.ö

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Also in attendance were Karen Langton, Selectman Jay Leary and Jon Varrell of 928 Washington Street. Suggestions were made to strengthen the verb at the second bullet of #6. Ms. Langton recalled the process of finalizing the design for traffic signals at Woodland/High and Washington Streets. Mr. Varrell concurred. Mr. Leary added that there were more physical constraints at that intersection. Some discussion of parking options for the library and other businesses followed.

All were in agreement that the Board should support Rep. Dykema's written efforts.

2. Approval of Minutes- January 7 and January 21, 2016

On a motion by Mr. Thorn, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain, the meeting minutes of January 7 and January 21, 2016 were approved as written.

3. Approval Not Required Subdivisions

Mr. Thorn made a motion to endorse a plan of land for 205 and 213 Central Street prepared by Grady Consulting, LLC dated October 28, 2015. Mr. Chamberlain seconded with all in favor.

4. Surety of Common Drive, 0 Concord Street

Based on the revised Form E prepared by Guerriere & Halnon and recommendation of Ali Parand, PE, the Board approved a surety amount of \$104,012 for construction of a common driveway to serve lots 3, 4, and 5 on Concord Street on a motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Thorn. Ms. Sherman noted that Mr. Parand has recommended that the base course of pavement be removed and the gravel base tested.

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded. The next meeting was scheduled for February 25, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Sherman, Town Planner