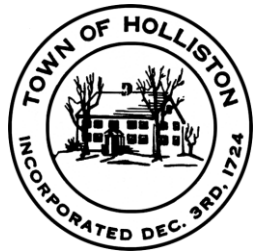




Town Meeting

WELCOME!



Priorities of the Select Board

The Select Board has been very busy this past year as we look to improve the Quality of Life for all residents.

Received feedback after October: not going to go through every article, but talk about themes in this presentation



Fire/EMS updates

Implementing the study of Fire and EMS services by Municipal Resources, Inc (MRI)

- Moving toward an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Certification
- Addition of an Assistant Fire Chief to help the organization
- Recommendations for changes to procedures
- Ongoing process that will take time to complete
- Much appreciation to the first responders for their dedication every day and their feedback throughout the transition

Thanks to Chief Cassidy for his leadership and dedication to the department.



Dispatch Update

Moving to a Regional Dispatch Model (RECC) for Fire/EMS and Police

Select Board approved the move as of 1/1/24

Sherborn has already moved and has shown positive results

State supported move with grants

Saves the town from large-scale capital investment



Police Updates

With dispatch moving off-site, operational changes are needed

Police adding new officers to ensure no reduction in service delivery

- Keeping the building open 24/7
- Maintain high standards of service

Will ensure adequate resources for TM consideration to address traffic enforcement and other community needs

Thanks to Chief Stone for his leadership and management of the department.



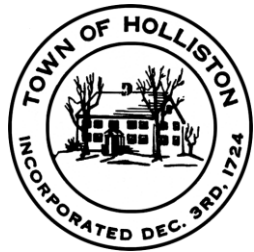
Public Works Updates

New Grounds Crew has been successful

Congratulations in receiving the “Annual Innovation Award” from MassDot for the Washington Street Crosswalk Improvement Project. Thank you to Highway Superintendent, Robert Walker and DPW Director Sean Reese for their leadership

Town Meeting has approved the project funding – award recognizes the collaborative focus on safety and access

Thank you to Director Reese and Deputy Director Walker for leading their teams and bringing ideas to the community.



Other updates

New position with Economic Development

- Help to improve relations with business community
- Attract new businesses
- Update rules and regulations for future economic activity

Youth & Family Services

- Received \$625,000 for “Drug Free Communities Grant” to develop, enhance, and prevent vulnerable youth from misusing substances over the next 5 years.

Council on Aging/Senior Center

- Seeking to expand services and opportunities post-COVID

Thank you to Jackie Winer for her leadership and forward thinking in Youth & Family Services, and thanks to Lisa Borchetta for bringing services and community to our senior population.



Board/Committee Collaboration

Working Group established in 2022 to iron out differences on capital

- Finance Committee and Select Board Members initially
- Led to an October 2022 proposal to fund ADA compliance issues with sidewalks over time
- Added School Committee members

Compromises led to a financial model for funding bigger projects

- Two main projects: DPW Facility and sidewalk improvements
- Utilizing Capital reserves, borrowing within the omnibus budget (non-excluded debt) and outside of the tax levy (excluded debt)
- Two articles are being presented to you this evening

Intention is to leave enough room for high school project



DPW Facility (Article 21)

Currently using 2 facilities on Central Street and Arch Street

Both are well beyond their useful life

Select Board has chosen 20 Cross Street "Axton Cross" as potential site for new facility (pending taken from land court)

Funding between cash and borrowing

Upcoming Ballot question on 5/23

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

\$7.00 million cash (CapEx)

\$17.25 million borrowing (non-excluded)*

\$5.75 million borrowing (excluded)**

**\$30.00 million total project cost estimate,
including soft costs**

**Balances within normal Operating Budget*

***Requires ballot question, in addition to
Warrant Article*



Infrastructure Projects: Water, Roadways, Drainage, and Sidewalks

Water projects drive the progress

Mix of using cash and borrowing

Borrowing allows these projects to accelerate from 10+ years to 5+ years

Minimize the impact to taxpayers and maximize the benefits to residents

Ballot question

(in millions)

Stantec Priority	Water Mains, Roadway, Sidewalks, Drainage	Water Enterprise	Cash & Other	General Fund Borrowing*	Total Cost Est.
1	Norfolk Street	\$ 3.7	\$ 1.5	\$ 3.7	\$ 8.9
2	Central Street	\$ 2.3	\$ -	\$ 1.3	\$ 3.6
3	Goulding Street	\$ 3.1	\$ -	\$ 0.6	\$ 3.7
Totals		\$ 9.1	\$ 1.5	\$ 5.6	\$ 16.2

**Corresponding ballot question on May 23, 2023 election for Debt Exclusion*

Note: these figures include inflationary assumptions, and do not include any assumptions for Federal or State grants to offset, though applications are pending

These projects will be completed over time as the water enterprise fund is replenished

Town Meeting will need to improve each of these appropriations in the coming years



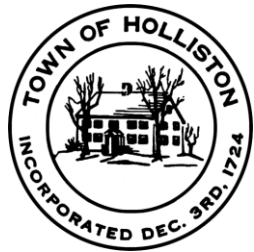
Article 29: Tree Ordinance

Garden Club has been instrumental in bringing the idea of making Holliston a “Tree City USA”

This is a step in the process: to create by-laws to support protecting trees

The ordinance is meant for trees on public land UNLESS the activity requires a Stormwater or Land Disturbance permit

The Planning Board, the Tree Warden, and the Select Board all have roles to play in protecting trees in town



Article 25: Goodwill Park

Project is being championed by Parks & Recreation and supported (funded) by the CPC

Part of the “downtown corridor” down Central Street



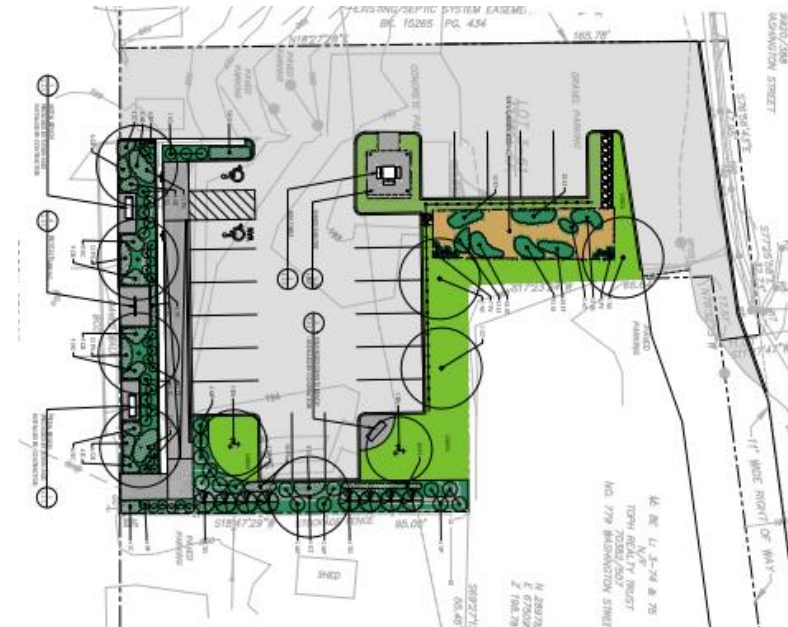


Downtown Corridor Continued

Blair Square: finishing now, with pavilion installed in June



9 Green Street: Beginning soon, finishing in August



Central Street Fire Station: Starting now

Wastewater Treatment Plant: feasibility study and modernization of plant

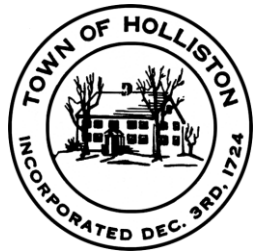


Project Completed!

Well #5 Treatment Plant is up and running!



Thank you to Town Meeting for their support in bringing clean water to residents!



Project updates

Streetlights: converting all to LED. Technology Director Chris Meo helped get the Green Communities Grant and return funds to the town

Pinecrest Golf Course: updates to clubhouse, proshop, and restaurant

Town Solar Project on the old town landfill will be starting soon, providing revenue to the town!

We are continuing to update town facilities with more efficiency and technology!

Thank you to Facilities Manager James Keast for all his efforts to improve facilities and create more energy efficient solutions.

ARPA Update:

\$3.8M allocated out of \$4.4M available



Equity Focused Services: 41%

Full Day Kindergarten, but will return remainder if budget approved

YFS position

Public Health Response: 8%

Cleaning and Sanitizing

PPE

Contact tracing

Economic Response: 10%

Home Repair Program

Food Pantry Freezer

Evaluation of EDC Model

HCAT Revenue Loss

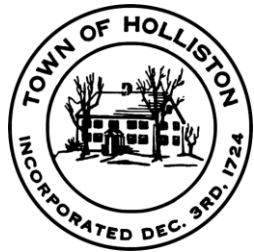
Infrastructure / Capital: 40%

WWTP study and upgrades

Town hall Septic

Repairs to Holliston Historical Society

1% was allocated for Administrative costs



Upcoming project updates

DPW Facility

- If approved by Town Meeting and at the ballot on 5/23
- upon taking, the town will move forward as quickly as possible with Cross street site
- Once completed, the town will weigh in on future use of existing sites

Woodland Street

- continuing to develop long term solution for the dam and the bridge.

WWTP and sewers

- Forums upcoming to discuss with stakeholders

The town will aggressively pursue any and all grant opportunities to offset the impact on Holliston Residents!



Retirements and personnel changes

Departures

- Treasurer/Collector Mary Bousquet (retirement)
- Town Accountant Sharon Emerick

Welcome to new staff

- Finance Director/Treasurer: Chris Heymanns
- Town Accountant: Gita Patel



Thank you

Town Administrator Travis Ahern

Assistant Town Administrator Kathleen Buckley

Town Administrator Staff: Donny Muzzy and Peg Driscoll

Thanks to HCAF for offering Child care for people attending tonight.



Thank you all for coming tonight!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NEXT TUESDAY, 5/23!