

Town of Holliston Town Meeting

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Monday October 16, 2023 -
Holliston High School Auditorium

Select Board

John Cronin, Chair

Tina Hein, Vice Chair

Benjamin Sparrell, Clerk

Travis Ahern, Town Administrator

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Welcome!

- ▶ On behalf of the Select Board, Town Administrator, and all Department Heads and employees that contributed to this Warrant, thank you for attending this evening's meeting.

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Brief Warrant Insight

- ▶ There are 19 articles for discussion this evening.
- ▶ Our fall Town Meeting is typically a “clean-up” of any financial matters from the spring and also a focus on capital needs.
- ▶ With one minor exception, this warrant features unanimous approval by the Finance Committee for fiscal related articles.
- ▶ There are two articles that reference a complex project involving Lowland Industrial Park.
 - ▶ Article 6 from the Select Board seeks your approval to fund temporary signalization while Article 19 is a non-binding Citizen’s Petition to advise the Select Board on access to the Lowland Industrial Park
 - ▶ More detail on Article 6 steps will follow with that Article’s discussion
- ▶ We look forward to a robust and productive discussion about these various articles.

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Select Board Updates - Goals (1 of 2)

- ▶ Board is acting upon goals set in July that include;
 - Continue creating a **handbook** for those individuals joining Boards and Committees.
 - Take the finished **Envisioning Future Holliston** data results and create a handbook to share its mission statement.
 - Assist with the **Holliston Fire/EMS Department** with the ongoing transition to a Advanced Life Support (ALS) model.
 - **Update** the current Finance Committee excel document that he helped create and look to streamline the budget process.
 - Support the initiatives and priorities of **Youth & Family Services**.
 - Address **traffic management** within the community, and coordinate with Safe Streets.

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Select Board Updates - Goals (2 of 2)

- ▶ Board is acting upon goals set in July that include;
 - Identify opportunities to **expand the trails** within the Town and continue to improve accessibility as well.
 - **Promote economic development** in the Downtown area of Holliston, consider traffic management pertaining to the proposed Downtown Sewer Project, and obtain more knowledge.
 - **Remain open to future initiatives**/projects that may arise over the next fiscal year.
 - **Finish what we start** – many projects coming near completion in FY24.
 - Support the future **Economic Development Coordinator** position.
 - Start the preparation needed to adopt a **Town Manager** role for Holliston.
 - Support Celebrate Holliston with the **300th Celebration** plans.

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Select Board Updates - New Hires

- Assistant Fire Chief / EMS Director - Brian Kelley - started August 28, 2023
- Part-Time Economic Development Coordinator - Melanie Hamblen - starts Oct. 23, 2023
- Sustainability Coordinator Contract - Weston & Sampson – Select Board approved earlier this evening.
- Drug Free Community Program Director – Zoe Moreau started June 2023

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Select Board Updates - Projects/Status

- **Marshall Street** - first payment for lease has been received in Sept. 2023; mobilization of ballasted system starting by end of calendar year, with install scheduled for early 2024 (weather permitting)
- **DPW/Cross Street** - EPA/MassDEP working with the Town and design/engineer on getting property tested and mitigated as we wait for Land Court
- **Green Street** – Near Completion. Awaiting Eversource go-live for EV units
- **RECC Conversion** - on track for January 1, 2024 cut over to Holbrook RECC; Police Station set to stay open 24/7 with support from May 2023 ATM approval of staffing needs; Central Fire dispatch room will be repurposed to add needed room for EMT report-writing / break room, per MRI recommendation

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Looking Ahead

- ▶ Town Administrator special legislation to create a Town Manager
- ▶ Updates on evolving Sewer District in Downtown to stimulate new growth/business opportunities
- ▶ Monitor Holliston High School building status
 - ▶ Town Facility Manager report has been delivered to Superintendent on current facility condition
 - ▶ Massachusetts School Building Authority response to recent application (expected late 2023)

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