

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

February 7, 2022
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

Present: Tina Hein, Chair; Ben Sparrell, Vice Chair; John Cronin, Clerk.

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Alan Hanscom, representative Pare Engineering; Chris Meo, IT Director; Jason Repose, Brett Hunnicutt, Bella Gelman, representatives Good Feels, Inc.; and Kate Feodoroff, Town Counsel.

At 7:00 pm T. Hein called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 9 GREEN STREET:

At 7:01 pm J. Cronin made a motion to open the Public Hearing for 9 Green Street to discuss the parking lot construction and other related activities proposed at the site. B. Sparrell second.

Vote 3-0.

Al Hanscom from Pare Engineering began the update by presenting graphics of the proposed space at 9 Green Street. Some of the features include, one-way traffic flow off of Washington Street, rain garden planted with pollination species and wetland plants which can benefit from the overflow of wastewater. There will be 19 parking spaces, 2 of which will be handicap accessible and 6 EV parking spots. The design also includes such amenities as bike racks, benches and tables, as well as a gazebo. The site may be able to accommodate a canopy with solar panels in the future. A. Hanscom noted that with the planned renovations at Goodwill Park the design of such amenities will be such that they will be complimentary.

B. Sparrell appreciates the idea behind coordinating with the Goodwill Park designs for astatic purposes.

T. Hein noted that there are opportunities for possible grant funding for the proposed EV parking spaces. A. Hanscom stated that Pare Engineering has been in communication with Eversource regarding the proposed EV parking spaces.

J. Cronin suggested a speed bump be placed on Green Street for safety issues. He also suggested that large trees be planted if possible for shade. The Holliston Garden Club had recently asked if a tree could be planted honoring a resident, long term Holliston Garden Club member, and current President of the Massachusetts Garden Federation, Jill Malcolm. T. Hein suggested one of the referenced trees could accommodate that request.

In response to a question regarding the DEP's involvement at this phase T. Ahern noted that the above presented design has met all of the Departments of Environmental Protections concerns.

A. Hanscom confirmed that the paving of the parking lot will secure a cap over the contaminated soil.

After a brief discussion around traffic concerns it was decided that once both the 9 Green Street site and the renovations to Goodwill Park are complete it will be a good time to assess the impact to traffic in that downtown area.

Joan Levinsohn, 66 Jarr Brook Road expressed her enthusiasm for the proposed 6 EV parking spaces and also the possibility of a canopy with solar panels, as she feels these are great assets to the Town.

Mary Greendale, 198 Highland Street referenced a previous study done by the Town in the 1990's which looked at the possibility of a pedestrian walkway that would connect the businesses from Green Street to Hollis Street. She wondered if the Town might take another look at it.

Mark Bunker, 53 Green Street first noted that he is excited about the proposed renovated site at 9 Green Street, however he has concerns regarding the possible vandalism and loitering, the likes of which he has witnessed at Goodwill Park, now occurring at 9 Green Street. M. Bunker also noted that trash is a constant issue at the Park and also he fears that the proposed parking lot will be used by skateboarders, which ultimately poses safety concerns and not the intent of the site. Lastly turning onto Green Street heading eastbound is already a challenge and he anticipates it will only get worse.

The Select Board thanked everyone for their comments and unanimously support the proposed design.

At 7:42 pm J. Cronin made a motion to close the Public Hearing on 9 Green Street. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

WARRANT:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$5,016,293.65. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

FY23 BUDGET REVIEWS:

Technology Budget: Christopher Meo, Technology Director presented a proposed FY23 budget with several increases. Additional funding in the amount of \$3,300 for a network infrastructure contract, \$4,000 to purchase on-line training programs and instructor-led classes as well as an additional \$5,000 in the computer license budget to subscribe to a Social Media account for archiving software. The proposed FY23 Technology Budget is \$316,957.

C. Meo noted that as of February 1, 2022 there have been 681 zoom meetings with a total of 12,834 participant since zoom meetings were initiated.

Veteran's Services Budget: T. Ahern presented the proposed FY23 budget after having a discussion with Sarah Bateman the Veteran's Services Agent. There are no proposed changes to the budget. The proposed FY23 Veteran's Service Budget is \$94,489.

T. Ahern used a graph to give the Select Board a glance at the overall FY23 proposed budget excluding the Schools. There is an overall 5.31% increase from FY22.

HOST COMMUNITY AGREEMENT (HCA) REQUEST FOR GOOD FEELS INC.:

At 8:00 pm several individuals representing Good Feels Inc. joined the Select Board to give a presentation regarding a request for a Host Community Agreement at 72 Jeffrey Ave. Jason Reposa, Brett Hunnicutt and Bella Gelman all contributed to an overview of the proposed operations at 72 Jeffrey Ave. The product consists of a cannabis infused seltzer to be manufactured and distributed to retailers throughout Massachusetts. J. Reposa owns and operates such a facility in Medway and is looking for the opportunity to expand. J. Reposa stated that Good Feels Inc. has a Do No Harm Policy and strives to use 100% sustainable energy. The highlights discussed included: Traffic, which is expected to be generated by staff and weekly pickup of product to be distributed to retailers. Order, there is no cultivation on site and therefore no need for order mitigation. Noise, there are 3 pieces of equipment necessary, with minimal external placement. Weekend use, there may be need to access the building on weekends however there is no plan to operate the business on the weekends. Site lines, there will be little to no impact on other businesses located within the site line of the property. The presented timeline is designed to move quickly with the intention of beginning production by January 2023.

The Select Board each agreed that the presentation was well thought out and thorough, and due to the local experience of the team, low concern of nuisance issues given the type of production it was a good fit for the location.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator along with Town Counsel to negotiate and execute a HCA with Good Feels Inc. located at 72 Jeffrey Avenue. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin stated that with the upcoming Town Elections there are numerous positions available. Anyone interested in running should contact the Town Clerks Office.

T. Hein also encouraged residents to consider volunteering their time.

B. Sparrell stated that the Blair Square Committee presented their request for funding to the CPC last week, and should hear back shortly.

B. Sparrell suggested having the Community Farm be placed on an upcoming Select Board agenda to provide an update.

B. Sparrell stated that the data obtained by the Envisioning Future Holliston survey is being complied and the results will be presented soon. He also noted that a presentation will be made at the May Town Meeting.

T. Hein will not attend the February 22, 2022 Select Board Meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern attended the School Committees presentation to the Staff delivered by the Superintendent of Schools last Thursday February 3, 2022 and had a hard copy available.

T. Ahern has drafted a letter of Thanks from the Town to Representative Dykema as her last day is February 11, 2022. There will be staff in place to assist the Town until her replacement has been appointed.

J. Cronin asked T. Ahern to send a letter to Senator Spilka's Office requesting a Special Election be held to fill Representative Dykema's seat as discussed at the last Select Board meeting.

T. Ahern stated that the ARPA Steering Committee will be holding a meeting on Thursday February 10, 2022. The agenda can be located on the Town website.

BOARD BUSINESS:

The Select Board received a memo dated February 7, 2022 from R. Walker the Deputy DPW Director regarding the Overspending Snow and Ice Budget.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize overspending of the FY22 Snow and Ice Budget. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

The Select Board discussed the updated Snow and Ice Removal Policy and how to successfully involve the residents regarding feedback on such issues as sidewalks. Also how to address fines for violations regarding snow removal. T. Ahern noted that these issues continue to be a work in progress.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Snow and Ice Removal Policy as presented, and amended and will continue to work on details going forward. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2022 as written. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to accept the donation of time and materials in with a value of \$500 to the Community Farm from Shady Corner Farm to extend the parking area using recycled asphalt. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to update the Bertuccis Liquor License which was originally signed on December 6, 2021. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

At 9:03 pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__03-07-22

