

## **TOWN OF HOLLISTON**

### **SELECT BOARD**

August 1, 2022  
7:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

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

**Also Present:** Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; James Keast, Facilities Manager; Mark Frank, Park & Recreation Director; Shaw Lively, Park Commission member; and Kevin Conley, Blair Square Committee Chair.

At 7:00pm B. Sparrell called the meeting to order.

#### **LAKE WINTHROP:**

Park Commission member Shaw Lively along with Park & Recreation Director Mark Frank joined the meeting to start a conversation regarding Lake Winthrop. S. Lively began by stating that the purpose of tonight's discussion is to initiate a process for management of Lake Winthrop. S. Lively presented several slides in conjunction with the presentation. One in particular identifying the issues currently effecting the lake; lake weeds, lake fowl (geese) and water quality. The vegetation has negatively impacted swimmers and boaters and can pose a safety hazard. The Park & Rec Department has taken steps towards mitigation around the swimming area with the purchase of Benthic mats to be placed on the lake floor which will halt growth of the weeds. S. Lively pointed out that many surrounding Towns have groups that manage their lakes and is proposing that Holliston do the same. M. Frank does not believe that the management of Lake Winthrop is best severed under the jurisdiction of the Park & Recreation Department. T. Hein suggests looking at the Lake not only as an asset but as a "natural resource". B. Sparrell voiced his concern that a Board or Committee with changing membership may not be the best way to facilitate management of the Lake, determine the scope first then work towards a long term solution. T. Ahern stated that there are many studies and data currently available, including a recent report on the Lake Winthrop Dam provided by Pare Corp. J. Cronin pointed out that the State has a role in the management of the Lake as well. Various residents weighed in on the conversation.

Kristine Westland, 103 Norfolk Street noted that cleanup (of trash) is always needed during and after the summer. She also would like to see more information on the environmental impact of the run off from surrounding properties.

Janice Miller, 208 Winthrop Street, a property directly on the Lake noted the weeds have been an ever increasing problem. She is fully in support of developing a managing body for Lake Winthrop.

Mary Greendale, 198 Highland Street, noted that Lake Winthrop has an extensive history and

would like to highlight it as part of Holliston's 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.

Lisa Mikkelsen, 10 Norfolk Lane, supports the idea of treating Lake Winthrop as asset and looking at ways to address the issues negatively effecting it.

Peter Chambers, 97 Lakeshore Drive, has concerns over the water quality of the Lake. His pets have contracted infections after swimming in the Lake. P. Chambers fully supports a mechanism, group, to maintain the Lake.

Thomas Mikkelsen, 10 Norfolk Lane, echoed his wife's comments and added that attendance at the Lake has been dwindling over the past years and in his opinion this is directly related to its condition.

The Select Board fully supports the development of an entity that would oversee the Lake management. J. Cronin suggested reaching out to other towns as a starting point to see how they manage their lakes/ponds.

T. Ahern will work with S. Lively, M. Frank and B. Sparrell to gather information and return in the future with an update.

#### **PARK COMMISSION UPDATE:**

M. Frank stated that Chemini Associates Architects presented their design for the Goodwill Park renovation to the Park Commission at their last meeting. M. Frank shared several slides. A Public Forum is scheduled for Thursday September 8, 2022.

The site at 260 Woodland Street which came up in discussion last year, 2021, as a possible addition as a recreation site, (Dog Park or Pump Track) has lost traction. M. Frank noted that the possibility of a Dog Park and or a Pump Track may be discussed at other locations in the future.

The Weston Pond Field benefited from allowing dogs off leash on a trial basis, in an effort to deter geese activity during the spring soccer season.

J. Cronin suggested that the Park Commission consider including the Rail Trail as a park under their jurisdiction.

T. Hein would like to plan a Bike & Listen Tour this fall, 2022 and would like to include Patoma and Stoddard Park as part of the tour.

#### **HOUGHTON POND DAM:**

T. Ahern explained that there are 3 options when looking at the outcome of dams. 1. Repair. 2. Replace. 3. Remove. Pare Corporation provided reports to the Town in April 2022.

The State will default to removal if certain information is not provided, which is the case with the Houghton Pond Dam.

T. Hein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to solicit quotes for the environmental and civil engineering required for the 2 potential scenarios for the Houghton Pond Dam as presented by Pare Corporation to the Select Board in April of 2022, those scenarios being 1. Replacement of the dam. 2. Removal of the dam. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

**MAPC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ENGAGEMENT FOR THE EDC:**

T. Hein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to execute an agreement with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for technical assistance to the Economic Development Committee as approved in a previous vote authorizing the use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding not to exceed the amount of \$45,000. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

The engagement will begin on August 1, 2022 and end on March 1, 2023.

**BLAIR SQUARE IMPROVEMENTS:**

Kevin Conley, Blair Square Chair joined the meeting to discuss the fact that the lowest bidder for the Blair Square Improvements project came in over the \$568,785 approved by the Community Preservation Committee. K. Conley noted several items on the list of improvements that could be funded elsewhere. The Highway Department will provide the materials and labor for the sidewalk and pavement stripping. The Friends of the Rail Trail will donate the cost of trash receptacles. The Pavilion alone adds \$160,000 to the overall cost, including construction and installation. J. Keast stated that the foundation, footings and conduits can be installed. After which the pavilion can be constructed once funding is available. J. Cronin suggested approaching the ARPA Steering Group at the next scheduled meeting for possible funding to help close the gap. B. Sparrell supported the idea of pursuing donations to aid with cost of the pavilion.

T. Hein made a motion to accept the bid from M.J. Cataldo Inc. for the Blair Square Improvements as presented with the above adjustments mentioned this evening. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

**COVID-1- ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:**

Chief Cassidy presented 3 recommendations for ARPA funding which were unanimously approved at the ARPA Steering Group meeting earlier today (August 1, 2022).

T. Hein made a motion to approve the following recommendations from the American Rescue Plan Act Steering Group to authorize funding in the amount of \$187,000 for the Factory Pond Dam to supplement the acts of 2018, as well as \$15,000 request from the Facilities Manager for storage and removal at the Central Street Fire Station, and \$15,000 towards signage to implement safety improvements at the intersections of Highland and Hollis and Highland and Prentice Streets. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

**WARRANT:**

T. Hein made a motion to approve the FY23 weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,935,663.08 and the FY22 weekly warrant in the amount of \$660,742.57. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

T. Hein stated that the Food Pantry is seeking donations as summer tends to see donations

drop off.

J. Cronin met with the Principal Assessor and representatives of New England Appliance Group and continue to work towards a Tax Increment Financing agreement at 555 Hopping Brook.

B. Sparrell stated that the Envisioning Future Holliston Survey #2 will close in the next couple of days. There have be 1,048 responses. The Select Board and Finance Committee will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday August 9, 2022.

Chief Cassidy took a moment to remind residents that as of July 23, 2022 outside water restrictions were put into place. Due to the continuing draught Chief Cassidy asked that caution be taken with any open flames outside. There is no outside burning allowed.

#### **COMMENTS TOWN ADMINISTRATION:**

The new legislative voting guidelines are now on the Town Clerks webpage online.

Last Wednesday July 27, 2022 the Select Board held a meeting to discuss the state of the Pinecrest Golf Course due to the draught. Since that meeting there have been 4 water deliveries. T. Hein noted her appreciation to James Keast, Facilities Manager, Fire Chief Cassidy, Kathleen Buckley, Assistant Town Administrator and Sean Reese, DPW Director for their work and assistance.

T. Ahern will join several others in a site visit of the New England Appliance Group facility in Franklin on Wednesday August 3, 2022. Feedback will be provided at the next Select Board meeting.

The Town is moving ahead with the work on the ADA complaint ramps. The goal is to complete the list by the end of August 2022.

T. Ahern is still waiting on the timeline from the State as to the roadwork to be done on route 16 and 126. The sidewalk work will be done first, leaving the roadways to be done during the night.

The new traffic pattern at the intersections on Highland and Hollis Streets and Highland and Prentice Streets will begin at 12:01am on Tuesday August 2, 2022.

The Fall Town Meeting Warrant will open August 8, 2022 with the anticipation to close on September 23, 2022.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> "Ask the TA" segment was filmed featuring T. Hein and her role on the Traffic Advisory Committee. The episode features changes implemented and the future of the committee as it goes through reorganization.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

T. Hein made a motion to authorize the Police Chief to establish and direct a number of officers sufficient to detail at each polling location to preserve order and protect the election, officials and supervisors from any inference with their duties to aid in enforcing the laws related to elections with the Police Chief to provide confirmation to the Select Board of the number of officers retained. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to authorize Central Mass. Mosquito Control to proceed with their wetland restoration project which will include the drainage ditch maintenance of approximately 900feet along the Charles Rail Trail near the Phipps Tunnel Bridge at Highland Street. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$400 from the Superette to the Senior Center Nutrition Program. J. Cronin second with gratitude. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation from Griffin Electric in the amount of \$10,000 for the crosswalk and signal at the Hopping Brook Road crossing on the Rail Trail. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2022. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Event Permit for the International Basava Center for a Walkathon/Bikeathon to be held on August 6, 2022 on the Upper Charles River Trail from 10:00am-2:00pm. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Event Permit for the Celebrate Holliston Parade on September 24, 2022, a route which will consist of Woodland, Railroad, Central, Exchange and Washington Streets from 9:00am-10:00am. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Event Permit for a Block Party on Dalton Road on September 18, 2022 from 1:00pm-5:00pm. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

T. Ahern noted that on August 8, 2022 agenda there will be an update from the Governance Committee, which still has 1 vacant seat. As well as an update on the 9 Green Street final design by PARE Corp.

An update on the Marshall Street Solar Project will be scheduled when Town Counsel is also available.

At 9:06pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_09/07/2022

