

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

October 11, 2022
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; James Keast, Facilities Manager; Matthew Zettek, Sustainability Coordinator; Cheri Hafford, Agricultural Commission Secretary; Carrie Marsh Loscocco, Agricultural Commission Chair; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Dona Walsh, Animal Control Officer; Louis Tabaldi, resident; Daniel Derienzo, resident; and Amanda Cataldo, resident.

B. Sparrell read the Open Meeting Law after which time attendance was taken by Roll Call: J. Cronin, present; T. Hein, present; B. Sparrell, present.

At 7:02 B. Sparrell called the meeting to order.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION (AgCom) – REVIEW OF CHARGE/MISSION:

Carrie Marsh Loscocco and Cheri Hafford, members of the Agricultural Commission joined the meeting to discuss the future of the AgCom. C. Hafford stated that the Commission has evolved into more of an event planner, which was not its intended purpose. There is a need for reengagement with the approximately 20 agricultural businesses in Holliston. Both C. Hafford and C. Marsh-Loscocco stated that the desire to serve the community is there, however there is little to no feedback or encouragement from the agricultural community itself.

T. Ahern pointed out that the success of the recent “Farm Day” is due to the hard work done by the AgCom and he is concerned that it will be greatly missed if it were not to continue. J. Cronin asked that T. Ahern send a letter to those in the agricultural businesses within Holliston to obtain feedback on what the Agricultural Commission’s role might be going forward. The Select Board thanked both C. Marsh Loscocco and C. Hafford for their service.

UPDATE FROM SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR:

Matthew Zettek, the Sustainability Coordinator presented an update with the aid of various slides. The presentation was broken down into three categories, Recent / Current / Other. M. Zettek stated that one of the recent projects is looking to expand Textile Recycling throughout Town. Also due to the success of the last Rain Barrel event M. Zettek would like to host another such event in 2023. As of November 1, 2022 mattresses and box springs along with textiles are part of the Mass DEP Waste Ban.

J. Cronin asked if M. Zettek would be willing to co-author a letter to advocate seeking funding to offset the expected costs to dispose of mattresses and box springs. M. Zettek stated that he

would happily contribute to such a letter.

T. Hein noted that the expansion of the Recycling Center hours, over the next several months, is directly related to recent revenue from incentives brought forward by the Sustainability Coordinator.

B. Sparrell suggested looking at the existing Recycling and Trash services in an effort to lay the ground work going forward when it comes time to renew the contract.

T. Hein made a motion to authorize the Sustainability Coordinator through the Town Administrator's Office to seek a vendor for curbside textile pickup through a Request for Information process. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve a 2023 Rain Barrel Event, with the Great American Rain Barrel Company and include incentivizing the event through available grant programs. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY/POTENTIAL SITES FOR DPW FACILITY:

J. Keast explained that a Request for Proposal for Purchase of Real Property for potential sites for the future DPW Facility bid opening was held on Friday October 7, 2022. There was one submitted bid for a property located at 194-0 Lowland Street. The property consist of 40.76 acres, of which 11 are considered buildable and the remaining 30 are unbuildable due to wetlands, frontage, right of way easement and other restrictions. Using a ranking method, the property was ranked 7.6 out of 12, which equates to approximately 64%.

DANGEROUS DOG HEARING:

At 8:00pm T. Hein made a motion to open a Dangerous Dog Hearing pursuant to MASS General law, chapter 140, Section 157 as related to an incident dated September 29, 2022. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

B. Sparrell began the hearing by recognizing the dog owner, Daniel Derienzo, 30 Hardgrave Unit #4.

B. Sparrell then called on the Animal Control Officer, Dona Walsh to read her statement regarding the incident and two previous incidents, (see attached).

D. Derienzo stated that his dog Jax had gotten out of his residence on the evening of September 29, 2022 and when he went outside he found Louis Talbaldi hitting Jax with a flashlight. As he got closer he saw that Jax had a hold of L. Talbaldi's Yorkshire Terrier Fauci. At that point D. Derienzo attempted to assist L. Talbaldi in separating the two dogs.

At the request of L. Talbaldi the Town Administrator, T. Ahern read his statement regarding the events of that evening. (see attached).

Amanda Coteldo, a neighboring witness also gave a statement of the events as she was one of the first neighbors to arrive on the scene.

Ms. Coteldo recalled that when she arrived at the scene it appeared that L. Talboldi and D. Derienzo were on the ground wrestling and Jax had Fauci in his mouth. Once the dogs were separated A. Coteldo was able to get Jax back to his apartment. At which point the others assisted in caring for Fauci until he could be transported to the Veterinarian Hospital. A. Coteldo went on to say that in her opinion D. Derienzo is not responsible dog owner and in fact is abusive to Jax. She also voiced concern for the safety of the neighborhood with regards to Jax behavior. Once A. Coteldo concluded her statement D. Derienzo stated that he never abused Jax and that Jax is just a puppy and easily excitable. He also noted that he never purposely lets the dog off leash. D. Derienzo also stated that he was attempting to assist L. Tabloldi in separating the two dogs and not attacking him. L. Tabloldi agreed with that statement. J. Cronin asked for clarification regarding Jax vaccination status. D. Derienzo stated that Jax is behind on his vaccinations, however he has an appointment with the veterinarian. He also cannot get an updated license until he gets the rabies certificate. J. Cronin then asked for the Animal Control Officers recommendation regarding the matter.

D. Walsh recommended that due to previous incidents noted, as well as this incident, September 29, 2022, Mr. Derienzo does not appear able to handle a dog like Jax, who is a threat to public safety. Mr. Derienzo is unable to put up a fence to contain Jax due to the fact that he rents the residence, and a self-contained kennel is only as good as the owner. In light of the attack on September 29, 2022 the recommendation is going to be euthanasia.

At 8:46pm T. Hein made a motion to close the dangerous dog hearing related to an incident on September 29, 2022 for which a vote will be take place after closing said hearing. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein addressed D. Derienzo and noted that although it was clear he loved his dog there had been evidence that he is not a responsible dog owner. She cited the expired license, lack of updated rabies shot, and the frequent times that Jax gets off lease. T. Hein expressed her concern for the safety of others around Jax.

J. Cronin stated that he concurred with T. Hein on this matter.

B. Sparrell also concurred with T. Hein and is taking the recommendation of the Animal Control Officer seriously.

T. Hein made a motion to declare the dog whom resides at 30 Hargrave known as Jax a "dangerous dog" for which the Select Board have determined the dog be humanly euthanized. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

B. Sparrell stated that a letter from the Town Administrator will be sent to D. Derienzo indicating the next steps. B. Sparrell asked D. Derienzo if he had any additional comments. D. Derienzo did not comment. B. Sparrell stated that this is one of the harder things the Select Board has done and appreciated everyone's time.

CONT'D DISCUSSION RFP PURCHASE OF REAL PROP. FOR DPW FACILITY:

J. Keast returned to continue the discussion of the possibility of a purchase of real property for

the proposed future DPW site. J. Keast explained again that there was only response to the bid opening held on October 7, 2022. Article #19 on the October 17, 2022 Town Warrant is a non-binding question to determine if there is an appetite within the Town to purchase a property and what that price range might be.

COVID-19 / ARPA UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy stated that the application for MEMA reimbursement for Covid-19 expenses in the amount of \$365,000 is currently in the queue for review, prior to December 31, 2022. Chief Cassidy presented two recommendations from the ARPA Steering Group meeting on Tuesday 11, 2022. The Technology Department has made a request in the amount of \$5,318 to support holding public meetings in Upper Town Hall. The second request is in the amount of \$15,000 for an outdoor learning space at the elementary schools. This project was previously approved by the School Superintendent and the School Committee and is also receiving additional funding from other sources.

The Select Board also discussed reducing the All-Day Kindergarten allocated funds by \$25,000. B. Sparrell made a motion to reduce the All-Day Kindergarten ARPA allocated funds from \$1,625,000 to \$1,600,000 and also approve \$5,318 for IT equipment related to hybrid meetings, and approve \$15,000 for a project at the Placentino School Courtyard to be overseen by a PTO subcommittee known as the Outdoor Learning Alliance. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

WARRANTS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$2,871,069.52. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein noted that on Wednesday October 12, 2022 there is a Safe Routes to Schools Event. The walk/bike will start at 7:00am in Blair Square with the assistance of Holliston Police, parents and teacher.

T. Hein read the Winter On-street Parking Ban which goes into effect on November 1, 2022.

J. Cronin stated that there will be a MAPC, Metropolitan Area Planning Council workshop in Upper Town Hall on Wednesday October 12, 2022.

B. Sparrell encouraged residents to attend the October 17, 2022 Town Meeting and noted that there will be child care available as well as additional parking for the disabled. Please register for a parking permit at the Senior Center by October 13, 2022.

T. Ahern stated that there have been emails received regarding the recent Board of Health discussions around Tobacco Regulations. At this point in time there has not been a Public Hearing scheduled. There will be no decision made until after a Public Hearing. There is a Citizens Petition: Tobacco, Article #28 on the October 17, 2022 Town Meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern has been in contact with Lynn Tokarczyk, who worked with the Town recently on the TIF agreement for a proposed project at 555 Hopping Brook will be happy to meet with the Select Board to discuss possible future projects. He will look to put on an upcoming agenda.

T. Ahern noted that those interested in attending the MAPC workshop on Wednesday 12, 2022 need to register ahead of time.

T. Ahern stated that there has been some activity in Land Court recently on the Axton Cross property. At this point there is still a lot of evaluation yet to be done.

BOARD BUSINESS:

The Select Board received three letters of interest for the one remaining seat on the Traffic Advisory Committee. Each Select Board member noted that all three of the candidates have much to offer.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Gene Mueller to the Resident (At-Large) seat for the Traffic Advisory Committee with a term ending June 30, 2023. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve a One Day Beer and Wine permit for the Lions Club sponsored Veterans Luncheon at Upper Town Hall on Friday November 11, 2022 from 11:30am to 2:00pm with a request to waive the permit fee. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Veterans Day Parade permit. The parade will consist of approximately 40-50 marchers and begin at 10:30am. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the One Day Beer and Wine License for the Historical Society Oktoberfest on October 21, 2022, from 6:30pm – 10:00pm and also waive the permit fee. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve a One Day Alcoholic Beverage permit for the Case Graduation Party on October 29, 2022 in Upper Town Hall from 6:00pm – 12:00 midnight. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve a One Day Beer and Wine License for the Fatima Shrine for an event on December 3, 2022 from 5:00pm – 11:00pm. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve a One Day Beer and Wine License for the Alcohol Enthusiast, LLC d/b/a Crafted at the Boston Honey Company for an event on October 15, 2022 from 12:00 noon – 5:00pm. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve a One Day Beer and Wine License for Sue's Bartending Service for an event to be held at Upper Town Hall on November 5, 2022 from 7:00pm – 11:00pm. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2022. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein anticipates that the Citizens Petition regarding Tobacco Regulations on the October 17, 2022 Town Meeting Warrant will generate discussion. She will be attending the next Board of Health Meeting as the Select Boards liaison to the BOH and update the Select Board prior to Town Meeting.

B. Sparrell noted that Envisioning Future Holliston is in the process of finalizing their report for Town Hall Meeting.

J. Cronin suggested that the newly formed working group with members from the Finance Committee and Select Board be highlighted as a positive approach going forward.

At 9:49pm T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__11-14-22

