

## TOWN OF HOLLISTON

### SELECT BOARD

April 3, 2023  
7:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

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

**Also Present:** Kathleen Buckley, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director; Dennis Morgan, owner Jasper Hill Realty Trust, LLC; Attorney Peter Barbieri, representing Jasper Hill Realty Trust, LLC; Karen Sherman, Town Planner; Holliston Police Chief Matthew Stone; Holliston Police Officer Charles Grace, Staci Raffi, Traffic Advisory Committee member; and Robert Weidknecht, Chair of the Holliston Rail Trail. Town Administrator Travis Ahern was absent.

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

#### **JASPER REALTY TRUST, LLC EASEMENT DISCUSSION:**

Attorney Peter Barbieri began the discussion by explaining that this is a different proposal than what was previously brought before the Select Board. The previous project consisted of 20 units with a portion of the property designated as Open Space. The revised plan consists of three single family homes with designated Open Space. The development requires that the Town grant an easement which runs through the parking lot behind Town Hall, and also for the Town to release an old easement. Attorney Barbieri also explained that the Developer was seeking approval at May 2023 Town Meeting for authorization to approve the easement, which then would allow the process to go through the Planning Board, it is not a vote to approve or disapprove the development itself. Dennis Morgan, the developer described the work that would improve the parking lot during the construction of the roadway to the development. He also stated that there would be a homeowners association that would be responsible for plowing during the winter season.

T. Hein asked if sidewalks would be part of the improvements/construction as there may be a safety issue with children who may reside in those homes. D. Morgan responded that sidewalks would be an additional expense and are not part of the existing plan, however discussion on the matter can continue throughout the process. T. Hein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to work with Jasper Hill Realty Trust LLC Counsel to draft a Warrant Article for the May 2023 Town Meeting for the purpose of negotiating and developing an agreement, if approved at Town Meeting would authorize the Select Board to approve the details of the easement as discussed this evening. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

#### **LICENSE AGREEMENT & SURETY – GEOFFREY PARK:**

Town Planner Karen Sherman joined the meeting and provided a graphic of the plan which has been previously approved by the Zoning Board. The plan includes the construction of the

road through Town owned property, starting at the end of Indian Ridge Road South. The DPW, Conservation Commission, Zoning and Planning Board have all done their due diligence and are awaiting Select Board approval. K. Sherman noted the Surety Bond is held by Middlesex Saving Bank, Holliston Ridge LLC and Holliston Select Board.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the License and Surety Bond for Jeffrey Park also known as Holliston Ridge LLC. as presented. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

#### **TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Police Chief Stone gave a brief overview of the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) and how to access a request for a Petition on the Town website. Officer Charles Grace became the new Committee Chair in October. Officer Grace presented five TAC recommendations.

T. Hein expressed her gratitude for the ongoing work being done by TAC.

J. Cronin suggested the possibility of additional signage to alert the public of the upcoming stop signs located at the Highland/Hollis/Prentice intersection.

T. Hein made a motion to direct the Public Safety and Public Works, DPW to take the necessary steps to set the speed limit on the entire length of Winter Street at 25mph as recommended by TAC. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve stop signs at Vine and Winthrop Street as recommended by TAC and that the change be updated in the Traffic Rules and Regulations by the Town Clerk. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made motion to approve with the recommendation of TAC, the installation of temporary delineators at the intersections of Norfolk and Franklin Street to be installed by the DPW on the recommendation of TAC, and that a Traffic Study pertaining to intersections of Norfolk and Franklin Street, Norfolk and Central Street, including lower Norfolk Street, Central Street and Franklin Street to be funded with the balance of funds from Article 15 of December 2020 Town Meeting.

T. Hein made a motion to approve a "One Way Sign" placement and painting of "Do Not Enter on the east side of Curve Street as recommended by TAC. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell thanked TAC for the continuous work and asked that quarterly updates be made to the Select Board.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Robert Weidknecht, Chair of the Rail Trail Committee joined the meeting to share that the East Coast Greenway, which is a 3,000 mile trail that runs the length of the East Coast from Key West to Maine and into Canada. The Greenway has requested a redirection through Milford, Holliston and Sherborn. R. Weidknecht asked that the Select Board provide a letter of support in order to do so.

T. Hein made a motion approve a letter of support from the Select Board as presented to East Coast Greenway Alliance. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

## **MAY 2023 TOWN MEETING UPDATES:**

T. Hein made a motion to send the current draft of the town Meeting Warrant as presented to the Finance Committee for review and comments prior to finalizing the document by Tuesday April 18, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

T. Hein stated it has been suggested to explore the possibility of a trails system in the area from Woodland Street, up through Highland Street to the Ashland Town Line. The conversation will be continued with interested parties.

B. Sparrell will hold his monthly Select Chat at the Senior Center on Friday April 7, 2023 at 9:30am and is open to all.

## **WARRANT:**

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$893,612.90. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:**

Kathleen Buckley, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director stated that Pare Corp provided the Town with data including the strength of the proposed slip line as part of the proposed short term solution for the bridge/road closing on Woodland Street. J. Cronin stated he was not in support of spending the funds needed on this proposed short term solution. T. Hein would like more feedback from residents and businesses in the area.

The Public Safety Day "Touch a Truck" event will be held on May 6, 2023 at the Holliston High School from 9:00am-1:00pm. Many representatives from various Town Departments as well as Committees will be on hand.

The MAPC Regional Trails Creative Placement Strategy has invited Holliston to participate in the Public Art program. This process will select and place art work along the Rail Trail.

T. Hein made a motion to accept the Regional Trails Creative Place Making Strategy Grant through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the associated/necessary documents. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

K. Buckley noted that the Metrowest Visitors Bureau has a mini grant in the amounts of \$1,000-\$5,000 in an effort to promote tourism in communities. This can be obtained through the free trial membership, an annual membership is currently \$800.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Mini-Grant Application for the Metrowest Visitors Bureau through the Towns free trial membership. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

## **BOARD BUSINESS:**

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2023 and February 15, 2023 as written. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation from the Friends of Holliston Trails in the amount of \$20,000 to the Rail Trail Gift Account, 285660-45325 for Tree Work and maintenance. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Event Permit for the Low Life Car Show sponsored by Authentic Auto Body at 7 Jeffrey Avenue Holliston on Saturday April 8, 2023 contingent upon two Police Details to ensure a safe event. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS: NONE**

At 8:26pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_\_05-30-23

