

## **TOWN OF HOLLISTON**

### **SELECT BOARD**

April 19, 2023  
7:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

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

**Also Present:** Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Chris Pantano, Meredith George, co-owners of Mederi Inc.; James Keast, Facilities Manager; Brian Goodman, owner Rushford & Sons Brewhouse; and Thomas Chipman, Chipman Electric.

At 7:01 B. Sparrell called the meeting to order:

#### **HOST COMMUNITY UPDATE MEDERI INC:**

The owners of Mederi Inc., Chris Pantano and Meredith George joined the meeting to discuss with the Select Board changes to the Host Community Agreement due to the recent updated legislation regarding delivery. They would like to add delivery of their product, which would be reflected in the updated HCA. M. George explained that once the HCA has been updated to reflect delivery it must then be approved by the State. B. Sparrell asked if there would be any operational changes necessary. M. George noted that vehicles and drivers would need to be added to their business model to accommodate delivery. T. Hein suggested that this would be a great opportunity to share the message of Drug Awareness especially to the youth within the community. M. George stated that she has had productive conversations with the Holliston Police Department and Youth & Family Services.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the updated Host Community Agreement as presented by Town Counsel for Mederi Inc. located at 44 Boynton Road in Holliston which includes change to the State Legislation and authorization of delivery operations as described by the CCC and the Town's updated bylaw voted at the May 2023 Annual Town Meeting. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

#### **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:**

The Select Board received three letters of interest for one open seat and two associate seats on the Agricultural Commission. The letters received were from Jeanne Chuslo, Jen Dayton and Andy Reseska. After a brief discussion the Select Board took a vote to appoint the following.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Jeanne Chuslo as a member of the Holliston Agricultural Commission and to appoint Jennifer Dayton as an associate member of the Agricultural Commission effective immediately, with reappointment June 2024. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0-1  
J. Cronin abstained, with the comment that he would like to discuss the Associate Member seat with A. Reseska.

## **BOARD BUSINESS: c. One Day Alcohol Beverage License**

Brian Goodman, co-owner of Rushford & Sons Brewhouse joined the meeting to seek a One Day Alcohol Beverage License for a tasting event at the Bird & Bear, 760 Washington Street on Friday May 12, 2023. The Select Board asked B. Goodman several questions regarding the event to which he noted that only 25 people will be allowed inside the building at one time and will be monitored by a staff member. The alcohol will be served by a TIP Certified Server and no alcohol will be consumed outside of the building.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the One Day Alcohol Beverage License for an Event on Friday May 12, 2023 at the Bird & Bear located at 760 Washington Street with a TIP Certified server from Rushmore & Sons Brewhouse to serve a tasting between the hours of 5:00pm -9:00pm with no more than 25 patrons to be allowed in the building at one time. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

## **DISCUSSION OF ELECTRIC UTILITY SUPPLY:**

T. Ahern stated that the current electric utility supply rates are locked in until the end of the calendar year 2023. J. Keast, Facility Manager presented a graphic with various electric utility supply rates. After a brief explanation and discussion with the Select Board J. Keast recommended locking in a 24 month rate with Constellation Energy, effective January 1, 2024.

T. Hein made a motion to approve Constellation Energy as the Electric Utility Supplier broker for a term of 24 months as presented this evening, beginning January 1, 2024. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

## **PLANNING OF PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FOR WOODLAND STREET DAM/BRIDGE PROJECT:**

T. Ahern explained the both the DPW Director and DPW Deputy Director have been working on a plan to create a sidewalk that will make pedestrian access available during the long term ongoing replacement of the bridge on Woodland Street. The 500ft sidewalk will be installed on Lowland Street up to the Rail Trail. This will be done without any taking of private property. The work can also be by the Holliston DPW. After a brief discussion the Select Board unanimously supported the proposed sidewalk.

T. Hein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator if necessary to engage with Town Counsel to pursue any written authorization from property owners, but otherwise to direct the DPW Director and Deputy DPW Director to proceed with the planning of approximately a 500 foot side walk from Woodland Street to the Rail Trail on Lowland Street prior to the bridge repair project on the Woodland Street at Bogastow Brook. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

J. Cronin noted that he appeared with T. Ahern on the most recent episode of "Ask the TA" on HCAT regarding May 2023 Annual Town Meeting Articles' 21 & 22, both DPW related.

B. Sparrell took the opportunity to express his gratitude to all the First Responders for all that they do on a daily basis.

Thomas Chipman, owner of Chipman Electric located at 53 Jeffrey Ave in Holliston joined the meeting to discuss the recent Car Show sponsored by Authentic Auto Body that took place the weekend of April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in the Lowland Industrial Park. T. Chipman voiced his concern about the event calling it “Out of Control”, with excessive amounts of vehicles, noise, traffic and speeding. The Select Board members offered their apologies to T. Chipman and asked the Town Administrator to investigate and draft a letter to Authentic Auto Body.

#### **MAY 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT REVIEW:**

T. Ahern presented the most recent draft of the May 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant which included comments added for more clarification on most articles.

The Select Board discussed Article 19, Transfer a Sum of Money for the Programmatic Stabilization Fund, after which they decided to leave that article as written.

T. Ahern noted that he is in the process completing the comments for the Keefe Tech Article 20, to establish a Capital Stabilization Fund. J. Cronin suggested having Keefe Tech contribute to the commentary.

The Select Board reviewed DPW Articles 21 and 22. J. Cronin suggested adding more specifics in the comments section regarding the use of the Arch Street and Central Street sites once decommissioned, best use of the sites as a way of exploring all options. Ongoing conversation will be needed to inform residents prior to the Town Election on May 23, 2023, regarding the ballot questions pertaining to the articles.

T. Ahern continued to go over the remaining articles, noting that Town Counsel has reviewed both Article 31 and 32 utility access and storm water easements for Jasper Hill Road.

#### **WARRANT:**

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$846,268.14. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

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

Envisioning Future Holliston has planned several Community Forums, Holliston High School May 2, 2023, Upper Town Hall, May 3, 2023 and the Senior Center, May 4, 2023. They will also be available on May 6, 2023 at Touch a Truck at the Holliston High School.

A conditional offer was made and accepted by a candidate for the Town Accountant position. She will be meeting with the Select Board on May 1, 2023.

The State Aid “Cherry Sheet” was released for the Town of Holliston and as expected it was not particularly favorable. However it does not affect the Town budget.

The Traffic Advisory Committee recently recommended that the speed limit on Winter Street be set at 25mph. The Town will work the Department of Transportation as they have the

authority to make that change.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

The Select Board noted that during the last meeting in which PARE Corp discussed the options for the replacement/rehabilitation of the bridge on Woodland Street at Bogastow Brook it was decided that a “short term” option was not preferred.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the contract with PARE Corp Engineering services for the dam and replacement/rehabilitation at Bogastow Brook, otherwise known as Factory Pond Dam, Woodland Street not to exceed \$252,330. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the permit for the Turkey Trot on November 23, 2003 sponsored by the Holliston Youth Lacrosse from 7:30am to 9:30am. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Downtown Spring Market on Saturday May 13, 2023 at 747 Washington Street from 10:00am – 4:00pm, as presented and reviewed by the Holliston Police Department.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Engineering Service Agreement with AP Associates for the Dopping Brook Water Treatment Facility in an amount not to exceed \$68,300 and Water Mains and Appurtenances for various locations, Central and Fiske Street, in an amount not to exceed \$147,300. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Samedha Tathnayake to the Cultural Council with a term to expire in June 2024. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation to the Senior Center in the amount of \$100 in memory of Linda Flannery from Michael and Paula Doe. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation to the Senior Center in the amount of \$200 in memory of Linda Flannery from Karen and Natalie Neff. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation to the Metrowest Veterans Services in the amount of \$1,010.51 from the Metrowest Symphony Orchestra. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation from the Newcomers & Neighbors to the Park & Recreation in the amount of \$1,300 for their summer concert series. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

T. Hein noted that she would like to begin a conversation with the Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director K. Buckley to discuss opportunities for outreach within the community regarding Town Meeting Warrant Articles 22 and 23, the proposed DPW Facility and Sidewalks on Central, Norfolk and Goulding Streets.

At 9:12pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved \_\_\_\_ 06-20-23

