

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

June 5, 2023
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Lisa Deering, Theresa Lamkin and Kathy Shore, Celebrate Holliston 300th Celebration Committee; Kevin Conley, resident; Matthew Stone, Holliston Police Chief, Michael Cassidy, Holliston Fire Chief, Karen Apuzzo-Langton, Paul Langton, Sarah Baroud, Keefe Bailey, Pat Hafford, Stewart Primus, Kelly Lockwood, Valentino Russo, Carrie Russo, Holliston residents.

At 7:00pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

CELEBRATE HOLLISTON 300TH CELEBRATION UPDATE:

Theresa Lamkin, Lisa Deering and Kathy Shore joined the meeting representing Celebrate Holliston with an update of the planned 300th Celebration in 2024. Some of the planned events include partnering with the Agriculture Commissions Bonfire in January, a Gala Ball to be held in February, Parade on May 11, Fireworks in July, Day at the Lake and Golf Tournament sometime during the summer, Cabaret in October, ending with a Cake Celebration in December. The State Funding in the amount of \$10,000 must be allocated/spent by August 2023. The Historical Society has requested the assistance from Celebrate Holliston in the amount of \$5,000 to cosponsor an event for the 300th Celebration.

After a brief discussion it was determined that any funding requests from groups/organization be made to the Celebrate Holliston Committee and then brought to the Select Board for approval.

T. Hein asked if the Committee has given any thought to a Tree Fund which would be used to plant trees throughout Town in honor of the 300th anniversary. K. Shore will reach out to the Holliston Garden Club.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the funding request For Celebrate Holliston in the amount of \$5,000 for fees and rentals related to the 300th Celebration for the Holliston Historical Society. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

T. Lamkin stated that there will soon be a link on the Towns website in which interested parties will be able to contact the Committee. The Committee will plan to return with additional updates in the near future.

EVENT PLANNING FOR BLAIR SQUARE & GREEN STREET:

Kevin Conley joined the meeting and reviewed the last remaining details of the newly

renovated Blair Square. The pavilion should be installed by the end of June 2023. Some work is needed to address cracking in various granite block as well.

T. Hein thanked K. Conley for his vision and assistance in seeing the project to fruition. J. Cronin suggested holding a ribbon cutting ceremony once the pavilion is installed and the square is complete. He also stated that the Park and Recreation Department will be facilitating all rentals of the space.

T. Ahern stated that the 9 Green Street Project should also be completed by the end of June 2023. He noted the Senate Presidents Office supported both projects and suggested inviting representatives from that office to any opening ceremony that may be planned. J. Cronin recommended having two separate ceremonies on two separate dates for each location.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES:

Blair Square: Chief Stone worked with Sargent Belson, Crime Prevention Officer to assess Blair Square. Recommendations include “No Loitering After Hours” signage be installed in the square, also installing a barrier of sorts in the section of the square that is open to Central Street. The Chief suggested something decorative such as large planters. Adequate lighting is needed after dark. Once the conversion to LED lights is completed in that area it will be determined if additional lighting is needed. Chief Stone also added that surveillance cameras could be installed as well. The Select Board felt that more discussion regarding camera would be needed before a decision could be made.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the recommendations made by the Holliston Police Department as presented and that the Town Administrator work with the necessary parties to complete the recommendations. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusions / Lowland and Woodland Streets: T. Ahern stated that since the DOT had granted the HCVE on Woodland Street only trucks delivering to the schools and businesses are allowed access. However many trucks are ignoring the exclusion and have been using Woodland Street to access Lowland Industrial Park. The proper access should be via Whitney Street off of Washington Street, Route 16.

Keefe Bailey, 17 Lowland Street joined the meeting to inform the Select Board that although the Select Board has the best of intentions the measures in place are not effective. The signage is being ignored and not well placed. The trucks are in fact an interruption of daily life as well as a safety issue. K. Bailey appreciates the efforts of the Holliston Police Department in patrolling the area, however their resources are limited.

Karen Apuzzo-Langton and Paul Langton, 100 Woodland Street joined the meeting to inform the Select Board that for the third time in recent years wires have been ripped from their resident by large trucks accessing the Lowland Industrial Park. The most recent time it took three weeks to rectify. P. Langton operates his business from his home and the disruption results in a loss of income not to mention frustration. K. Apuzzo-Langton noted that the other industrial parks in Holliston have only one egress and suggested that the roads be blocked so

that vehicles can only gain access via Whitney Street off of Route 16.

Sarah Baroud, 21 Lowland Street also added that daily truck traffic affects the quality of life for the residents abutting the Industrial Park. The goal is to live in harmony with the Industrial Park, to be proactive in finding a solution. She too agrees that having one egress may be that solution.

Pat Hafford, 242 Lowland Street appreciates all the neighbors' concerns and suggestions, his only concern is that if Lowland Street is closed off at the Woodland entrance the truck traffic will increase at the entrance to Lowland Street where it intersects with Fiske Street, which is where his residence is located. He also agrees with having only one egress to the Industrial Park.

Carl Damigella a Cole Court resident and member of Celebrate Holliston stated that the 300th Celebration Parade plans to use the Lowland Industrial Park for staging and wondered if removable barriers would be used to block off the entrances being discussed.

Dr. Liz Theiler, 17 Norland Street added that she has notice an increase in truck traffic and supports the suggestion of blocking the entrance to the Industrial Park at the Woodland Street entrance. She also took the opportunity to thank Chief Stone for his recommendations regarding Blair Square discussed earlier in the meeting.

T. Hein stated that bold steps need to be taken and voiced her support of creating one egress in and out of the Industrial Park.

Both J. Cronin and B. Sparrell noted that there is much needed communication between the residents and the business owners. J. Cronin asked that the Town Administrator, Fire and Police Chief as well as the DPW Director draft some recommendations to address the issue at hand, how to restrict access of vehicles, with the exception of emergency vehicles at the location marked #2 (Lowland & Woodland Street at the rail trail) on the map T. Ahern provided. As well as notifying the business owners in the Industrial Park of the Select Boards intentions. B. Sparrell also would like a review of the permanent signage.

Highland Street Safety: The Select Board discussed the option of applying for a Safety Zone or a School Zone Application for the area of the intersection of Highland/Hollis/Prentice Streets. A School Zone only applies during the hours of operation while the Safety Zone applies 24/7. Based on the McMahon & Associates Report there are short-term improvements now in place, including the all-way stop signs, and reduction in the radius of the corner at Highland and Hollis Street. Long term improvements will need to become part of the 5 year Capital Plan.

Valentino and Carrie Russo, 781 Highland Street joined the meeting and informed the Board that speed continues to be an issue. They stated that their mailbox has been hit twice. V. Russo stated that if sidewalks were in place that would create a better barrier between vehicles and residents property. He also suggested installing speed camera. C. Russo added that there is a need for a crosswalk, her family does not feel safe crossing the street.

Stuart Primus and Kelly Lockwood, 811 Highland Street asked that additional signage be added, possibly a blinking light on the southbound side of Highland Street. There is still an ongoing

issue with vehicles blocking their driveway, and that it is unsafe when trying to exit their property. Both S. Primus and K. Lockwood also stated that sidewalks and crosswalks are essential to the safety of pedestrians in the area.

Both the Russo's, S. Primus and K. Lockwood do agree that the changes made have improved the situation, however this is an ongoing process.

B. Sparrell made a motion that the Highland Street Sidewalks be added to the Capital Improvement Plans as soon as possible with the priority designation of the McMahon & Associates Report recommendations and as logical next step the improvements made to the intersection of Hollis and Highland Streets and Highland and Prentice Streets and ensure that any solution include the properties of 811 and 751 Highland Street sidewalks and any retaining walls. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to request that the Town Administrator apply for a Safety Zone designation for a stretch of Highland Street that includes the Hollis and Prentice intersections, using the \$4,000 balance from Article 15 of the December 2020 Special Town Meeting. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

WARRANT:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$1,756,934.52. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that the new Town Accountant will be starting next week, June 12, 2023.

The DPW is in the process of obtaining quotes for new equipment which will be funded through the capital expenditures budget.

The Town is awaiting a response from Land Court on the status of 20 Cross Street in an effort to start testing at the site for the possibility of the proposed DPW facility.

The Norfolk sidewalk/water/drainage design and engineering will be on an upcoming Select Board meeting agenda.

The special legislation is being filled for the age restriction for retired Fire Fighter Mark Dellicker's regarding the article which passed at the May 2023 Town Meeting.

S. Reese, K. Sherman along with members of the Tree Spotters are in the process of creating a list of protected trees and will prepare an article for the October 2023 Town Meeting.

The paving project at the Central Street Fire Station will be completed shortly, and work on 9 Green Street will begin on June 8, 2023.

A list will be posted online with the schedule of the LED light conversion to start within the next week, June 12, 2023.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell approved the Common Victuallers License for the Lions Club Carnival on July 12, 13,

14, and 15, 2023 at the Holliston High School. T. Hein seconded. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Permit for the Lions Club Carnival to be held at the Holliston High School on July 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2023. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to waive the fee for the Common Victuallers License for the Lions Club Carnival. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve a One Day All Alcoholic Beverage permit from Bon Fete Inc. for the Hayes Anniversary Party to be held in the Upper Town Hall on July 30, 2023 from 5:00pm to 11:00pm. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve a contract with Murry Paving and Reclamation for various roads in Town for Fiscal Year 2024, an amount not to exceed \$154,375. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve a One Day All Alcoholic Beverage permit for an event at 326 Woodland Street on June 15, 2023 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve an Event Permit for Quilling Card & Gallery Grant Opening on June 15, 2023 at 326 Woodland Street from 6:00pm-8:00pm. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve a Proclamation for the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award for the Lions Club, the recipient not to be named until presented. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell approved the Select Board Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2023, July – December. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Cronin will not be in attendance at next weeks Board meeting, June 12, 2023.

All Annual Appointments will be on the agenda on either June 20 or June 26, 2023.

The Board members will discuss and prepare their goals and liaison assignments within the next several weeks. J. Cronin asked that each member send their liaison requests to Donna Muzzy at the Select Boards office.

At 9:27pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_07-31-23

