

## TOWN OF HOLLISTON

### SELECT BOARD

September 14, 2023  
7:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

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

**Also Present:** Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Lisa Borchetta, Senior Center Director; James Keast, Facilities Manager; Shaw Lively, Park Commission Chair and Mark Frank, Director of Park & Recreation.

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

#### **UPDATE FROM THE COA DIRECTOR:**

Lisa Borchetta began the update with staffing news. Laura Parmensi, the new Assistant Director has been with the Center for approximately three weeks and is doing a great job getting acclimated. The Center is currently looking to fill the position for the Outreach and Transportation Coordinator, as well as adding a few part time van drivers to the staff. The Fall Fair held on Sunday September 10, 2023 was a great success and L. Borchetta expressed her gratitude to all who volunteered their time. She is currently researching Senior Centers "Code of Conduct" in various other communities in an effort to update the one here in Holliston. The Facilities Manager has addressed some of the maintenance issues, such as painting. Cameras have been installed in and outside of the building as well. Some ongoing projects include the Habitat and ARPA grant funded home improvement projects for needy elderly, applications are still being accepted. The Taxi Grant, assisting elderly residents needing transportation is also still ongoing, as well as the Senior Safety Program, in conjunction with the Holliston Fire Department. Future Grants being explored sponsored by the Metrowest Health Foundation include Mental Health & Awareness, Tech Based grants and Housing Stability. Based on a recent survey L. Borchetta stated that the Senior Center is looking at "rebranding" as the Town's senior population is increasing. Younger Seniors do not feel that the Center meets their needs and that it is much more attractive to the older generations.

The Senior Center/Council on Aging is requesting \$25,000 from Free Cash to fund an architectural study of the Center to evaluate the space and assist with a plan to modify, improve space within the building, with the intent to attract more residents to the Center.

J. Cronin inquired if the Facilities Manager might also assess the building as well.

T. Hein inquired if there might be a possibility to increase the footprint of the building.

Facilities Manager, James Keast joined the conversation to answer a question regarding the location of the septic system on the property.

The Select Board thanked L. Borchetta for her time and thorough update.

**UPDATE FROM THE PARKS COMMISSION:**

Shaw Lively, Chair of the Parks Commission stated that the planned renovations at Goodwill are taking longer than originally anticipated. There have been several issues that have required a variance from the Zoning Board as well as some ground water issues. That being said once those have been resolved the project will go out to bid. The Commission has discussed installing a large diamond at Stoddard Park which can be used by older groups, looking to make Stoddard an "All Purpose" Field, with possible CPC funding. However lighting is not being considered as this might negatively impact the neighbors. Lake Winthrop continues to be a concern as to how to effectively treat the invasive vegetation. Mats have been installed and an herbicide treatment has been recommended for both sides of the lake, Pleasure Point and Stoddard. T. Ahern noted that several surrounding Towns use a Harvester housed and operated by the DPW to effectively remove the vegetation. This would need to be considered as part of the Capital Plan. S. Lively agreed that further conversation regarding the suggestion was warranted. S. Lively stated that the Parks Commission would like to consider the site of the old Flagg Building as an area for a basketball court. He will work with Schools to see if that is a possibility. The "Back Stop" problem, pertaining to the baseball field at the High School is in need of a Professional Solution. To install a proper backstop, 25-28 feet instead of the 12 feet that is currently there will cost \$250,000. The CPC has been approached for possible funding and has indicated that it does not fall into their purview. Conversations with the Schools and Park Commission will move towards a solution, and may need to be brought back to the Town for Capital funding. S. Lively went on to note that Pickle Ball is now being considered by the MIAA as a legitimate sport and the Park Commission suggest the Town owned property at 260 Woodland Street be considered as a Pickle Ball Court site. An evaluation by a professional engineer would cost approximately \$35,000.

Mark Frank, Park & Recreation Director joined the meeting via zoom after just attending a Community Preservation Commission (CPC) meeting. He stated that the CPC confirmed that the Back Stop project at the High School did not fall under their guidelines for funding. The Finance Sub-committee has been introduced to the project.

J. Cronin asked that the subject be brought back to the Select Board after the School Committee has been able to weigh in on the project.

S. Lively stated that there is still interest within Town for a Pump Track as a new individual has come forward in an effort to renew dialogue on the matter.

T. Ahern stated that DPW will be able to install several parking spaces on Mayflower Landing at the Rail Trail, which includes "curb cutting" with a cost of \$12,500. There is also a portion of land which the Town owns to the left side of that area which may be developed as Park & Rec Space. M. Frank will approach the CPC for possible funding after some ideas have been discussed.

T. Hein asked M. Frank for feedback on recent events that have been held at the newly renovated Blair Square. M. Frank responded by noting that the Park Department is still

learning how to effectively use the space. He expressed his appreciation for Shannon Cornwell, the Assistant Park and Recreation Director.

#### **REVIEW OF OCTOBER 2023 FALL TOWN MEETING:**

T. Ahern stated that the Warrant for the October 16, 2023 Fall Town Meeting will close on Friday September 15, 2023 at noon.

Reserves in the amount of \$500,000 will be transferred to the Stabilization Fund for Policy. Money from Free Cash, which has yet to be determined, will need to fund CapEx based on a verity of different items.

Other items include year two of the ADA compliance sidewalk and ramp improvements, possible temporary signalization at the Whitney and Washington Street intersection, (discussion needed after quotes are received from McMahon & Associates).

The Opioid Settlement in the amount of \$61,000 will flow into Free Cash after which an account will be established and then appropriate the use of the funds in FY25.

Envisioning Future Holliston will conduct a presentation with an update of all the data and recommendations from BerryDunn.

The Council on Aging, Community Preservation Commission and the Planning Board will all sponsor articles, as well as an article pertaining to ZBA regarding 15 Winthrop Street.

There will be one Citizens Petition on the Warrant.

T. Ahern will finalize the Capital Budget after the Planning Board, Community Preservation Commission and the Schools have had their meetings.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the inclusion of the Holliston High School Baseball Field Backstop and Screening Project in the draft list of Capital projects on the October 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant subject to the availability of funding to be determined within the next three weeks, and look to the School Committee for feedback. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Placeholder on the October 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant for a request for a Free Cash appropriation for Architectural Services to assess the Senior Center facility for the stated purpose as presented earlier in this evenings meeting subject to availability of funding to be determined in the next three weeks. J. Cronin amended the motion to include, contingent on the Council on Aging vote. T. Hein amended, J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Warrant for the October 2023 Fall Town Meeting as presented by the Town Administrator. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

#### **CAPITAL BUDGET DRAFT:**

T. Ahern is waiting for the School Committees vote this evening as it relates to the Capital Budget as there may be some changes to be made. A request for updates to the cable system at the Senior Center may be removed in light of possible improvements in the near future.

The request for ALS equipment made by the Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief to outfit two ambulances in the amount of \$253,000 will be discussed with the Finance Committee.

The Police Department has made a request for two new vehicles, as well as reconfiguration of space after the transition to the RECC, Regional Emergency Call Center.

The building at 1750 Washington Street is being reconfigured and requires construction within the interior of the building.

The Schools have a request for chromebooks.

The Library will continue to update the ADA compliance for access.

The DPW will install four parking spots on Mayflower Landing, and continue work on the sidewalks/ramps.

The Grounds Division of the DPW would like to invest in a Bucket Truck with attachments to aid in maintenance of trees and various other ground work.

T. Ahern noted that once Free Cash has been certified the above referenced items may need to be pared down.

T. Hein made a motion to approve and allow the inclusion of an Article for the October 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant for the Capital Budget and the full list that will be voted for approval at a future Select Board meeting. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

#### **WARRANT:**

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$2,108,410.78. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

T. Hein thanked J. Cronin for attending the 9/11 remembrance on September 10, 2023 and recognized all those that received awards.

T. Hein read a memo on behalf of Zoe Moreau, the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Director looking for interested parties willing to share their stories around addiction and recovery.

J. Cronin thanked all involved with the 9/11 remembrance ceremony on September 10, 2023.

J. Cronin stated that on Monday September 16, 2023 there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Blair Square after which they will walk down Central Street to Green Street for the second Ribbon Cutting.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINITRATOR:**

T. Ahern will post the itinerary for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies on September 16, 2023 online.

There have been two responses to the recent bid for the position of the Sustainability Coordinator.

T. Ahern and Facilities Manager J. Keast are in the process of discussing the proposed One-way entrance at 777 Washington Street with two abutters.

The first round of interviews for the Economic Development Coordinator have taken place. The next step will be to schedule second interviews.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS: NONE**

**OTHER BUSINESS:NONE**

At 8:31pm T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_\_10-23-23

