

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

October 23, 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; Officer Charles Grace, Gene Mueller, Stacey Raffi, Traffic Advisory Committee; and Michael Cassidy, Holliston Fire Chief.

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

TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Officer Charles Grace stated that the Traffic Advisory Committee has received twelve petitions since May 2023. The Committee recommends the following three actions. A crosswalk on Hollis Street at Fieldstone Drive, No Parking 6:00am to 6:00pm on the even number side of Grove Street, and relocation of an ADA accessible parking spot on Washington Street from 688 Washington Street to the corner of Elm/Washington Street. There has also been a request for a crosswalk on Hollis Street at Liberty Lane, however it is not included in this evenings recommendations. T. Hein suggested that the recommended crosswalk on Hollis Street at Fieldstone install a flashing light at some point in the future. Richard Weiler, 28 Fieldstone Drive stated that the neighborhood has grown over the past several years and voiced his support of the crosswalk.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the crosswalk on Hollis Street at Fieldstone Drive as recommended by the Traffic Advisory Committee. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the recommendation by the Traffic Advisory Committee for No Parking on the even number side of Grove Street from 6:00am to 6:00pm for a better traffic flow. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Traffic Advisory Committee recommendation for the repositioning of the ADA Accessible parking spot currently in front of 688 Washington Street to the corner of Elm and Washington. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Other items being reviewed by the Traffic Advisory Committee include the traffic study being conducted by PARE Corp for the Norfolk/Franklin/Central Street area, the Green Street Municipal Parking Lot traffic study also being conducted by PARE Corp, and a study being conducted by McMahan and Associates for the implementation of a 24/7 Safety Zone on Highland Street near the High School. All of which will be presented at the upcoming November 6, 2023 Select Boards meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein stated that the Creative Placemaking Workshop took place on Friday October 13, 2023

with 30 attendees. The workshop included a tour of 9 Green Street, up Central Street to Blair Square. The next step will be to reconvene in January.

J. Cronin stated that at a recent event Coach Kiley honored Timothy Garry, a Holliston resident who recently passed away, and he admires the courage of the Garry family for bringing to light mental health illness awareness. J. Cronin also noted this past Saturday, October 21, 2023 there was a ribbon cutting ceremony held at Blair Square, with a walk down Central Street ending at 9 Green Street. Thanks to all involved in bringing the projects to fruition. In appreciation to Mark Ahronian for all his contributions a footpath located next to the Central Street Fire Station is being named Ahronian Way.

Keefe Bailey, 17 Lowland Street, stated that he was disappointed with the results of the October 16, 2023 Town Meeting in regards to the outcome of articles related to Woodland Street/Lowland Industrial Park. K. Bailey read a statement regarding the safety and speed involving the high volume of trucks violating the HCVE on Woodland Street as well as photos. K. Bailey stated that the recent traffic report indicated that a safe traffic speed should be 19mph, however vehicles are often going 35mph-40mph with the top recorded speed of 68mph.

Sarah Baroud, 21 Lowland asked that the Town protect the livability of the residents. She and some of her neighbors read the Institute of Transportation Report Recommended Guidelines Safe Systems Approach for Speed Management. S. Baroud stated that "traffic safety is proactive and humans make mistakes, humans are vulnerable, please take this into consideration."

Paul Langton, 100 Woodland Street, stated that in both reports, McMahon and the US Department of Transportation suggest engineered proactive guidelines as follows: pedestrian and bicyclist crossings should be at 19 mph per hour, speed bumps, speed tables, curb extensions median islands and road closures.

Karen Apuzzo-Langton, 100 Woodland Street, noted the overwhelming support of all who signed the original petition for the HCVE on Woodland Street for engineering solutions and guidelines including, if all else fails the road closure of Lowland Street at Trail.

Dr. Liz Theiler, 17 Norland Street, pointed out that at the October 16, 2023 Fall Town Meeting out of 280 individuals who signed the petition in support of Article 19 only 5 were in attendance.

Pam Zicko, 180 Fiske Street, stated that she looks forward sidewalks being installed on Lowland/Woodland Street section of the roadway and hopes it will be done in the near future.

Dan Miller, 38 Woodland Street, noted the constant truck traffic and the ineffectiveness of the Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion. He supports an engineered solution.

Sharon James, 101 Regal Street, stated that trucks have issues with navigating the roadways in her neighborhood. She feels it's an ongoing safety issue.

Michael Barry, 54 Regal Street, voiced his concern about the safety in his neighborhood, especially when crossing the streets with the ongoing truck traffic and noted this has been an issue for years, it's time to find a solution.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$2,222,355.85. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

Envisioning Future Holliston has updated the Town Wide Strategic Plan, making significant changes. The revised plan has been posted to the Towns website. The presentation made at the October 16, 2023 Town Meeting can also be found on HCAT.

The offices located at 1750 Washington Street have been reorganized with thanks to the Facilities Manager.

The Council on Aging is interested in the possibility of purchasing the abutting property at 120 Goulding Street, currently on the market, or possibility a portion of that property with interest in possibly expanding the site of the Senior Center.

T. Ahern and T. Hein visited the site of the future YMCA facility in Ashland recently. Any Holliston residents interested in participating in the development process should contact The Select Boards Office.

PARE Corp is moving forward with the 100% support structure for the Woodland Street Bridge and Dam. If the grant and contract are secured late 2023 the project can begin in early 2024. Melanie Hamblen the Part-time Economic Coordinator started her position today. The Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director will introduce her to the community at the October 30, 2023 Select Boards Meeting.

The School Committee met last Thursday October 19, 2023 and discussed the possibility of a Task Force in response to the recent hate rhetoric found on school property. At this point in time the School Superintendent is working with stakeholders to continue to address the issue and a Task Force has not been formed.

The vehicle being used by the Facilities Manager has been declared a total loss after a recent accident. If the Town chooses to replace it with a hybrid vehicle it would cost an additional \$15,000.

The Town Clerk has certified the vote approving Article 18 on the October 16, 2023 Fall Town Meeting, a request for an All-Alcohol License for Central Café. The next step will involve legislation action. This process can take up to 18 months.

There is currently \$150,000 remaining in Free Cash after action taken at the October 16, 2023 Fall Town Meeting.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the appointments of Eusebio Gonzales Sr. and Justin Moran to the role of on-call Fire Fighters to undergo the necessary training as directed by the Fire Chief and to be added to the annual reappointment list of on-call Fire Fighters. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2023 and

September 18, 2023 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein noted that after the vote pertaining to Article 6, Temporary Signalization of Whitney Street at Washington Street, at the October 16, 2023 Fall Town Meeting, which resulted in the Free Cash balance of \$150,000 there is a lot more conversation needed to move towards traffic solution in that area. T. Hein added that traffic management throughout the Town is ongoing and that bold steps may needed to find solutions.

J. Cronin stated that he appreciated the robust debates which took place at Town Meeting, specifically pertaining to Article 19, Citizens Petition: Lowland Street. He received an email from a proponent of the Article requesting more dialogue to find a solution. J. Cronin suggests immediate action to be taken in the Lowland Street area. Improve signage on Washington and Woodland Street. He also asked the Town Administrator to make an inquiry of Police Chief Stone to put together an intense Traffic Enforcement Plan with the intent to determine what necessary steps might need to be taken to further educate and patrol for violations.

T. Ahern noted that he would need to receive Select Board approval for additional signage.

J. Cronin asked that the Town Administrator draft a letter from the Select Board to local businesses announcing the arrival of the part-time Economic Development Coordinator to be presented at the next Select Boards meeting.

Stacey Raffi, Traffic Advisory Committee member stated that signs have been replaced in the past and that visual signage was posted as well. She noted her frustration in that this issue has been challenging.

Karen Apuzzo-Langton, 100 Woodland Street, stated that although it is everyone's best interest to assist drivers steps need to be taken for the residents.

At 8:05pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__11-27-23

