



Town of Holliston
Select Board

August 25, 2020

Select Board meeting Room – 105

Present; John Cronin, Chairman; Tina Hein, Vice Chairwoman, Ben Sparrell, Clerk and Travis Ahern, Town Administrator.

At 7:00 p.m. Mr. Cronin called the meeting to order to discuss Lowland Industrial Park Truck traffic.

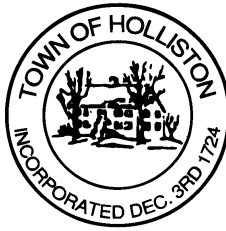
Mr. Cronin read a notice informing residents on the Zoom call and all on telephones to please be considerate to others. He said that this forum is to hear what the residents have to say about the truck traffic around Lowland Street Industrial Park.

Mr. Cronin said the our State representative Carolyn Dykema was on the call, a member of the MA DOT, the Police Chief Matt Stone and several other residents and business owners.

Representative Dykema said that she said that she can remember this going on for so many years, and it have been going on too long.

Ms. Hein said that she wanted to say that she has responded to each and every email or text that has been sent to her about the truck traffic. She said that if anyone has a traffic complaint to please go to the Town of Holliston website and fill out a Traffic Advisory Form. She said that the Traffic Advisory Committee was formed in the spring and they were just getting started when Covid started. She said that they will be back at it as soon as possible. There was a small slide presentation talking about the mission of the Traffic Advisory Committee.

Mr. Cronin opened up the forum with the first caller, Carol Khouri, 40 Bullard Street. She said that she has sent in letter to the Traffic Advisory Committee. And she will not be able to have her hearing until February 2021. She said that she has been taking pictures of all the trucks that go by her house on a daily basis. She has started to follow them to see where they are going. Most are going to Lowland Industrial Park. She said that there are 18 wheelers, trash trucks, dump trucks and many box trucks. She said that on August 17th there were over 100 trucks that went down Bullard Street. She said that the culvert



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has collapsed because of the weight of these trucks. She thanked Karen Sherman who put a lot of time into pulling permits from some of the business in Lowland Industrial Park. She would like to see a sign saying 21/2 ton weight truck limit. There is only one 35 MPH speed limit sign and that is in front of the Fish and Game that is coming off of Central Street. And there is not one speed limit sign coming Off Fiske Street up Bullard Street to Central. Ms. Khouri said that all the exhaust and fumes from the trucks is causing breathing issues. She said that it is not safe for her to live in Holliston.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Khouri for her comments.

Shahar Zeevi, 15 Bullard Street, said that they are the first house off of Fiske Street from Bullard Street. He said they bike to school and it has become very dangerous. He said that on a few occasions they have had to jump out of the way of the trucks speeding down the road. He said that it will be worse in the winter because of the snow banks. He said that many of the lawn have tire tracks going thru them because the trucks are too wide and they have to pass each other they drive over the lawn to move over. He said that now when a truck makes the corner from Fiske Street to Bullard they blow the horn at all hours of the day.

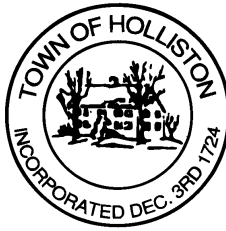
Mr. Cronin thanked Mr. Zeevi for his comments.

Jean Klein, 85 Regal Street, said they have lived there for 20 years but the truck traffic has gotten worse over the past five years. She said that she has two kids that go to the Woodland Street schools and it is so dangerous for them to cross to get to the Rail Trail. She said the lots of students walk to school and it is an accident waiting to happen.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Klein for her comments.

Michelle Mehigan, 76 Regal Street, said that they moved in to Town in 2006. They have had several close calls with trucks. They love the Rail Trail but it is hard to get to because of the trucks driving along Lowland Street out to Woodland Street. She would like to see a truck exclusion. This will keep the students walking to school safe.

Mr. Cronin thanked her for all her comments.



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Michael Barry, 54 Regal Street, said he has lived in Town for 32 years and they can't cross the street to get to the Rail Trail. He is afraid that someone on a bike is just going to ride out in front of a big truck. He said that he is concerned every time he tries to pull into or back out of his driveway. He said that over the past number of years it has gotten busier. He said that the trucks start at 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. He said that it is non-stop. He also filled out a Traffic Advisory Committee, and he will not be heard for 6 months.

Mr. Cronin asked what days is there the most traffic.

Mr. Barry said Monday through Saturday starts early and ends late. They are also using a Jake brake and that is very loud.

Mr. Cronin said thanked Mr. Barry for his comments.

Aislinn Weaver, 69 Woodland Street, she said that this has been going on for years and years. Her mom grew up in the same house she lives in now and this was going on when her mom was younger. She said that the windows in her house rattle when a truck slam on their brakes. She said that kids have a hard time crossing the street with the trucks coming. She said that when she was taught to ride a bike, you got off the bike to cross the street, kids today just ride across the street without even looking. She said that her mom remembers a sign at Whitney Street telling truck drivers to use this entrance not the Woodland Street one.

Ms. Hein asked if there have been accidents at this intersection.

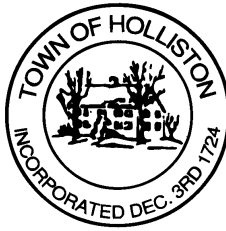
Ms. Weaver said that an 18 wheeler got stuck trying to take a right onto Woodland Street coming from Lowland Street.

Ms. Weaver asked how will this be enforced having trucks use the Whitney Street entrance and exit.

Matt Stone, Chief of Police said they are in the process of being trained by the State Police on Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. Each officer needs to be certified and trained. He said that if a truck driver is not following a speed limit sign or a one way sign. Yes that is enforceable by the Police and tickets will be handed out.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Weaver for her comments.

Sarah Baroud, 21 Lowland Street, they have lived in their house for 1 ½ years. She thanked everyone for all their hard work. They love the Rail Trail and they are very close to the Woodland Street schools. She said that the truck traffic is ruining it for her. She said that between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. 41 trucks went past her house. She said that they are very loud.



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Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Baroud for her comments.

Thomas Gilbert, 105 Bullard Street, he and some of the residents of Bullard Street put together a list of items and sent it to the Select Board by email.

Mr. Ahern said that he received it.

Mr. Gilbert said that Bullard Street is only 8 feet wide in each direction and big trucks straddle the center yellow line. He said that diesel trucks make a lot of noise and with a heavy load hitting the breaks is even louder. He said that there are a lot of animals in this area. And it is hard for the truck to stop when they are in the road. He said that some of the trucks that are going up and down Bullard street are going to the transfer station on Washington Street or the reclamation plant on Lowland Street. He said that truckers usually follow the same routes. He asked if GPS, Ways, or Google maps could be changed to avoid Bullard Street.

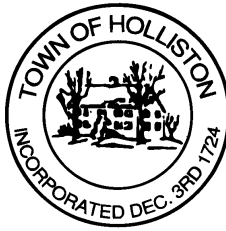
Mr. Cronin thanked Mr. Gilbert for his comments.

Pam Zicko, 180 Fiske Street, said that the jake break is very loud. She said she has talked to a few of the truck drivers and they are just using their phone for GPS. She said that there is a special GPS called TomTom and it will tell a truck driver of a low bridge or a road that has a weight limit. She said that the truck drivers do not want to pay for it. She said that it could cost around \$500. She said that if a truck is making a delivery on a street that has a truck exclusion and the delivery is going to a place on that road, the truck will not be excluded, it can still make that delivery. She said that she is also concerned about the bridge on Lowland Street with the weight of the trucks that cross it.

Mr. Cronin said that he would get back to Ms. Zicko about trucks making a delivery on a truck exclusion street.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Zicko for her comments.

Karen Langton, 100 Woodland Street, she has lived in her house for 20 years. She said that a truck pulled down some low hanging wires in April, it was a communication line that the truck got caught in. She said that over the past few years it is getting worse. She said that the Industrial park has a design flaw. The trucks are bigger and they are speeding and they are a dangerous size. There should be one entrance and one exit. She said that the small roads can't handle the trucks. The State highway can. She said that the Industrial Park had done very well, and she is pleased to see them doing so well. Every time she backs out of her driveway, she is afraid that she is going to get hit by a truck going to fast. She said that she is concerned about the number of kids that will be



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walking to school in the fall. She said that Kuniholm Park Drive has one way in and one way out. At the top of the industrial park there is a barrier that keeps the trucks out of the residential neighborhood. She said that she remembers a discussion with the business owners about the truck traffic at Lowland Industrial Park and the truck drivers were good for a few weeks then they went back to their old ways. She said that this needs to be a permanent action by the Board. She said that they love the neighborhood. She said that with fewer busses there will be a lot of walkers to school.

Mr. Cronin said that Joe Frawley from MASS DOT is on the line listing.

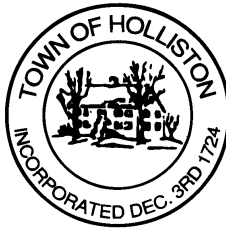
Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Langton for her comments.

John Higley, Sherborn resident, said that Sherborn has a special permit excluding trucks from using Western Ave. He is planning on working with the Holliston Planning Board, as he is a member of the Sherborn Planning Board. David Thorn, Chairman of the Holliston Planning Board said that they plan on meeting with the Sherborn Planning Board very soon. Mr. Cronin asked Mr. Thorn if he is familiar with the special permit that Sherborn has. Mr. Thorn said yes. Mr. Higley said that he loves our Rail Trail and hopes that theirs will be as nice when finished.

Mr. Cronin thanked Mr. Higley for his comments.

John Mahan, 230 Fiske Street, at the corner of Fisk Street and Lowland Street. He thinks we should put up a sign no through trucking from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and there is a 2 ½ ton limit truck sign as well at the corner and he has never seen a truck stopped. He said that clearly some of the trucks are over 2 ½ tons. He said that sometimes the trucks start as early as 5:30 a.m. He said that the jake brakes are very loud. He said that his wife has gone to Reclamation Center on Lowland Street at 6:30 a.m. and the gate is open, but they are not to open until 7:00 a.m. The owner was very rude to her. He said that with Covid there are more and more people out walking and riding bikes, the trucks come around a blind corner. He said that there have been several near misses. He does remember back in 1990's all trucks were to go out Jeffrey onto Washington Street.

Mr. Cronin thanked Mr. Mahan for his comments.



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Kevin Brower, 171 Washington Street, said he has lives in his house for 9 ½ years at the corner of Washington Street and Locust Street. If they change the flow of the truck traffic he will be affected.

Ms. Hein said that the Board needs a better understanding of the truck traffic.

Mr. Cronin thanked Mr. Brower for his comments.

Jenna Schnare, 21 Regal Street, she said that the crosswalk is at a blind corner on Woodland Street. She would like to see it put on the other side of the street. You have to go around a fence just to get to the crosswalk. She said that some trails have a sensor so when you approach the flashers will go off no need to hit a button.

Ms. Hein said that a crosswalk is in the plans to be fixed.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Schnare for her comments.

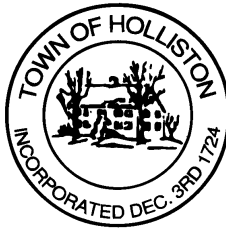
Judy Dewitt, 182 Central Street, said she has lived in her house for 45 years. Central Street is very busy and there is more and more truck traffic. She said that there are earth mover trucks that fly up and down Central Street. She said that there have been several car accidents at the corner of Norfolk Street and Central Street. She said that the trucks start early in the morning. She is concerned about the speed and the loud jake break noise.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Dewitt for her comments.

Zoom lost all the hands raised so Mr. Cronin asked that anyone who was waiting to please log in again.

Mr. Cronin apologized to the audience.

Steve Hedrick, 108 Norland Street, said they are the first left on Woodland Street coming from Washington Street. Many times trucks take Norland Street and try to find their way to Lowland Street. Sometimes they backup on Woodland Street and other times they keep going through the neighborhood looking to take a left onto Lowland Street. He said that the corner to make that turn is very tight in a car, what, are these trucks doing. He said that there are no sidewalks in Lowland Industrial Park. He said that there are no signs indicating the way back to Route 126. He said that if Adesa does move to Lowland Street how will the trucks get there. He said that the plant in Framingham instructs trucks to take Route 126 and that brings them right into Holliston at Rossini Corner, they would have to take a left go through the Woodland Street lights and then take a



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right onto Whitney Street. He said that a truck driver is going to see Woodland Street and take it to get to their destination faster.

Mr. Cronin thanked Mr. Hedrick for his comments.

Adam and Laura McClean the call was lost.

Matt, a resident at 4 Old Surrey Lane Medway, said that he is not impacted by the Lowland industrial Park truck traffic. He said that 555 Hopping Brook Park Road. He said that there is the possibility of three million square feet of space and it will bring in 7 thousand trucks to Washington Street, Route 16.

Mr. Cronin said they have withdrawn interest at 555 Hopping Brook Park Road.

Jeff Turner, 26 Bullard Street, said that he has lived in Town for 22 years. He would like to see a stop sign on Bullard Street coming onto Fiske Street. He said that he thinks that may slow the truck traffic down. He would also like to request no truck traffic go through neighborhoods, only use a truck route.

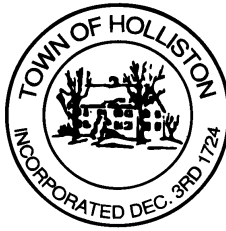
Mr. Cronin thanked Mr. Turner for his comments. He said that they are going to work with Mass DOT to make a plan that routes traffic in a safe and efficient way. Mr. Cronin said they are going to be doing a lot of homework to get this resolved. Ms. Hein told Mr. Turner to go to the Town of Holliston website and go to the Traffic Advisory Committee and fill out a petition asking for a stop sign at Bullard Street going out to Fiske Street.

Sarah Hill, 1 Fiske Pond Road, said that they have lived in their house for 7 years and although they are not affected by the truck traffic going by their house, they are impacted when they go for walks and ride their bikes. She said that just a year ago they had to jump out of the way of a truck that was driving too fast and too close to them and he was not paying attention to his surroundings.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Hill for her comments.

Mary Greendale, 189 Highland Street, said that just tonight at 7:45 p.m. she was almost hit by a trash truck while coming out of Elm Street going to Woodland Street. That is late in the day for trucks to be leaving the Washington Street transfer Station.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Greendale for the comments.



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Wendy Cabot, 1395 Washington Street, said she would like to see a Town wide ban on jake brakes.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Cabot for her comments.

Leslie Negri, 79 Northway Street, said that safety and traffic are her concerns. They often ride bikes and there is not a lot the road when the truck are passing you. She said that the property that the trucks are going to, they do not stop while exiting the property, they come and go all day long. She said that Adesa will be using 194 Lowland Street to store cars there will be 620 cars in the lot. That means that there will be more and more tractor trailers carrying the cars back and forth.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Negri for her comments.

Michael Szabatua, 31 Noel Drive, said he has lived in is house for 13 years. He said the noise coming from the Industrial Park they can hear inside and outside of their house. He said that it is so loud. They can't go out because noise. He has been begging for help for years. The noise has impacted their lives. They can hear the tucks backing up, tail gated being dropped and closed, and the large machine dumping rocks and other things into the backs of open trucks. He said that they are running from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, he said even on holidays and that is against their permits. He has called the Board of Health about the smell coming from 157 Lowland Street. There is jackhammering all the time and there is smoke and dust in the air. He has complained to the Building Department and the Zoning Department many times. Mr. Szabatua played a tape of the noises that he can hear several times a day. It was very loud.

Mr. Cronin thanked Mr. Szabatua for his comments.

Cherie Hafford, 242 Lowland Street, said many trucks and trailers go by her horse farm multiple times a day. And if she is out riding and a truck goes by it scares the horse. Ms. Hafford said that the reason that some of the trucks will not use the Jeffrey Ave road is because Stanley keeps the trucks waiting on the road on both sides of the loading dock and it blocks the road while they attempt to back into the loading dock.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Hafford for her comments.



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Shahar Zeevi, 15 Bullard Street, second call said that they are working with their neighborhoods to help each other.

Ms. Hein said that it is good to work together and together we can come up with a solution for truck traffic.

Cidhinna Torres-Campos, 77 Woodland Street said she grew up in Town and she has young children. She said that when she takes them to the Gym in the Industrial park and sometimes they have to wait a long time because the loading dock at one company is in the wrong place and the truck is sticking out into the street and you can't get around it in either direction.

Mr. Cronin thanked Ms. Torres-Campos for her comments.

Carol Khouri, 40 Bullard Street, second call said with the lack of signs the trucks will go where they please. She said that if signs were installed we would not be having this issue. She said that there must be designated truck routes.

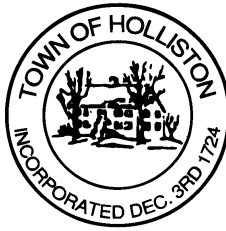
She said that we have to look at this long and hard to make the correct plan.

Ms. Khouri asked that the Adesa plans be denied.

Mr. Cronin said that this is a complex issue and they will look into signage.

Karen Langton, 100 Woodland Street, second call said she is disappointed that none of the business in the Industrial Park called in. Ms. Langton read a Zoning By-law #40A.

The purpose of this zoning by-law is to promote the general health, safety, convenience, morals and welfare of the inhabitants of Holliston under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40A (the Zoning Act); to encourage the most appropriate use of the land; to preserve the cultural, historical and agricultural heritage of the community; to conserve the value of land and buildings, including the conservation of natural resources; to provide for appropriate commercial and industrial uses of land; to protect water quality and supply; to secure safety from fire, flood and other dangers; to regulate land uses that have an impact on the Town's natural, fiscal and physical capacities; to encourage housing for residents of all income levels; and to provide for other purposes authorized under the Zoning Act. For this purpose, the use, construction, repair, alteration, height, area, and location of buildings and structures, and use of premises in the Town of Holliston, are regulated as hereinafter provided.



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Mr. Cronin thanked everyone who took time out of their day to attend this meeting. He asked the Board for their comments.

Mr. Sparrell said this was a very informative meeting. He said that it will be very challenging. He said that he does not want to borrow trouble by taking trucks from one street and putting them on another. He said that signs would help and he will look into it. He thanked everyone who participated.

Ms. Hein said take break, Safe Routes to Schools, walking and biking in or near an industrial park, yes more signage is needed. Ms. Hein said that she realizes that there are many issues and the Select Board understands the resident's concerns.

Mr. Cronin said that the Board has to do their homework. They need to talk to the State and present a proper traffic plan. They will start with local law enforcement and see if more signs can be added. He said that permits should be enforced, and they are going to work with Mass State Police. He said that this was a very helpful meeting and he thanked all the callers.

AT 9:19 P.M. MR. SPARRELL MOVED TO AJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. HEIN. ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____