

**TOWN OF HOLLISTON**  
**SELECT BOARD**

August 2, 2021  
7:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

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

**Also Present:** Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Matthew Stone, Police Chief; and Peter Barbieri, representative of Celebrate Holliston; Beth Hoffer, 184 Winthrop Street.

At 7:00pm T. Hein called the meeting to order.

**CELEBRATE HOLLISTON – DISCUSSION ABOUT 300<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY (12/03/24):**

Peter Barbieri a member of the Celebrate Holliston Committee was present to discuss the future celebration of the Town's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which is December 3, 2024. The thought is to model the celebration after the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with an event every month leading up to a dinner/ball around December 3, 2024. The Committee currently has \$100,000 of which \$30,000-\$50,000 will be used to fund a parade with the assistance of the Holliston Fire and Police Departments. At this time the Committee will start to solicit ideas from groups within Town to come up with a calendar of events.

P. Barbieri stated that this year Celebrate Holliston will take place on Saturday September 18, 2021. The event will take place on Central Street, with parts of the street closed to vehicle traffic. It will be held from 10:00am-3:00pm. There will not be a parade this year.

T. Hein noted that the organizers of the Farmers Market would like to hold the Market on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> instead of Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>. P. Barbieri will check with the Celebrate Holliston Committee and get back to B. Blair (Farmers Market) with an answer.

The Select Board thanked P. Barbieri for the update and look forward to more updates on the 300<sup>th</sup> planned celebration.

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) – REPORT TO SELECT BOARD:**

Police Chief Matthew Stone joined the meeting to update the Board on the most recent TAC meeting. The Chief presented the list of petitions received by various residents within the Town. Several of the petitions involved the request for the Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusions which have recently passed and are now being addressed throughout Town. TAC has also worked closely with Safe Routes to School and the result of which has been additional signage, several of which are the flashing crosswalk signs at Church and Railroad Streets. The Chief is planning to work along with TAC to do a town wide sign audit. This will take into consideration placement of signage and any signs that may need to be replaced or repaired. The Select Board agreed to accept Chief Stones TAC report and thanked him for his time.

## **CARES ACT / ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:**

Chief Cassidy joined the meeting and stated that the county is experiencing significant spread of Covid 19. The number of active cases in Holliston went from 5-10 within the past week. The Chief reminded all that back in May he stated that people should not dispose of their masks as the future was yet unknown. He continued to urge individuals to get vaccinated and also get tested if feeling symptomatic. Although there is no justification at this time for another State of Emergency the Chief noted that discussion around school opening will continue as any changes may be needed going forward. J. Cronin asked the Chief if the Town was prepared to go remote again. The Chief responded by stating the Town has the capacity to go back to the previous status during the pandemic very quickly. He will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep the Board updated.

The Chief stated that the American Rescue Plan Act, ARPA deadline for the first round of funding requests was today, August 2, 2021. The ARPA Steering Group will hold a meeting via zoom at 12:00 noon on Monday August 9, 2021. T. Ahern presented a list of the funding requests from various Department Heads which will be discussed at the Monday August 9, 2021 meeting and may make their way back to the Select Board for approval. T. Ahern also presented a Potential, Priority List of "Shovel Ready" DPW projects that the Town can consider for ARPA funding proposed by AP Associates. This list can also be forwarded to Representative Dykema and Senator Spilka for consideration for additional State Funding.

B. Sparrell voiced his concern over the condition of the various dams within Town and wondered if ARPA funding could be used for any repairs needed. T. Ahern noted that the Town is currently waiting to hear about available grants to address the issues regarding the dams. James Keast, Facility Manager, however calling in as a resident from 104 Fairview Street asked Chief Cassidy if he could speak to the severity of symptoms of individuals who have tested positive for the Corona Virus after being vaccinated. The Chief responded by stating that it appears that people who have been vaccinated and then contract the virus have much milder symptoms and do not often require hospitalization.

## **WARRANTS:**

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,125,685.19. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

J. Cronin recognized Police Chief Stone for setting up training for several of Holliston Police Officers in conjunction with the Police Reform Act that recently passed. Chief Stone explained that the training will be conducted by Chief Brian Kyes, Chief of the Chelsea Police Department. There will be eight officers from the Town of Hopkinton and eight from Holliston in attendance. Chief Stone also explained that the Court Diversion Program has been slightly restructured. Holliston is one of three towns sharing a clinician due to the fact that the Town of Ashland no

longer participates. This will mean that the clinician will spend more time working within the Holliston.

T. Hein thanked Chief Stone for sharing information with Officer Grace on the upcoming October 2021 “speed mitigation forum”.

T. Hein also complemented J. Winer the Director of Youth and Family Services for her presentation at a recent MMA conference regarding Holliston’s response to the pandemic. J. Winer would like to hire a non-benefited part time clinician to help address mental health issues as the recovery of the pandemic may take many years.

Beth Hoffer, 184 Winthrop Street joined the meeting with several diagrams/illustrations of the water pipes that are on her street and connecting to her home. It appears that the water main running down the street is a 6 inch pipe, however when it gets to her property and several other house the pipe is reduced to a 2 inch pipe. B. Hoffer stated that this is the reason that the quality of the water which she receives at her home is substandard, causing staining of her clothing and leaving residue on her pots and pans and not safe for consumption. The Town funded the cost of a household water filter, however B. Hoffer would like the Town to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment of her water done.

T. Hein noted that the Stantec Report which includes Winthrop Street will be available in the next several weeks and the Board will advise her of the results. Both B. Hoffer and the Board thanked each other for their time.

Mary Greendale, 198 Highland Street called into the meeting to inquire if the schools can apply for ARPA funding. T. Hein responded that yes the schools can apply, and that there is also additional state funding available for the schools.

#### **OPEN WARRANT FOR FALL TOWN MEETING:**

J. Cronin made a motion to open the warrant for the Fall Town Meeting to be held on October 18, 2021 at 7:00pm with the intention of closing the warrant on September 20, 2021 at 4:00pm. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

#### **RESULTS OF SURVEY FOR 260 WOODLAND STREET:**

T. Ahern began the update by stating that there have been close to 600 responses to the survey put out by the Town for feedback regarding the future use of 260 Woodland Street. The overall consensus is for a “pump track”, second and close behind is a “dog park”. The Select Board discussed and highlighted several items/concerns such as how to mitigate the Town’s liability, and what the cost around that may be. The safety for all users regarding access to the area, as well as the maintenance and upkeep. J. Cronin noted that the DEP may need to be involved again in soil testing.

Joshua Solberg, 101 Shaw Farm Road and a “pump track” advocate called in to the meeting to offer his assistance to the Board going forward if needed. He did comment that in his opinion the area would accommodate not only a “pump track” but other uses as well.

T. Hein thanked J. Solberg for his interest and offer and noted that it is clear that there is a strong interest from the public and the Board will continue to research the issue and will also bring the Park & Recreation Department into the future conversations around planning.

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

T. Ahern stated that Holliston will take part of an E911 study looking at Holliston and neighboring towns dispatch network. There is no direct cost to the Town.

The Stantec Sidewalk study will be presented at the August 16, 2021 Select Board meeting.

T. Ahern will attend the Capital subcommittee meeting tomorrow August 3, 2021, as well as the Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday August 4, 2021.

T. Ahern noted that the inspections of the dams in Town are now in compliance with the State. There is more work to be done as future inspections are required. T. Ahern will work towards "Getting the Dams in Shape". A working group will be created and will include the Conservation Agent, Sustainability Coordinator, Chief Cassidy, T. Ahern and T. Hein.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

J. Cronin made a motion to accept a donation from Ahronian Landscaping in the amount of \$2,636 for plants and labor to be installed at Blair Square/Rail Trail. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to accept a donation from the Lions Club in the amount of \$1,000 to the Senior Center gift account #285541-453-20. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve a One-Day Beer and Wine License for the Gillian Berkowitz Concert at the Historical Society on August 8, 2021 from 6:00pm-8:30pm. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve a Block Party on September 25, 2021, closing Rolling Meadow Drive with permission from the Holliston Police Department from 4:30pm-10:30pm, with a rain date of October 5, 2021. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve a Birthday Party on August 14, 2021 on Exchange Street from 12:00pm-6:00pm, with portions of the road closed for activities. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Contract Amendment #1 with PARE for the 9 Green Street Project, as follows: 1) septic sampling \$4,000. 2) tech specifications \$8,000. 3) bidding services \$2,800. 4) construction services \$9,700. Totaling \$24,500. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern explained that to date \$13,590 has been spent on the project leaving a balance of \$41,310 of the appropriated funds voted at Town Meeting. The bidding process will take place over 60 days.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2021 as written. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

The Board decided to postpone the signing of the deed for SummitPointe Drive until there is approval from the Town Planner and Highway Superintendent

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

T. Hein noted that the Board will not meet on August 9, 2021 and the meeting scheduled for August 23, 2021 will be cancelled. A meeting will be held on Thursday August 26, 2021. The Board will not meet the week of September 6, 2021 due to the holidays that week.

T. Ahern asked the Board to grant him authorization to sign the contract for the DPW Feasibility Study once it has been awarded to the bidder. Which he will then present to the Select Board in a future meeting.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize T. Ahern to sign the contract for the DPW Feasibility Study on behalf of the Select Board for an amount not to exceed \$75,000. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

At 9:01pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved \_\_\_8/26/21