



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

**Present:** Mark Ahronian, Chairman; John Cronin, Vice Chairman; Tina Hein, Clerk

**Also Present:** Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

M. Ahronian called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

**1.) Warrants:** T. Hein read the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-16) in the amount of \$439,185.96 and made a motion to approve. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0.

**2.) Public Comment:** M. Ahronian noted there would be a walking tour of the Thistle Dew Farm shortly and the public is welcome to participate and walk the farm area in anticipation of the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article under the Community Preservation Committee that considers the acquisition of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on the land.

Sharon Weaver, 69 Woodland Street asked when the next Sustainable Waste and Recycling Committee meeting would be. She wanted to know if and when it would be possible to receive an additional 35 gallon solid waste cart.

Further, she asked about the condos and small business community and if they would receive the service.

M. Ahronian said there was an Article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant but the Finance Committee did not support it so it was pulled from the Warrant. The Board could establish a “trash district” for small businesses but it is difficult to determine where it would start and stop. There might be something in the Spring Annual Town Meeting.

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**3.) Report of the Town Administrator:** J. Ritter said the Board has been invited to the Annual Veterans Day Parade and luncheon to be held on November 11<sup>th</sup>. He continued by reviewing the schedule of events and the timing.

The Economic Development Committee is seeking three (3) new members. There are currently three (vacancies). Anyone interested should contact the Selectmen's Office with a letter of interest and if possible a current resume.

On October 26<sup>th</sup> there will be free flu clinic from 9a.m. until noon at the Placentino Café.

The landfill solar project is moving along. The top three vendors were asked a series of follow-up questions. Those response were received last Thursday and we should have a summary next week.

Town Counsel will start reviewing the Motions for the Special Town Meeting tomorrow morning. Also, there will be a final review of the Warrant and Motions next Monday various interested parties have been invited.

There will be a tire drop-off on, Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 8a.m. until noon at the Marshall Street Recycling Center.

The Town should be receiving the first draft of the traffic study from McMahon's fine tuning of the Town Center lights next week.

**4.) Board Business**

**Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2019:** The Board decided to hold this item since the Minutes have not been prepared.

**Event Permit – Haunted Walk/Family Trick or Treating:** There is a planned event at the Community Farm on October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There are concerns about the evening event and the EEE virus.

Kristen Serocki (Community Farm) and Betty Harris (Lions Club) were present to review and discuss the Lion Club the planned Haunted Walk/Family Trick or Treating event at the Community Farm.

M. Ahronian said he was a Lion and would abstain from any vote that might be taken. He did provide a history of the event and all the work that went into planning the annual fundraiser.

There are several other events taking place on the same day(s) so it is difficult to change the date.

T. Hein asked about the fundraiser and how much money is anticipated. B. Harris said last year the Community Farm received \$1,500 and the Lion Club \$1,500.

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J. Cronin asked if the event could be extended into November. B. Harris said the colder it gets the harder it is on the older Lion volunteer who are generally elderly.

T. Hein asked if the sets could be used next year. B. Harris said she thought it best to focus on the Sunday event.

J. Cronin asked how long it takes to takedown all the displays. B. Harris said about five (5) hours.

T. Hein asked about attendance. B. Harris said about 500 in total attended last year with about 300 children and 200 adults.

T. Hein compare this event similar to heat waves volunteers have a lot to lose.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Sunday Event Permit only. Second, T. Hein. Voted 2-0-1 (Ahronian)

J. Cronin asked if they thought about an indoor event. T. Hein said one the reasons in having the event at the Community Farm was to expose the public to all the good things taking place at the Farm.

**Appointments – Holliston Cable Access, MAPC, E911 Liaison:** T. Hein made a motion to appoint Dan Sweeney with a term to expire on September 30, 2022. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

T. Hein made a motion to appoint M. Ahronian to the MAPC Board. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

T. Hein made a motion to appoint and designate the Police Department dispatchers as E911 Liaisons. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**Lions Club Holiday Display:** Ed Daniels, 24 Morton Street was present and asked the Board to address two (2) items. First, when the entering Holliston was hit and repaired on the Sherborn line the decal was not replaced. The decal read “Donated by the Holliston Lions Club.”

Robert Nemet said the sign has been hit twice.

The Board agreed to let the Lions Club or DPW to replace the decal.

E. Daniels said the second issue relates to the downtown holiday display. Several area businesses have donated resources for the placement of lights in the downtown area. A Go Fund Me Page has been started and the Holiday Stroll will be on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

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T. Hein asked who manages the Stroll. E. Daniels said that is run by the Holliston Business Association.

The Board had no objections to the downtown holiday display.

**Safe Routes to Schools – Sign and Lanes Grant:** T. Hein said the grant funds if awarded must be spent by June 30, 2020. This year several interested parties did a walk through on the Upper Charles River Rail Trail. Two (2) areas were identified as possible crosswalk locations near Holliston Oil.

The Safe Routes program have standards for crosswalks.

J. Cronin said he understood this would be a reimbursement program and prior approval would be needed.

This item will be on the Agenda next week. The grant submission date is October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Special Town Meeting – Motions:** The Board reviewed the draft Motions. J. Cronin said Article 8 “Water Asset Management Plan,” Article 10 “DPW Facility Feasibility Study,” and Article 11 “Sidewalk Prioritization Plan,” are all important Article and in need of a community conversation.

T. Hein said many parents have approached her about the need for more and better sidewalks. She agreed this is an important Article.

M. Ahronian said he thought the DPW Article was also important and this would be important to link that to the Facilities Manager position. Sean Reese should get a copies of the Medway and Wrentham Feasibility Studies to review.

Regarding the Illicit Discharge By-Law, T. Hein said there might be an impact on the current DPW facility.

Regarding the Water Asset Management Article T. Hein said this is also important.

J. Cronin said regarding the Facilities Manager position and Article. He views that one two (2) levels. First, facilities management and second, the asset inventory is more like a master plan. We need to discuss with the Planning Board and have more conversations in order to prioritize needs.

T. Hein said these activities implies future spending.

J. Cronin said the conversation centers around the High School and what is going to happen there.

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T. Hein said she thought a committee is needed but the Selectmen did a good job in prioritizing spending.

J. Cronin said there are many community assets such as open space, people, affordable housing, buildings and all that should be in the Capital Improvement Plan.

**4.) Other Business**

**Cross Street Signs:** T. Hein made a motion to add signs on Cross Street and at the request of the Trails Committee to move the concrete blocks along the property lines. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**Adjourn:** At 8:10p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted



J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator