



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 9, 2018**

Present: Jay Marsden, Chairman; Mark Ahronian, Vice Chairman; John Cronin, Clerk

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

1.) Warrant: J. Cronin read the Warrant and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-15) in the amount of \$1,725,540.44. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

2.) Public Comment: J. Marsden said he wanted to clarify a misunderstanding and a comment made by the D.P.W. Director regarding the Fafard housing development and that there were \$3.0 million in repairs and improvements needed. The Holliston D.P.W. is not a construction company and the scope of the needed repairs does not approach \$3.0 million. However, they are working on a final punch list to get the project completed.

Tina Hein, 142 Union Street, provided more traffic calming information to the Board. Including the importance of having a walkable community and the impact on economic development and residential property values.

Between the Rail Trail and the new streetlights there has been an increase in the volume of traffic and speed in Mudville. It is all about making the streets safe for residents and more signage would help these efforts.

The 2016 Study supports a lower speed limit the residents want to have the opportunity to provide McMahon input.

J. Cronin said the 2016 Study is a baseline guideline the criteria is important and asked what criteria would T. Hein propose using in helping to lower the speed limit.

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T. Hein said there was a stroller hit in June and there are MassDoT guidelines regarding accidents over a three (3) - five (5) year period currently we only have two (2) years.

We need to better understand the volume and the speed issues. We believe the volume is somewhere around 2,000 cars per day at 30 MPH where two (2) years ago it was like 1,400 cars per day.

Residents would like to discuss this with McMahon.

Travis Hein, 142 Union Street, said there are many ways to measure speed limits. For example, the 85th percentile method measures the age of the population, the volume of pedestrian foot traffic the number of driveways and density.

J. Cronin said we were seeking a path to get to an end of cut through traffic. Now speed is the concern which problem do you want to fix.

Travis Hein, said residents are having trouble getting into and out of driveways.

Elizabeth Newlands, 40 Spring Street thanked the Board for their support and said recently approved legislation allows cities and towns to designate safety zones linked for example to a linear park or close to a downtown so the other data is not need to make these changes.

There are not a lot of traffic citations issued because the area is not posted for speed.

Jean Spera, 88 Water Street, said there is a need for a data driven matrix we all live in a nice neighborhood, it is not Waltham where there are cut-through street everywhere we need a forward looking traffic study.

Thomas Norton, 79 Union Street, between 5:30p.m. and 6:30p.m. is the worst time he has walked the neighborhood for fifteen (15) years and has almost been hit several times.

Susan Woodrow, 136 Union Street, said she wanted to make two (2) points. First, regarding the truck exclusions she understands that is unrealistic but asked the Board to consider a no through trucking option and said thirty-five (35) communities in the greater Boston area have decided to reduce speed limits.

Second, she asked the board to consider a slow streets program. Further, she supports the finds in the "Herriman Report." This issue goes to the health of the downtown and she would support

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lowering the speed limit to 20 MPH or 25 MPH. She said winter is coming and asked the Board to do something to help the neighborhood.

3.) Report of the Town Administrator: Deferred action.

4.) Robert Smith, McMahon re. Mudville Traffic Study Proposal: Robert Smith from McMahon confirmed that two (2) years ago they completed a baseline study we will need to take the data collected at that time and compare it to the new data to be completed over the next several weeks. We review the data to determine what has changed and what can be done to address these changes.

J. Cronin asked R. Smith if McMahon had anticipated these impacts.

R. Smith said when the design was completed the objective was to keep traffic on Washington Street and to keep the traffic moving. We did anticipate there would be delays.

J. Cronin asked when the baseline study was completed did McMahon look outside of the Mudville neighborhood.

R. Smith said the baseline study was focused mostly on Mudville using traffic counters.

M. Ahronian asked R. Smith how many years of experience he had.

R. Smith said he had thirty-five (35) years of experience.

M. Ahronian asked if he make recommendations regarding speed limits. R. Smith said that would Maureen Chlebek from his office who could do that.

M. Ahronian asked in his opinion should the speed limit be lowered. It is now at thirty (30) MPH some roads merit a lower speed limit. Perhaps McMahon should take into consideration the opening of the Rail Trail and the installation of the street lights there is more activity in the area and we need to look this as a public safety issue and we need to use common sense.

R. Smith said we will do whatever the Selectmen wish. Sometimes an incremental approach to solve a problem is the best approach but there is a need for more data to support any changes.

M. Ahronian said he understands the traffic counting will start tomorrow. R. Smith said it was scheduled to start tomorrow but there has been a one (1) week delay. It will take them about two (2) weeks to pull together a report for the Board.

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J. Cronin asked if R. Smith had read the questions from the neighborhood.

R. Smith said yes but the apparent volume is not there to support a slow streets program in Mudville but that does not mean it is safe.

J. Cronin said the speed issue is different than the volume issue.

R. Smith said cut through traffic tends to go faster we will use a radar gun and MassDoT has a process for adjusting speed limits. We can do an independent study regarding volume.

J. Cronin asked how long a speed study would take. R. Smith said about one (1) day but that could be expanded to include more days.

J. Cronin asked if McMahan could provide recommendations regarding traffic patterns. R. Smith said they have many tools in their tool box. For example, they could recommend a one way system but there are impacts on others. What might work well for one does not work well for another. So it might boil down to a value judgement how badly does it justify changes. Consider the impact on public safety is another area.

J. Cronin made a motion to amend the scope of work and Contract to allow for a speed study. Second, M. Ahronian. Discussion: J. Cronin noted now we are getting complaints from Locus Street these would normally be referred to the Police Department. Vote 3-0

J. Marsden said this would be a multi-day study.

R. Smith said yes in Mudville but they need a list of streets from the Selectmen. J. Marsden said we will get a list of streets to R. Smith the new baseline study should mirror the original. J. Cronin said and will get the volume study in like two (2) weeks.

J. Cronin asked about the status of the caution lights. J. Ritter reported that he thinks Eversource has repaired the problem.

5.) Street Acceptance Hearing – Evergreen Square – Johnson, Kingsbury and Metcalf

Drives: J. Cronin read the legal notice. J. Marsden asked for a staff report. Sean Reese, D.P.W. Director was present. S. Reese said Planning and D.P.W. are recommending the Hearing be continued until next week (7/15) allowing time for the developer to complete the outstanding items.

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Lou Petrozzi, Wall Street Development and owner of the project was present and said there were a few outstanding open issues that will be addressed tomorrow.

S. Reese said there was also a sink hole in the sidewalk that needs to be addressed. L. Petrozzi said he has posted a road bond and the residents want to get it done.

J. Marsden said if it is not completed to the Town's specifications Town Meeting will table any action or consideration.

M. Ahronian made a motion to continue the Hearing until October 15, 2018. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

6.) Board Business

Blair Square Committee Appointment: J. Ritter reported Kathy Shore has submitted a letter of resignation to the Town Clerk. The Board thanked her for her service to the community.

M. Ahronian made a motion to appoint Kevin Conley to the Blair Square Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Senior Center Donation and Fire Department Gift: M. Ahronian made a motion to accept a \$400.00 donation to the Holliston Senior Center from Superette. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to accept a gift to the Holliston Fire Department (ambulance) from Charles Street residents in the amount of \$75 and a \$2,000 donation from Trinity Ambulance. Second, J. Cronin. Discussion: J. Cronin asked if thank you notes are sent to those making a donation. J. Ritter said yes that is normally left to the department receiving the donation to follow-up.

Meeting Minutes from October 1, 2018: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from October 1, 2018. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Event Permit – Haunted Walk, October 20, 2018: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the Haunted Walk event permit to be held on October 20th at the Community Farm starting at 5p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Parade Permit –Veterans Day Procession, November 10, 2018: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grant the Veterans Day Procession to be held on November 10, 2018 starting at Blair Square at 10:15a.m. Second, J. Cronin. Vote 3-0

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One Day Alcoholic Beverage License – Special Occasion Servers: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grant a One Day All-Alcoholic Beverage License (Special Occasion Servers) for the Veterans Day Luncheon to be held on November 10, 2018 from 9a.m. to 2p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

9 Green Street: M. Ahronian noted that funding for an additional analysis is current in the Special town Meeting Warrant. However, there is still more work to be done and this project is not yet ready. J. Cronin said it is his understanding there is \$350,000 included in a bond bill to address parking in Holliston. He agreed the project is not ready at this point in time. He thought a sub-committee would be a better solution to work on this with an eye on the Annual Town Meeting this Spring.

J. Marsden agreed and said we can place this item on the board's Agenda for further discussion after the Special Town Meeting.

M. Ahronian made a motion to remove the Article from the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Special Town Meeting Warrant, Sign: The reviewed the entire Warrant and made the following changes:

Article One: J. Cronin said the addition a Building and Grounds Department within the D.P.W. should be considered as part of the annual budget appropriation. J. Marsden agreed and said he would like to get a better understanding of how this would work. J. Cronin confirmed this would not include the schools. J. Ritter said as currently proposed it would not just town buildings and facilities.

J. Cronin made a motion to remove the \$100,000 request from Article One. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

J. Marsden made a motion to approve Article One for inclusion in the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-1 (Marsden, motorcycle)

Article 2: Previously Approved

Article 3: Previously Approved

Article 4: Previously Approved

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Article 5: M. Ahronian made a motion to increase the number of police vehicles from one (1) to two (2), and to include the Exterior Field House Wall.

Article 6: Previously Approved

Article 7: Previously Approved

Article 8: Previously Approved

Article 9: Hold

Article 10: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Article 11: Previously approved

Article 12: J. Marsden said this was drawn from the Framingham example. J. Ritter corrected and said it was from Ashland. J. Cronin said the Economic Development Committee needs more life and things to do to encourage the business community. He likes the idea there will not be any funding requested at this point in time. M. Ahronian made a motion to approve. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Article 13: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Article 14: Previously approved

Article 15: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0
J. Ritter will invite the Trails Committee to the next Board meeting so they can explain the source of revenues and their plans for the use of those revenues.

Article 16: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0
Fire Chief Cassidy was present and explained the need to move the fire alarm and fiber from about twenty (20) double poles.

Article 17: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0
It was noted the work would start during the Spring of 2020.

Article 18: Previously approved

Article 19: Previously approved

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Article 20: Previously approved

Article 21: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Article 22: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Article 23: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Article 24: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Article 25: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Article 26: M. Ahronian made a motion to include in the Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Adjourn: J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39p.m. Second, M. Ahronian.
Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter

Town Administrator