



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
NOVEMBER 18, 2019**

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

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

At 6:00p.m. the Board attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Humanitarian Awards Ceremony in the Upper Town Hall.

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

**1.) Warrants:** T. Hein made a motion to approve and sign the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-21) in the amount of \$1,388,232.73. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**2.) Public Comment:** T. Hein said the Traffic Advisory Committee will have its first meeting tomorrow evening.

Last Wednesday she participated in the kick-off meeting for the landfill solar project with the town's consultant Beth Greenblatt and SolSystems. We are working toward a public Contract not a private Contract. The Town should receive \$8.5 million over 20 years including power purchasing options.

J. Cronin said he would provide an update to the Finance Committee regarding the Chief Financial Officer position tomorrow evening. He thanked M. Ahronian for doing the 1<sup>st</sup> Humanitarian Awards this evening.

M. Ahronian said it was very well attended.

T. Hein congratulated the Holliston girls soccer team for beating Medway 3-0

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**3.) Report of the Town Administrator:** J. Ritter said the Department of Revenue has approved our tax rate. He thanked the Board of Assessors for all their hard work in getting this done in a timely fashion. The tax classification hearing will be next week.

The Washington Street solar powered speed sign has been removed and will be reinstalled at Union and Washington.

There is an opening on the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority Board if anyone is interested contact the Selectmen's Office. J. Cronin asked if the opening could be posted to the Web site. J. Ritter will look into that.

The Town will receive a \$12,500 META 8 Grant to help support the landfill solar project and to further utilize the consulting services of Beacon Integrated Solutions.

The Finance Committee is meeting tomorrow evening.

The Town has received about seven (7) applications for the position of Facilities Manager.

J. Ritter asked about the Holiday meeting schedule for the Board. It was agreed that the Board would meet on December 23<sup>rd</sup> but not on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding the LSP services for the 9 Green Street property the RFP has been developed and will be mailed out to various engineering firms with a response date in early December and a final selection by the middle of January.

J. Cronin asked the job description for the Sustainability Coordinator be placed on a future Agenda.

**4.) McMahon Report:** Michael Pompili and Robert Smith from McMahon were present. They reviewed their findings and recommendations.

Provide a protected left turn from northbound Washington Street to westbound Hollis Street. M. Pompili said this would make it easier for vehicles to access Hollis Street. There would be a left green arrow in the lights to make traffic flow more smoothly.

The right hand turn from Washington Street onto Hollis might require a bump out but that would also result in the loss of between five (5) and six (6) parking spaces. Kevin Conley suggested the use of white paint in the roadway that would be the best option. J. Cronin said any change to the right lane turn should be included in the report.

R. Smith said some milling would be needed and that can get expensive.

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T. Hein asked about the timing of the lights there is a lot of public interest in addressing the timing. If the lights were to go from 68 seconds to 50 seconds that would be a big improvement. Also, she spoke with the Town Planner regarding the right turn of Washington Street and the MWRTA bus top might have to be moved. The loss of parking would not be a major concern. R. Smith said it was mostly a safety concern. M. Pompili said we do not want the intersection blocked and that could be addressed with a flashing yellow light and the intersection being painted on Washington Street "Do not Block Intersection."

Second, Central and Exchange Streets. R. Smith said the peak times are between 3:30p.m. and 7:00p.m. By reducing the crosswalk timing on Central, Exchange and Green Streets this would speed up the flow of traffic on Washington. Also, the placement of "No Turn on Red" sign from Central to Washington would improve safety.

K. Conley asked if the lines could be moved more toward Fisks and away from Superette this would make it much safer when people are opening their doors to their vehicles. M. Ahronian agreed it is really tight in that area. The time is right now to make that adjustment.

M. Pompili showed a video traffic simulation and the current and proposed traffic flow patterns. He noted the traffic loop detection system is not working at Washington and Hollis Streets and they are waiting for a price to repair that. The system senses approaching and departing traffic. The estimate is \$2,500 vs. \$25,000 for a camera system.

T. Hein noted in terms of functionality there is not much of a difference.

M. Pompili said there is a sense from the public that there is not enough time to cross Washington Street in the crosswalks so we do not want to shorten the time to cross the street.

M. Ahronian asked as part of their study if they looked at Concord and Washington Streets and as a result of their recommendations could this make traffic worse at Highland and Washington and Washington and Concord Streets. M. Pompili said those are not heavy pedestrian areas.

J. Cronin asked about traffic volume and noted there are about 100 fewer cars daily that use the town center that would be about a ten (10) percent reduction. R. Smith said as more obstacles are put in the way drivers look for easier routes.

T. Hein said it appears the recommendations focus on operational and safety improvements. This is a regional problem Hollis and Central Streets are generally for local traffic whereas Washington Street is more commuter traffic.

M. Ahronian said it is important to include K. Conley's point about the parking issue in front of Superette and that solution should be included in the total cost.

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K. Conley said with the development of parking at 9 Green Street that should address any parking concerns. There is also a problem with motorists taking a left off Washington and crossing a double yellow line to access parking behind Superette.

K. Conley asked about the crosswalks and what happens. M. Pompili said when those are activated everything shuts down.

J. Cronin noted the volume of traffic is down and adjustments are expensive we do not have real numbers yet. A right hand turn off Washington Street onto Hollis Street would have little impact.

M. Ahronian asked if the expenses could be refined. R. Smith said they could take another look at the bump out at Hollis and Washington Streets. Also, the issue of restriping, the shift lanes in front of Superette and Fisks. We can look at some low cost solutions.

T. Hein said whatever happens to 9 Green Street will ultimately be linked to the town center.

M. Ahronian asked about grants to help the Town come up with some solutions. J. Ritter will speak with the Town Planner.

J. Cronin asked what causes a loop detection system to fail. M. Pompili said most likely water.

M. Ahronian asked about a warranty. M. Pompili said it has expired.

A summary of the McMahon Post Construction Adjustments to the Washington Street Signals Projects, dated November 8, 2019 are the following:

- \* Provide a protected left turn phase from northbound Washington Street to westbound Hollis (\$7,000)

- \* Provide a right turn lane from southbound Washington Street to westbound Hollis Street (\$4,500)

- \* Provide "Do Not Block Intersection" signs and pavement markings at the Washington Street at Hollis Street intersection (\$1,000)

- \* Repair wire loop vehicle detection on northbound Washington Street at Hollis Street (\$2,500)

- \* Remove variable lane assignment sign on northbound Washington Street at Central Street, provide blankout "No Turn on Red" (\$6,250)

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\* Shorten pedestrian phase for calls to cross Central Street, Exchange Street, and Green Street (\$3,750)

\* Shorten pedestrian crossing time and provide additional time via extended button push

\* Replace wire loop vehicle detection with video detection

**5.) Board Business**

**Holiday Display Requests:** Michael Tyman, a member of the Lions Club was present and asked permission to string some lights in the trees by the cemetery. T. Hein asked if the lights would be white. M. Tyman said with would be. J. Cronin wanted to receive confirmation that the cemetery is town owned property. M. Tyman said they checked with the Church and confirmed it is Town owned. There was no objection from the Board.

The Board took up a request from the Chabad Center to display a menorah in front of the Town Hall. J. Cronin made a motion to approve the request to display a menorah at the Town Hall from December 15<sup>th</sup> until January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Marshall Street Speed Limit Request:** The question of speed limit signs on Marshall Street came up in response to a request from a resident. J. Ritter will get further clarification from the Police Department regarding the exact locations for two (2) speed limit signs and the proposed rate of speed. This matter will come back before the Board as a future Agenda item.

**Conservation Restriction – Highland at Holliston:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve a Conservation Restriction that include eight (8) parcels of land off Concord Road pursuant to the recommendation from the Conservation Commission. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

**6.) Any Other Business:** T. Hein said the Safe Routes to Schools Grand will be signed tomorrow by J. Ritter and then she would be attending a conference on this the following day.

J. Cronin asked J. Ritter to prepare a job posting for the Sustainability Coordinator and a job description.

J. Cronin asked that the Pinecrest clubhouse doors be placed on a future Agenda.

**Adjourn:** At 8:22p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

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Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Jeffrey Ritter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator