



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
DECEMBER 16, 2019**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

M. Ahronian called the regular meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

1.) Executive Session: At 6:00 T. Hein made a motion under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21A (3) to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy to collective bargaining or litigation or potential litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigation position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

The Board will re-enter open session at approximately 7:00p.m. Second, J. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote: Hein – Yes; Cronin – Yes; Ahronian – Yes

2.) Warrants: T. Hein made a motion to approve and sign the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-25) in the amount of \$1,654,357.54. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

3.) Public Comment: T. Hein thanked Youth and Family Services Director Jaelyn Winer for recently hosting an opioid awareness event at the Holliston Public Library. The event was very well attended.

J. Cronin said if Bobby Blair were present he remind everyone that it is Holliston's 295th birthday. Now is the time to start planning for our 300th birthday.

Page Two

Meeting Minutes 12-16-19

M. Ahronian reminded everyone there will be a New Year's Eve walk along the Upper Charles River Rail Trail.

4.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter reported there will be a staff review of the applications and resumes submitted for the Facilities Manager position tomorrow afternoon. We appear to be on schedule for a recommendation to the Select Board in early January.

The Fire Department will receive a \$5,000 grant under the Washer-Extractor Grant Program and \$3,405.20 from the Firefighter Turnout Grant Program. Expenses for both activities were approved at Special Town Meeting so those expenses will be reduced.

Good Chemistry, a marijuana grower in Town will be hosting an informational session at the Holliston Public Library on Thursday, December 19th starting at 5:30p.m.

Regarding the Green Communities program, he thanked Chris Meo for his continuing efforts to guide more energy efficiencies. Phase III of the program include new lights at the High School Elementary School, and 1750 Washington Street. Town Hall weatherization is scheduled to start next week.

5.) Board Business

Pinecrest Doors Replacement: Chris Canney, Building Inspector was present. J. Cronin questioned the procurement process. J. Ritter said best business practices should be used for projects less than \$10,000 and for projects less than \$50,000 three written estimates are to be secured.

J. Cronin said one of the vendor estimates was incomplete because the hardware was not included in the estimate. C. Canney said those additional numbers are being gathered.

J. Cronin asked if the electronic parts of the door would remain in place. Chris Canney said yes but the strike plates would have to be replaced.

J. Cronin asked how long would it take for the installation. He would like to see it rebid to make sure the estimates are responsive to what we are looking for. C. Canney said it would take around one week to order the doors and 4-6 weeks for the installation.

It was agreed to rebid the project.

Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2019: J. Cronin made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2019. Second, T. Hein. Discussion: J. Cronin said under 6.) Any Other Business: he would like to insert "...analyzing the Planning Board

Page Three
Meeting Minutes 12-16-19

files relative to existing conditions and improvement made to date.” There so no objection.
Voted 3-0

Park & Recreation Gift: J. Cronin made a motion to approve and accept a gift from Ahronian Landscaping in the amount of \$500 for the purposes of helping to fix the ball fields at various parks. Second, T. Hein. Vote 2-0-1 (Ahronian) It was noted that the Finance Committee is looking into the various gift accounts and the Town Accountant owes J. Ritter an explanation as to how the Casella mitigation funds can be used perhaps a look at best practices from other communities would be worthwhile.

Annual Licenses – Alcoholic Beverage & Amusement Devices: T. Hein made a motion to approve the renewal of the following Beer and Wine Package Store Licenses: Central Café and the Corner Market. All Alcoholic Restaurant: Anthony’s on the Green, Bertuccis, Bar Athena and Casey’s Crossing and one Amusement Device License for Casey’s Crossing. Second, J. Cronin. Discussion: There was discussion about what an Amusement Device license was. Also, the status of the Crafted license. J. Ritter said we were awaiting approval from the State Legislature. Voted 3-0

Mass DoT Meeting Agenda: T. Hein said she met with Sean Reese last Friday and thinks it would be beneficial for them to meet one on one with the District Three Engineer before any public discussion is undertaken. A brief agenda will be prepared in advance of their meeting in Worcester.

J. Cronin said if and when Mass DoT representatives come before the Select Board our State Representative and Senator should be notified in advance.

T. Hein agreed some topics for discussion might include speed, sidewalks, dam ownership, technical assistance, truck traffic but we need to understand our priorities in advance..

M. Ahronian said ultimately this could save both the Town and the Commonwealth money and we might want to add to the list the intersection at Hopping Brook and Washington Street.

Another intersection is Washington and Whitney.

T. Hein said we need to identify the top 3 concerns and we should look at a 20MPH in the Town Center and seeking support, assistance and approval from Mass DoT to accomplish this.

J. Cronin asked how often the Traffic Advisory Committee is meeting. T. Hein said for now monthly but will most likely move to quarterly in the future. The Committee will be seeking community input by way of a survey which will be well advertised.

Page Four
Meeting Minutes 12-16-19

Event Permits – First Night Trail Walk and Harvest Ride for Respite: T. Hein read reviewed both permits and made a motion to approve and grant event permits for the Harvest Ride for Respite and to be held on Sunday, September 26, 2020 and the 7th Annual First Night Trail Walk to be held on Tuesday, December 31, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

6.) Any Other Business: T. Hein said she would like to expand the work of the Sustainability and Recycling Committee work by exploring the feasibility of expanding their activities to new type of recycling collections.

J. Cronin agreed and said this would tie in nicely with the work of the new sustainability coordinator's work and then report back to the Select Board but we need more details.

T. Hein said she was looking to work with three (3) people and then bringing back like two (2) projects for the Select Board to consider. It is a matter of tweaking our new trash program.

J. Ritter agreed to invite the Sustainability Committee to meet the Select Board at a future date.

J. Cronin noted the MSBA did not accept the Statement of Interest and it is difficult to understand what this means and how the scoring was calculated. There is a need for the Select Board to prioritize projects and the Board needs to discuss this over the next couple of months. We need to better understand what the School Committee is planning to do over the next couple of months.

M. Ahronian noted as another option there is the accelerated repair program. T. Hein said this discussion could be on the Select Board's January 20th Agenda we to fix a 3-5 year timeframe.

J. Cronin agreed that over the next several months we need to reset our priorities.

Adjourn: At 8:00p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 2-0

Respectfully submitted



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator