



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
APRIL 29, 2019**

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

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator; Jay Talerman, Town Counsel; and Daniel Brown, Special Labor Counsel

At 7:00p.m. Chairman J. Marsden called the meeting to order.

1.) Warrant: J. Cronin read the Warrants and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-44) in the amount of \$\$1,901,863.16 and Warrant (19-43A) in the amount of \$66,383.22. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

2.) Public Comment: M. Ahronian thanked Bryan Clancy (Holliston Housing Trust) and Habitat for Humanity for sponsoring a ribbon cutting ceremony at 172 Concord Street which will be a new affordable housing unit.

State Representative Carolyn Dykema and State Senator Karen Spilka were both represented. This is the third affordable housing unit in a row for the Housing Trust.

3.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter said the roof replacement at 1750 Washington Street is approximately 25% completed but weather conditions are causing unanticipated delays.

There was a Department Heads Meeting last Thursday with Selectmen Cronin and Ahronian attending to introduce the new Personnel By-Law in anticipation of Annual Town Meeting. There were few questions.

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There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting this Thursday for those interested in submitting a proposal for a solar field at the former landfill.

The Library ceiling replacement project is about two (2) days ahead of schedule.

Regarding the Memorial Day Parade, the Selectmen will gather on Monday, May 27th at 10:30a.m. at the Adams Middle School.

A new rug was installed at the Senior Center and the old steps have been removed.

4.) Blair Square Memorial Discussion: M. Ahronian said the Committee has worked hard to come up with a plan.

The Committee came before a previous Board and was told any veterans' memorial should be placed at the Town Hall.

Walter McGrath, 477 Gorwin Drive said this new memorial would be to recognize those who served in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts and it was recommended that a memorial be placed at Blair Square for this purpose. With the Rail Trail it is a more visible location, it would not interfere with the Rail Trail and it would as a good public education tool.

M. Ahronian asked if it would be close to the side walk. W. McGrath said he would like it to be as close as possible.

M. Ahronian asked about the location of the gazebo and if the memorial would interfere with that? W. McGrath said they would be close to the gazebo because it is well used.

M. Ahronian asked if W. McGrath was pleased with the proposed location of the new memorial. W. McGrath said he is not exactly sure about the specific location.

M. Ahronian said the veterans should have a say as to the location.

J. Cronin asked about lighting. W. McGrath said they would like to have lighting there.

J. Cronin asked about the flag pole and the initial design. W. McGrath said the memorial would be about 15 feet in a horse shoe layout with a flag pole.

J. Marsden said he supports the idea of the Blair Square location.

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Former Selectmen Kevin Conley and a member of the Blair Square Committee said the area is becoming increasingly active and it is the place to be in Holliston.

J. Marsden agreed we want people to gather at that location.

W. McGrath said the memorial would most likely be made of granite stone and they could sell bricks as a way to support the memorial.

M. Ahronian made a motion to support the proposal. Second, by J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

4.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2019: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Removal of Solar Speed Sign – Washington Street: J. Marsden said a resident approached him and asked if the solar powered speed limit sign could be removed from Washington Street near the Town Center. With the installation of the new traffic signals traffic has slowed noticeably and there is no longer a need for the speed limit signs.

J. Cronin asked if data had been collected. J. Marsden said not to his knowledge.

J. Cronin asked if the lights could be placed at another location. J. Marsden said the removal would reduce clutter along Washington Street as well.

J. Cronin made a motion to get recommendation from the Police Chief along with a recommendation as to where the lights could be re-positioned. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

Washington Street/Oak Street Intersection Request: J. Marsden said the Board received a request for No Parking signs be place at Washington and Oak Streets. There are issues with sightlines.

M. Ahronian agreed it is a busy intersection and there is no harm placing no parking signs at that location.

J. Cronin made a motion to place a No Parking sign at Washington and Oak Streets. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

Appointments - Open Space Committee: J. Marsden reviewed the two (2) applications received. M. Ahronian made a motion to appoint P.J. Kilkelly and Matt Hodgdon to the Open Space Committee for a three (3) year term. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

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Annual Town Meeting Motions: Regarding Article 25. M. Ahronian said the Blair Square Committee work hard on a plan which defines parking and fencing. This is important because the Town applied for a 2019 Trails grant but the funding has be allocated up front and if funded would be reimbursed by the Commonwealth. Notice should be received by June.

Once work is started it could be completed by the end of the summer. Approximately, \$30,000 in private donations have been received to date. We do not want to delay the project until October Special Town Meeting.

This is a perfect summer project and there are liability issues that need to be considered.

J. Marsden said he would reach out the Chairman of the Finance Committee to better understand their concerns.

J. Cronin asked about seeking Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funding. M. Ahronian said he did reach out to the Chairman of the CPC but has not received a response. The CPC would have to review the request before Town Meeting next Monday.

J. Cronin said he would support Article 25 and use CPC funding if the Commonwealth did not award a grant to the Town for this purpose and we should be prepared to ask the CPC before the start of Town Meeting.

6.) Any Other Business

Proclamation: J. Marsden read a Proclamation recognizing Vasco Brovelli as the Town's Oldest Veteran.

Veterans District MetroWest: M. Ahronian made a motion to accept a gift in the amount of \$345.00 to assist veterans within the MetroWest District and their eligible dependents. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

One Day Alcoholic Beverage License: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grant a One Day Alcoholic Beverage License for a wedding to be held on May 4, 2019 at the Holliston Historical Society from 4p.m. until 10p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Bertucci's Restaurant: The Board signed a Common Victualer's License for Bertucci's.

Adjourn: At 7:46p.m. M. Ahronian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

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Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator