



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
JUNE 17, 2019**

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

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

**1.) Executive Session:** The Executive Session was cancelled.

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

**2.) Warrant:** T. Hein read the Warrant and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-51) in the amount of \$3,294,768.31. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**3.) Public Comment:** T. Hein said he was in the Town Center last Wednesday afternoon with former Selectman Kevin Conley and the traffic engineers from McMahan. They reduced the timing of the lights in the crosswalks by a couple of seconds. This will allow traffic to flow more freely. The timing was reduced by two (2) seconds for the crosswalks and still in compliance with Federal safety standards.

J. Cronin recognized Mark Ahronian for being awarded the First Floral Display Award.

M. Ahronian thanked Selectmen J. Cronin and T. Hein for attended a recent ceremony honoring World War II veteran Lt. Burleigh Curtis a former Holliston resident who died in action in Europe on June 13, 1944.

J. Cronin said it was a very moving service it was a remarkable event. He thanked the American Legion. It may be rebroadcast on HCAT.

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**4.) Report of the Town Administrator:** The Library reconstruction project is now complete and books are being returned. The Library has fully reopened.

There will be a public listening session next Wednesday evening at 1750 Washington Street regarding the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant starting at 7p.m.

The Senior Center windows and doors are about fifty (50%) percent completed and will be done by June 30, 2019.

J. Ritter said he had to take the last week in June off as vacation. The Town By-Laws only allow for two (2) weeks carry over. M. Ahronian asked that A. Minihan cover the meeting next week.

M. Ahronian noted Youth and Family Services has hired Kristen Rancourt to be the next Court Diversion Officer.

Finally, J. Ritter noted security cameras are now in place at Stoddard Park.

**5.) Blair Square Committee:** Members of the Blair Square Committee were present. Inge Daniels presented a preliminary conceptual design of the Blair Square Park.

Peter Barbieri a member of the Committee, thanked the Community Preservation Committee, for their support at Town Meeting as well as GLM Engineering. The Town should receive notice about the status of the Trails Grant next week. They will then start working on the Request for Proposals during July and August.

The goal is to have it completed this fall. DPW has agreed to do the paving and curbs.

I. Daniels continued her presentation. The Committee wants to use as much space as possible including the installation of a rumble strip in the roadway to slow traffic down. T. Hein asked what that was. I. Daniels described what a rumble strip is.

M. Ahronian said the space would be a physical experience and a welcoming spot for residents and visitors to Holliston. There could be bike racks and an area to recognize veterans.

P. Barbieri said with all this activity there will be the need for bathrooms either a temporary port-a-potty or a permanent solution.

M. Ahronian said this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop a "Town Center" where can gather. More sidewalks and or improved sidewalks will be needed along Central Street from

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Washington. Any bathrooms would have to be on Town property. We can't depend on the local businesses to provide these services.

T. Hein asked if the bathrooms at Stoddard Park and Goodwill Park are open for the season and unattended. S. Lively said the bathrooms are only open when the parks are staffed.

T. Hein said she would be concerned about having a port-a-potty in a high density area.

J. Errickson there have been lots of discussion about the question but the key will have to be a maintenance plan and he has a concern about neighborhood issues that might come up. On the next plan we will have to show where it might be sited. The former rail property does not allow for any digging.

They are seeking input from the Selectmen.

P. Barbieri said there is an idea of using a former caboose and converting it into bathrooms as part of a long term solution. In addition to this donation others have pledged around \$75,000 to help the project. It would cost around \$300 per year to pump the system. There are many issues to be worked out.

M. Ahronian agreed something has to be done we can depend on the business community to provide bathrooms.

There favorable consensus from the Selectmen Board for the caboose concept.

P. Barbieri said the scope of the project is about 750 feet long.

I. Daniels said they want to keep as much open space as possible including trees.

J. Errickson said it would be a flexible space a pad for a port-a-potty is one thing a permanent structure is another. There will be a long term maintenance issue going forward.

M. Ahronian said the bathrooms will be open only when there are events and we can get volunteers to police the area.

J. Cronin asked about the boundaries of the project the grades can be significant between Vine and Exchange Streets. I. Daniels agreed there is a higher grade as you approach Exchange Street.

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J. Cronin asked if the Committee had consulted with Holliston Police and Fire Departments also the DPW. I. Daniels said yes all three (3) have provided input and that is part of their conceptual plan.

J. Cronin said once the bathroom issue has been addressed we can then take a look at lighting and asked if the Committee has recommended the idea of a caboose. J. Errickson said the Committee has not officially voted yet they continue to revisit several options. They are seeking locations for the bathrooms and then they will cost out the options.

T. Hein said flexibility is a key part of the solution and asked if port-a-potty pads were to be used what would the pads be used for when the bathroom are not there. J. Errickson said the area could be used for additional parking. T. Hein said depending on the business community is not a good option. S. Lively agreed and that's why we are working on a plan.

T. Hein asked if groups had expressed interest. J. Errickson said yes mostly local groups

P. Barbieri said in Ashland the Economic Development Coordinator schedules the use of the Park. This not only is an operational issue but there is also an opportunity to enhance revenues. S. Lively said it is common for the Parks Department to rent out the use of the Parks.

T. Hein asked about a cut through or crosswalk near CVS. J. Cronin said he thought there was a sidewalk along Railroad Street. P. Barbieri said it might be helpful to have a security camera on Central Street. T. Hein agreed Central and Railroad Street is currently under signalized.

I. Daniels said pedestrian safety is a top priority. J. Errickson agreed that sidewalks on both sides of Central should be considered.

Edward Daniels, 24 Morton Street said he owns a property in the area and he is concerned about a bathroom located across the street and the impact to his property value on that property. Also, vandalism could an issue as well. He was also concerned about the possibility of permanent bathrooms.

J. Cronin said whatever happens at Blair Square the interests of the abutters need to be considered. I. Daniels said there will be an opportunity to provide input most likely through the public hearing process and the next conceptual design when it is ready.

Susan Woodrow, 136 Union Street said her concern was around parking and public safety.

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J. Errickson said the question is a permanent bathroom facility vs. a flexible plans they are trying to achieve a balance. It was agreed the Committee would return once the new conceptual design is ready.

There was consensus and support for the trolley/bathroom concept.

**6.) Board Business**

**Minutes from June 10, 2019:** T. Hein made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**Donation Form – Senior Center and Agricultural Commission:** J. Cronin made a motion to accept a donation from the Holliston Superette in support of the Senior Nutrition Program in the amount of \$400; and a donation from the Holliston Garden Club to the Holliston Agricultural Commission in support of the construction of a raised garden at Placentino School in the amount of \$1,000. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

**Annual Appointments:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve the list of “Appointments for FY2020.” Given Department Heads will be working under Contract there was no need to make those appointments annually.

**Koshivas Property – Norfolk Street Chapter 61A Release:** T. Hein read and made a motion to approve the following Notice of Non-Exercise as follows:

“Two parcels of land each containing .92 acres located on the easterly side of Norfolk Street, Holliston, Massachusetts, which is a portion of Assessors Map 8.F Block 9 Lot 12.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 61A Sec. 14 the Members of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Holliston due hereby notify you that they have voted unanimously not to exercise their option under M.G.L. c. 61A Sec. 14 to assign and/or purchase the property which is to be converted from agricultural/horticultural to residential use, which property is held in the name of and assessed to Rock Hill Farm, LLC; said property described as vacant on Norfolk Street, Holliston, Massachusetts.

Said vote was in response to Notice of Intent to Sell said property and convert said property from agricultural/horticultural use to residential use dated April 5, 2019.”

Second, J. Cronin. Discussion: It was noted that various land use and housing departments were contacted and no interest was expressed. Voted 3-0

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**Appointments – 9 Green Street, MWRTA Advisory Board, MetroWest Regional Collaborative and Cable Advisory Committees:** J. Cronin made a motion to appoint T. Hein to the **9 Green Street Committee**. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

T. Hein made a motion to appoint M. Ahronian to the **MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA)**. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint T. Hein to the **MetroWest Regional Collaborative**. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint Lindsey Morris to the **Cable Advisory Committee**. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

**Sign Requests – Flu and Rabies Clinics:** T. Hein made a motion to approve a request from the Board of Health for sign placements at the town Hall and 1750 Washington Street notifying the public about the annual flu and rabies clinics. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**Solid Waste and Recycling Contract and Implementation Plan:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve and sign the Contract between the Town of Holliston and E.L. Harvey. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0.

T. Hein noted that the delivery of the 64 gallon recycling carts and 35 gallon trash carts started today.

**Business Community Letter – Solid Waste and Recycling:** J. Ritter said that the letter was not ready and we had to hold that item.

**Annual Bid – Road Rehabilitation:** J. Cronin made a motion to award the 2020 road rehabilitation contract to P.J. Albert as the lowest bidder. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

**Solar Sign Request – Norfolk Street:** This was placed on hold until input could be received from the Police Department and DPW.

**Year End Transfers:** None had been received. It was also noted to hold the recently approved Reserve Fund Transfer for the Cable Committee.

**7. Any Other Business:** T. Hein said she continues to meet a lot of people the staff is very profession and talented group.

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J. Cronin brought up the recently completed Department Head survey. He understands the Board needs time to reflect on the findings. The remaining work has to be completed by the Board of Selectmen.

The working group prepared the tool, the Finance Committee and Town Meeting approved the funding. M. Bousquet would have to abstain from further participation because it would impact her financially.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee is not interested in any further participation.

M. Ahronian said he wanted to make sure everyone was included and no one was left out of the discussion and the Finance Committee had an opportunity to provide input.

M. Ahronian asked this be placed on the July 8<sup>th</sup> Board Agenda as an Executive Session.

T. Hein asked if it could be discussed in Executive Session this evening. J. Ritter said because the matter has not been post for the end of the meeting.

**Adjourn:** At 8:40p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator

