



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
AUGUST 12, 2019**

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

**Also Present:** Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator; Mary Bousquet, Treasurer/Collector

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

**1.) Warrants:** T. Hein read the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-07) in the amount of \$1,082,807.20 and made a motion to approve. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 2-0-1 (Hein)

**2.) Public Comment:** M. Ahronian thanked the Town Hall staff they all work really hard for the residents of Holliston. They all work as a team. A good example, is the sale of compost bins which he personally witnessed when he was in the Selectmen's Office recently.

**3.) Report of the town Administrator:** J. Ritter reminded the Board of an outstanding invitation to tour the Community Farm. The Board agreed to do the tour and J. Ritter will coordinate.

J. Ritter said thanks to the Police Department we now have a complete inventory of all the double poles in Holliston. The information will be shared with the utilities so that removal can be scheduled.

As a reminder, the Finance Committee is meeting tomorrow evening. The Capital Sub-Committee is meeting at 6:30p.m. and the full Committee at 7:00p.m.

The Board is posted to meet at the Senior Center Wednesday afternoon at 12:30p.m. to attend the annual "Luau" and listen to seniors about any issues or concerns.

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J. Cronin asked about the status of the roof at 1750 Washington Street. J. Ritter said the project is complete and under budget.

J. Cronin asked about the status of the Library. J. Ritter said that project is complete.

**4.) Police Chief – Capital Requests:** Chief of Police Matthew Stone and Lieutenant Chad Thompson were present and presented the Department's capital requests for the upcoming Special Town Meeting.

M. Stone said the Department are requesting three (3) replacement vehicles and one (1) motorcycle.

M. Ahronian asked for M. Stone to explain why a motorcycle is needed. M. Stone said the motorcycle will enhance traffic enforcement and is a good public relations tool. The motorcycle is much less visible than a police vehicle it also encourages to the public to interact with the police officer. Police Officers also could respond more quickly to events on the Rail Trail.

M. Stone further noted he surveyed other communities and Holliston is the only town that does not have a police motorcycle. He read a list of towns that have a police motorcycle.

T. Hein said between 500 and 1,000 people use the Rail Trail every day and public safety personnel need to be able to respond quickly if needed. She asked about the additional insurance costs. M. Stone said he contacted the Town's insurance carrier Cabot Risk and received an estimate of \$859 per year.

J. Cronin asked about how the motorcycle would enhance response time. M. Stone said they can get a vehicle in but it is very difficult to get the vehicle out. The motorcycle could get in and out quickly. Need noted the Trails Committee supports the request. There are a variety of calls that are received about events that occur on the Rail Trail.

M. Ahronian agreed and said in many places there is a steep drop-off.

J. Cronin asked about hours of operation. M. Stone said the motorcycle would be used depending on the weather and on a case by case basis. The Department would have to develop a policy for the use.

J. Cronin asked if the estimated cost included all equipment. M. Stone said yes it does. There are more than one (1) police officer trained to use the motorcycle.

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J. Cronin asked about the expense for training. M. Stone said there is no additional expense for the training.

J. Cronin made a motion to advance the proposal to the Finance Committee. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

**5.) Downtown Post Construction Adjustments with McMahon:** Robert Smith and Michael Pompili with McMahon Transportation Engineers & Planners were present.

R. Smith said it has been about one (1) that the lights have been operational. On June 12<sup>th</sup> they walked the site and made additional observations. As a result, they noticed some secondary impacts and prepared a proposal to address these.

The first step would be to complete an updated traffic count.

M. Ahronian asked for them to explain in detail their observations. R. Smith said when the crosswalk is activated everything comes to a stop.

M. Pompili explained how pedestrian crosswalk standards are established. A small timing adjustment has already been made. The standard is four (4) feet per second. Other hardware would be needed to make the time shorter. For example, it takes less time to cross at Central and Green Streets.

T. Hein observed that when the timing was dropped by a second there was more time on Washington Street for vehicles to move through the intersection.

R. Smith they are also looking at a No Turn on Red at Central and Washington. In summary, the proposal is to complete the following tasks:

- Task 1 – Obtain Traffic Counts
- Task 2 – Investigation of Traffic Signal Software and Hardware Upgrades
- Task 3 – Development of Concept Plans for Physical Intersection Modifications
- Task 4 – One-Way Roads Needs Assessment
- Task 5 – Attendance at One Board of Selectmen Meeting
- Task 6 – Report Preparation

M. Ahronian asked about Hollis Street. M. Pompili said there are issues when you try to take a left onto Hollis (left turn arrow needed) or a right turn off Hollis onto Washington. Traffic can be heavy going southbound on Washington Street. More signage and pavement markings might be needed.

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R. Smith it is all about achieving a balance. We did not want to move the curb because that would impact parking.

J. Cronin said these are steps to fine tune the project and he supports the proposal moving forward.

R. Smith said they are also looking at the feasibility of a one way system. M. Pompili said with a one way system there would be less red time on Washington they might also look at Elm and Church Streets.

T. Hein said she spoke with MAPC and they have some good ideas. We need to look into how a one way system would fit into the overall plan. The low hanging fruit is to reduce speed. Also, the traffic study should consider making adjustments for pedestrian crossings.

Regarding Task #3 will this address removing that lane in front of Fisks? R. Smith said they would provide an estimate.

Kevin Conley, 44 Cranberry Lane, agreed an updated traffic study is needed. R. Smith we need current data.

K. Conley asked how important is the traffic flow and speed. R. Smith said the most important impact on traffic flow is the truck traffic it takes them a long time to get going.

K. Conley asked if a traffic simulation can be prepared. M. Pompili said yes it would show the flow, pavement markings and perhaps lane changes.

Lixy Carey, 37 Green Street said recently she had to wait ten (10) minutes to get out of Green Street and that was like three (3) cycles.

Ann Pilch, 107 Juniper Road said the new lights at Hollis is a life changer it is now much safer.

T. Hein said she recently attended a meeting where the 495/90 intersection was discussed and it was reported that half of the truck traffic in eastern Massachusetts uses that intersection.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the proposal including all six (6) tasks. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

R. Smith said the traffic count will start after the start of school.

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**6.) Marshall Street Solar Project Community Conversation** – J. Cronin provided a summary of the project and said he just wanted to make sure residents were provided the opportunity to provide input into the project.

There were no residents present. The project consists of six (6) to eight (8) acres and we are looking at entering into a power purchase agreement. There were fourteen (14) responses to the recently issued Request for Proposals (RFP). That field has been narrowed down to the top three (3) that the Board will be interviewing.

T. Hein noted that the Town's consultant said the construction schedule can be accommodated to lessen the impact to the neighborhood.

J. Cronin said the construction is to take about one (1) year.

Stacy Raffi, 20 Arthur Street was present and said to make sure Holliston Youth Soccer is in the information loop. J. Ritter confirmed they were notified of this discussion.

**7.) Open Space Committee – Upswing Farm:** Lixy Carey, 37 Green Street, and Chair of the Open Space Committee was present and reviewed the project.

Members of the Agricultural Committee and Open Space Committee were present.

There are 28.7 acres at Highland and South Street on the Ashland line that are eligible for an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR). Charles Nickerson wants to sell the property and protect the land while passing along the wealth to his heirs.

The APR has been approved by the Commonwealth and it is 61A land the location is ideal. They are asking for a placeholder be inserted into the Warrant while they approach the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for possible funding of up to \$500,000. The Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) will fund raise up to \$144,000. The MDAR is looking to commit around \$400,000 and the new owners up to \$290,000.

J. Cronin reviewed the land ownership and said the Town and SVT would own the APR and the Town would not own the house any profits from food produced on site would go to the new owners and asked if the town would receive anything.

L. Carey said the only obligation for the Town would be the \$500,000 the closing is scheduled for December 2020 but the town needs to act by March.

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J. Cronin said the land would be privately owned and the Town and SVT would hold the APR. The restriction would be in place forever. L. Carey said yes. There are trails in the area and other open spaces that could be connected to the parcel.

M. Ahronian said it is critically important that the Open Space Committee demonstrate the public benefit by showing the connection to the trail system.

J. Cronin said the new owners would commit 20% of the expense of \$290,000 as part of the formula determined by the Commonwealth. L. Carey confirmed the agricultural value is determined by the Commonwealth.

**8.) Norfolk Street Speed:** Michael Schofield, 529 Norfolk Street was present. M. Schofield asked that solar powered flashing speed limit signs be installed along Norfolk Street. One (1) near the farm. The current speed limit is 35 MPH he would like to see that lowered to 30 MPH.

J. Cronin agreed speed is an issue along Norfolk Street and this should be viewed within a larger town-wide traffic issue. There should be three (3) signs installed along Norfolk. One (1) by the Park, one (1) by the farm, and one (1) in the area of 529 Norfolk Street.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the installation. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

M. Schofield noted that a pesticide was recently applied in a park area and within fifty (50) of a public well. J. Ritter will follow-up.

**9.) Board Business**

**Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2019:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from August 5, 2019 and the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2019 but to hold for release. Second, T. Hein. Discussion: T. Hein noted as amended. Voted 3-0

**Resignations from the Affordable Housing Committee:** T. Hein made a motion to accept the resignations from Erica Plunkett and Dona Kramer. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**Appointment to the Affordable Housing and Town Forest Committees:** T. Hein made a motion to appoint Anne Huntington to the Affordable Housing Committee for a three (3) year term. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**Special Town Meeting Warrant:** T. Hein made a motion to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

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**One Day Alcoholic Beverage License – Special Occasion Servers:** T. Hein made a motion to approve and grant a One Day Alcoholic Beverage License to Special Occasion Servers, Inc. for the Holliston High School Reunion to be held on October 5, 2019 Upper Town Hall for 4p.m. until 11p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**One Day Alcoholic Beverage Permit – Duckworth Bat Mitzvah:** T. Hein made a motion to approve and grant a One Day Alcoholic Beverage License to Kimberly Duckworth Bat Mitzvah to be held on September 14, 2019 Upper Town Hall for 7p.m. until 11p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Discussion: T. Hein asked about the difference in insurance limits and coverage. J. Ritter will get back to her. Voted 3-0

**Donation – Senior Center and Park and Recreation:** T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation to the Senior Center in the amount of \$500 from the Joseph W. and Faith K. Tiberio Charitable Foundation to benefit the greater Holliston senior community; and to accept a donation in the amount of \$2,040 from the First Baptist Church to the Parks and Recreation Department for playground equipment. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

10.) Other Business: T. Hein asked if the “Traffic Advisory Committee” could be placed on the next Agenda. There were no objections from the Board. T. Hein asked if the change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board would be on the Warrant for Special Town Meeting. J. Ritter said yes.

**Adjourn:** At 839p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted



J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator