



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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Holliston, MA 01746**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16-09

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HOLLISTON SIGNS COMMUNITY COMPACT

(Holliston, MA February 24, 2016) – Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator, announced this evening that the Town of Holliston has officially been designated as a Community Compact Community. According to Ritter, “Holliston was selected to be the one hundred and forty second (142) community in the Commonwealth to be selected for this designation.”

At a recent official signing ceremony at the Framingham Town Hall, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and Jay Marsden, Chairman of the Holliston Board of Selectmen signed the official Contract between the Town and the Commonwealth. Chairman Marsden outlined the best practices Holliston would be working to implement during the next year and a half. According to Marsden, “Holliston will be working on the implementation of the following best practices pursuant to the Compact, as outlined in cooperation with the Commonwealth.”

- **Holliston Police Department Accreditation:** It is an essential best practice for public safety agencies to develop, implement, and sustain recognized policies and procedures as an integrated part of the department’s administrative and operational protocols. Full accreditation by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission, Inc. is the goal and objective of this best practice.
- **Community Health Indicators:** In response to the opioid, substance abuse, and mental health crises Holliston engaged UMASS Boston to statistically gather data points from the Veterans Department, Youth and Family Services Department, School Department, Police & Fire/Ambulance Departments, and the Health Department. Gaps in coverage are being identified and a pro-active treatment methodology needs to be established.

Page Two
Community Compact
2-24-16

Based on the sharing and exchange of these data point will assist the Town in providing the tools to improve services provided to citizens. The emphasis of this best practice is to provide citizens the much needed safe environment to secure treatment and or counseling.

- **Capital Improvement Plan:** Develop a comprehensive Town/School Capital Improvement & Asset Inventory Plan. Engage technical assistance to complete an inventory of our assets. Develop a prioritized list for Town Meeting of needed Capital Improvements and equipment acquisitions within the Town's ability to fund these purchases.

According to Ritter, "the Community Compact program will allow Holliston to focus on achieving these best practices, which will provide even better local services while at the same time strengthening the already strong cooperative relationship between Holliston and the Commonwealth."

Ritter further stated, "the designation will make Holliston eligible for a new round of grant funding for the development of information technology. A grant application will be submitted to the Commonwealth this week to fund and create a single, town-wide, secure managed wireless network in all public buildings for citizens and staff to access the Internet and Intranet network the estimated amount of the grant application is \$46,023."

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Posted and Provided to the Following:

Town of Holliston Web Site
Senior Center
Police Station
Fire Station (Central)
Town Hall
HCAT

MetroWest Daily News
Milford Daily News
Holliston Reporter