

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2023**

6:30PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Anthony Renzoni, Stephanie Mulroy, Thomas Curran, Geri Herlihy Richard Bates (participating remotely).

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager
Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager
Steven Madaus, Town Counsel
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder (Participating remotely)

Chairman Renzoni called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Renzoni indicated that Sel. Bates was participating remotely so all votes would be taken by roll call vote.

1. Appointments, Licenses, Permits

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE PARADE PERMIT FOR HOLDEN BASEBALL, INC 4/29/23 AS PRESENTED.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes)

2. Citizens Address

Dr. Joe Sabato, stated he was an expert in traffic safety and Safe Communities. He stated that he lead a program that won a world award to protect teen drivers. He wanted to pass along to Holden the opportunity to create a safe community concept where they could work together to help improve some of the intersections in the town to make the town safer. He stated especially on Boulder Hill Road/ Wood Street where there are no stop signs. He stated that they should work together as a town to make it healthier and safer for all.

Scott Brown 151 Highland Street. He stated he had concerns about the Damon Road changes. He stated that his driveway is on Damon Road and his question was why now. He stated has no clue why they want to change from private to public. He stated that the alterations stated it would be going from 21ft to 50ft which is basically doubling it. He stated that he is also concerned with the end of Damon Road leading up to Davis Hill. He asked that if this goes through can the Board put in writing that it will not be an entrance to the school. He does not want the traffic that would incur if that was the entryway to the elementary school.

Brendan O'Malley, 19 South View Road was present at the meeting. He stated that he was there to speak on a concern about the behavior of a member of the Board. He stated that a member of this Board called out for friends to dox another member of the board.

He stated that he does not know if they knew the meaning of that but it means calling to criminally harass someone. He wants this Selectboard member to consider resigning as conduct unbecoming of an elected official and to cease to harass another member.

Ashley Freeland, 25 Damon Road was present at the meeting. She stated that she has questions and concerns about the Damon Street layout. She stated she wanted to know why now; it seems suspicious timing as the lawyer who lived on that road and fought with the town when the school was being built had now sold his lots on that street. She stated that if this needed to be rectified why was it not done when the school was built. She also stated that the hearing notice was not attached and she only found out about it by her own research. She asked why the need for 50ft roadway it is a tiny dead end street. She asked what the end goal was. She stated she had a lot of questions on the legality of who owns this land. She stated that it is her opinion that the Town does not own Parcel D and she does not want the town to be able to make Damon Road a thruway to the school. She stated they all bought houses because it is a quiet dead end street and they don't want the town to own more frontage of their property for no reason.

Andrew Sloca, 6 Damon Road was present at the meeting. He was there to speak about the same thing as his neighbors. He stated that as a staff member of Davis Hill that if the purpose of the Damon Road work was to eliminate some of the traffic on Jameson he felt that this would be more detrimental to the town as a whole because it was a shorter street. He stated that because of the layout of the school students can only be exited to a vehicle to the road closer to Damon. He stated that the traffic would then fill up to Highland. He stated that second the number of students that walk down Damon road, their safety needs to be considered. He stated he has called the police a number of times and that would endanger the lives of many. He stated there is also an access road that reaches Davis Hill through Holden Garden. He stated that would make more sense if the goal was to create a better entry point for traffic.

Sel. Renzoni stated that in the interest of following up on some of the concerns mentioned he wanted to say that there was no interest in pushing Davis Hill off Damon Road. He stated that is not in the plan. He stated that they will follow up to this in Follow up to Citizen's Address however wanted everyone to know that as it was brought up a few times.

Sel. Renzoni stated that this is last citizen because there is a hard stop because of a public hearing that is already scheduled. He stated anyone else who wished to speak would be able to after the public hearing was completed.

Judy Newton, 249 Shrewsbury Street was present at the meeting. She stated that she just wanted to address a previous comment made during Citizens Address regarding someone accusing a Board members of doxing another Selectboard member. She stated that this was a false statement. She stated that the accused Selectboard member was actually speaking on her behalf because another Selectboard Member the supposed "doxee" had attacked her and smeared her as a racist on social media. She stated the first Selectboard Member was coming to her defense. She stated that there seems to be a pattern and there

is a Code of Conduct for the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Newton stated something seemed to be off based on something that happened at a School Board Meeting. She stated that a citizen had tried to videotape the meeting and this Selectboard member had obstructed the citizen. She stated that this individual blocked the taping and the citizen tapings' first amendment rights were being violated. She stated several people came forward to complain and there were clearly no consequences because that person was running to be reelected to the Board. She stated that these are personal issues that need to be added but we need to have the Selectboard held accountable so these things don't happen in the future. She thanked the Board member that came to her defense and to the Selectboard member that called her a racist she would love to sit down and talk about their opinions and come to a meeting of minds.

Terry Moran 7 Damon Road, he wanted to know if they said not to worry about Damon Road what is the purpose of these changes.

Chairman Renzoni indicated that Citizens Address needed to be paused in order to conduct the Public Hearing that was scheduled.

3. Public Hearing Street Layout; Damon Street

Sel. Mulroy read the Public Hearing Notice into record.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR STREET LAYOUT/ DAMON STREET.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes)

Sel. Renzoni stated that they already heard from a number of Citizens but if anyone wished to have any further comments before the explanation was given from the Town Manager they were able to do so now.

Mr. Lukes stated that it was brought to their attention about a year ago that there were legal and spatial anomalies that they wanted to rectify once they were made aware of them.

Mr. Madaus stated that as the manger mentioned this was brought to the Boards attention about a year ago when a citizen was selling the properties at the end of the way. He stated they asked the town to confirm that the property owner had rights to travel that portion of Damon Road. He stated that he was not sure if the residents of Damon Road received copies of the plan but he could explain it and make it available to them to see as well. He stated Damon Road runs from Highland Street but there was a portion about 50ft long and 50ft wide that was not owned by the Town and then there was a strip of land owned by the Town known as Parcel D. He stated that they have length of roadway that first portion is a town way and then there is a strip of land that is not laid out and then a strip of land owned by the town. He stated he had never seen that. He stated the legal status of a public way was important so it could limit the town's liabilities. He

stated that Parcel D does not have status so this was all an intent to rectify this anomaly and make this a public street. He stated there was nothing nefarious done or done to deceive; this was just to clean up the legal status of the street.

Mr. Madaus stated under Chapter 82, the Board of Selectmen would vote their intention and give notice, which was this hearing. He stated then the Board would consider laying out the way and then it would move to Town Meeting for acceptance. He stated that if Town Meeting accepted this it would complete the process.

Mr. Lukes asked about the 50ft versus 40ft wide discrepancy.

Mr. Madaus replied that it was because it was laid out in that way on the plan. He stated the paved surface is often less than the space that is laid out.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he believes that the residents were concerned about what happens to their road. He stated through traffic is not going to happen. He stated there is no intention of having a through traffic. He stated this just gives the town the ability to own that right of way. It protects the town and it allows them to continue to plow the property. He stated that when this was first raised that was the intention of the Board.

Mr. Madaus asked if the residents wanted to see the plan.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they could entertain any other questions the residents may have.

Sel. Mulroy stated that to her this looks like our town taking responsibility for the parcel of road.

Samuel Hall 25 Damon Road was present; he asked how no one owned a piece of land in this town. He stated that there is something called a Fee Statute which says that if someone owns property that is a private way once they sell that property away they no longer have rights to said property. He stated that is where Parcel D comes in play if Zottoli never owned that parcel of land how was he able to give away that piece of the land to the town in the first place. He stated that when he sold he lost the land anyway. He stated that by default it should go the abutting neighbors and he wants to look into this before they get too far into laying out properties.

Mr. Madaus replied that he was familiar with the Derelict Fee Statute. He stated that strip of land was in fact owned by the abutters that is what he referred to as no mans land he stated that Parcel D was owned by the town.

Mr. Madaus stated that a title examiner confirmed that Parcel D was owned by the Town and it was acquired when the town acquired the property for the school.

Ashley Freeman, 25 Damon stated that she had a plan of land and does not think that the Zottolis owned it at the time to grant the land to the town. She stated that it makes no

sense as to why the person that built that house would have permission if someone else owned it. She stated that they were under the impression that they owned to the midpoint of the road and it seems that someone signed away a parcel of land they did not own or have rights to.

Mr. Madaus for any lay out of the way they look to the title from the developer. He stated part of this process is to get permission from Town Meeting and if there are title issues that is how they overcome them. He stated he was interested to see what the homeowners have so they can

Mark Bugby, 18 Damon Road was He asked for clarify on the no mans land. He wanted to know how it worked as an abutter.

Mr. Madaus stated that as per the Derelict Fee statute the abutters to the way own to the centerline subject to the rights of others to travel the way

Mr. Bugby stated that if this process was going to go through they would have to take it by immanent domain from the abutter.

Mr. Madaus agree. He stated by establishing this as way it would relieve the abutters of the liability and responsibly to maintain the way.

Mr. Bugby asked if there was compensation given.

Mr. Madaus stated there would be but the loss of the private way would reduce the burden so it was usually a nominal sum of about \$100 or \$1.

Ms. Freeman asked why the derelict fee statute would not pertain to her portion; parcel D.

Mr. Madaus stated that he did not want to give uncertain answers about title however Parcel D is owned by the Town so it does not apply to Town owned land.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the homeowners and Town Counsel could speak for more in depth meetings if needed. He asked for Town Counsel to explain more in depth about how the Town validates titles and the process that is gone through in order to confirm ownership.

Mr. Madaus stated that they order a title report from the Registry of Deeds.

Mr. Lukes stated that there is a secondary issue as well. He stated that if they are contending that Parcel D is not Town owned the town can not do work on a private piece of property so that would mean things such as plowing would need to stop. He stated this is to rectify and clarify the matter. He stated that the Town is trying to make this better, not worse.

Mr. Sloga, 6 Damon Road, he stated that a lot of them were concerned with the ultimate goal. He stated that if the Town takes this land then they could develop it as an entrance to Davis Hill. He asked how they were able to confirm that nothing was going to change as is pertained to the Davis Hill traffic.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the intent of this was not to do that; he stated that what the Town was trying to accomplish was to capture and correct an existing way so that the Town could own it properly and maintain it correctly.

Mr. Sloga asked for the Boards assurance that this could not change.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he would give his word that as long as he was on the Board that they will not be altering Damon Road to become an entrance to Davis Hill.

Mr. Bugby, 18 Damon Road, asked about the 50ft again. He asked if that could be altered.

Mr. Madaus stated that he did not pick that number; it was what was written on the Parcel D plan. He stated that there was no agenda in matter; it was merely bought up to clean up that title, he stated that if they want to stay private that is up to them.

Sel. Renzoni that the purpose of the Public Hearing is to have the conversations.

Mr. Lukes stated that there is no intent or desire to make this an access road to the school. He stated that there was no request from the District and no one is trying to do this.

Dave White, 84 Wachusett Street, he stated that now that everyone is aware that this is a private way there are things to consider; they are responsible for taking care of the road, paving it, if a tree falls they would need to clean it up. He stated that if this remains a private way the town is unable to take care of things such as these. He stated long term it is to the benefit of them to have the Town own this road.

Fernando Jenkin, 22 Damon Road, he stated when he bought the land he was having trouble with the title and title insurance because it was not a public way. He stated that he was trying to understand this matter and see how he would be impacted. He asked if he owned half of the street or not.

Mr. Madaus stated that if the Town acquired the land then it would be responsible for things like maintaining the road, making improvements, and plowing.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the assurance for the residents is that this is for the town to maintain this road. He stated that they are intending to lay this out this evening and if the residents still wished to speak against this then they could go to Town Meeting and speak and convince 1/3 the voters that there is an injustice. He stated that this is the process. He stated Town Meeting has the final say.

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR STREET LAYOUT/ DAMON STREET.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes)

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTE BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO LAYOUT THE FOLLOWING: DAMON STREET BY EXTENDING THE EXISTING PUBLIC STREET LAYOUT FROM CURRENT WHICH IS APPROXIMALTY 339 FT NW FROM HIGHLAND STREET FOR ADDITION OF 245 FT IN LENGTH AND 50FT WIDE MORE OR LESS IN THE SAME DIRECTION TO THE PROPERTY AT 80 JAMESON ROAD. THE AREA OF EXTENSION IS SHOWN AS ‘UNACCEPTED PORTION OF DAMON STREET RIGHT OF WAY AND PARCEL D’ 9930 SQ FT ON PLAN OF LAND ENTITLED PLAN OF LAND HENRY ZOTTOLI HOLDEN MA PREPARED BY GRAVES ENGINEERING INC. DATED JANUARY 27, 1999 SHEET ½ AND RECORDED WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS BOOK 737 PLAN 69.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes)

Chairman Renzoni called a recess.

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting back to order

4. Public Hearing: Alteration of Street Layout

Shrewsbury Street, Lincoln Street, Wachusett Street, South Wachusett Street, Homestead Road, Chapel Street, Holden Street, Mountview Drive, Doyle Road, and Brattle Street

Sel. Mulroy read the Public Hearing Notice into record.

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING: ALTERATION OF STREET LAYOUT; Shrewsbury Street, Lincoln Street, Wachusett Street, South Wachusett Street, Homestead Road, Chapel Street, Holden Street, Mountview Drive, Doyle Road, and Brattle Street.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes)

No members of the public were present to speak on the matter.

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING: ALTERATION OF STREET LAYOUT: Shrewsbury Street, Lincoln Street, Wachusett Street, South Wachusett Street, Homestead Road, Chapel Street, Holden Street, Mountview Drive, Doyle Road, and Brattle Street.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE ALTERATION OF THE STREET LAYOUT AS FOLLOWS: Shrewsbury Street, Lincoln Street, Wachusett Street,**

South Wachusett Street, Homestead Road, Chapel Street, Holden Street, Mountview Drive, Doyle Road, and Brattle Street BY ALTERING EXISTING PORTIONS OF THE PUBLIC STREET LAYOUTS FROM CURRENT RIGHT OF WAY LIMITS TO INCLUDE PERMANENT EASEMENTS FOR PUBLIC STREET PORTIONS SHOWN ON PLANS ENTITLED “ HOLDEN/ WORCESTER COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY PLANS” PREPARED BY VINE HANNIGAN, BRUSLIN DATED MARCH 31, 2023 LOCATED FROM MAIN STREET TO BRATTLE AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Citizens Address Cont.

Dave White, 84 Wachusett Street was present at the meeting. He stated that he was present because he knows that shortly Fin Com would be giving their report to the Board. He stated that he has been involved since 1997/98, he stated that Fin Com works their tails off and does a great job. He stated that the budget hearings that they have and they have people that do research and come up with solutions. He stated that Fin Com is one of the hardest working Committees he has ever been on and he just wanted to recognize their hard work.

Steve Cooley, 172 Jennifer Drive was present at the meeting. He stated that he wanted to address the MBTA proposals. He stated that it was interesting that the Board spoke about Affordable Housing like it was a burden. He stated Holden continues to grow and since the 2020 census MA has lost 20,000 people He asked why the Burden should fall on Holden at all. He stated that Boston could address this. He stated that Boston now has office vacancy and it seems with some rezoning and imagination they could address some of their own problems there and not come to Holden to dump them. He stated that this should not be a political issue it is just a matter of Holden first.

Christine Valerie Taylor, 7 Tisbury Lane was present. She stated that in March there was an article on Spectrum news that stated that Holden would seek a solution on the matter of the MBTA issue but only if it was right for Holden. She stated that it stated that Holden contacted the CMRPC to help come up with a solution. She stated that in that article is stated that Holden agreed to discuss the matter at their next meeting in two weeks. She stated that the article Mr. Lukes stated in that article that if the Town could come up with zoning that worked for the Town that they would participate in the program. She stated that she attended the meeting and that Mr. Lukes stated during that meeting that he was continuing to work with CMRPC on potentially finding a zoning plan to potentially participate. She stated that after some discussion it was decided to move this to an agenda item to have real discussion on the matter. She stated that this item was not on the agenda for this evening. She stated that she does not want Holden to be at the tail end of this and feels that housing delayed is housing denied.

Chairman Renzoni closed Citizens Address.

5. Finance Committee Report to Board of Selectmen

Mr. Challenger, Chair Fin Com was present to present their findings. He stated that most of Fin Com was present at the meeting as well. He stated that they received a budget that was excellent and they made minimal changes to it. He stated that they worked well with the Town Manager through this process and had minimal adjustments made. He thanked the Manager for changing the layout of the reports as well. He stated they had their meetings with Department Heads and both Superintendents and spoke about all the line items, ask questions and dug into all the numbers.

Mr. Challenger reviewed the budget that was provided to the Board. He stated that we are looking at an increase of 5.7% this year. He stated on the average home taxes were going to go up about \$375 this year. He stated this is hard and has never presented a budget that looked like this. He stated we are down to the levy limit. He stated that we are down to \$305,000 levy capacity which is low. He stated there are some changes coming out of the state budget that could help. He stated that the School District also has a new management team and they are working to correct past issues. He stated that because of that they are not able to file forms for E and D. He stated that they are hopeful that this will be corrected by Town Meeting.

Mr. Challenger went through the handout with the Board; upon completion he opened it up for questions.

Chairman Renzoni asked for Mr. Challenger to speak a little about the District and what happens if other towns do not pass the school assessment.

Mr. Challenger replied that the School Budget needed to be passed in 4 out of the 5 towns. He stated that if that happens and it is not resolved before the fiscal year begins, July 1st they will send out a budget equal to this year and we pay month to month on that. When the matter is resolved they will send out a budget with true numbers and we will get caught up over the rest of year. If that happens and the district has to lower their budget in the future whatever the lower budget is what we will pay and we will not tax to collect it.

Chairman Renzoni asked if they could speak about the Snow and Ice Budget as well. He stated that they have held off on raising it in the past because once they raise it they can never lower it again which is why they had held off on raising it and worked with conservative numbers.

Mr. Challenger stated that with the increase in costs and the added infrastructure it just made sense at this point to raise it. He stated despite a mild winter we are over spending the 23 budget. He stated this will mean we will be less short.

Sel. Bates thanked Fin Com for their work and the Board echoed the same sentiment. Sel. Curran asked if the School was able to provide any relief what the monies would drop to.

Mr. Challenger replied that it would depend what they found but there could be a significant impact.

Chairman Renzoni asked Mr. Challenger if he wished to speak about Articles 21 -24 for the Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

Mr. Challenger stated that traditionally the warrant had four articles for the district. One was the amount that they were required by state law, one is which we choose to pay above that in accordance to the agreement, transportation and debt. He stated that we are only asked to vote once. If any one of the votes fail then the school budget is failed. He stated that there is no point in voting four times; it is one vote. He stated that in 2021 the combined many things in the interest of shorting the warrant to help in move faster.

Mr. Challenger having four warrant articles is a waste of time; he asked for them all to be voted for at one time. He stated additionally he very much opposes having the spread out throughout the course of the meeting. He stated that is a negative it prevents them from presenting any sort of comprehensive view about what the school is charging the town. He stated that he understood the intent of keeping people engaged in Town Meeting and he supports it being the last article voted on but he does not think that they should be separated.

Chairman Renzoni opened that matter up for discussion.

Sel. Curran stated that he was in favor of having this done as one motion/ article and put it at the end.

Sel. Herlihy agreed she stated they could speak to each of the four breakout pieces but do it in one vote.

Sel. Mulroy stated that she wanted to express her reluctance to do this. She stated that the school budget is hotter than it has ever been and wants to make sure that each item is fully explained because of how massive the bill is.

Mr. Challenger stated that it is about 60% of the budget and he does not skip over any portion of it.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he disagreed. He stated that this will pass in Holden because that is what Holden does. He stated he does think that the items are explained fully and that further information is provided in the handouts given. He stated that if Fin Com is asking for the Board to do this that as a courtesy the Board should think about doing this. He stated it is a reasonable request.

There was no objection from the Board to combine these four article; he stated they will strike these tonight and rework it.

The Board thanked Fin Com.

Chairman Renzoni called a brief recess. Chairman Renzoni called the meeting back to order.

6. Inclusive Access Playground Committee, Name Change/Expansion

Chairman Renzoni stated that he had been working with this Committee and he knew that they wanted to adjust the scope and increase the size.

Mr. Lukes stated that initially they had a certain number of members and they wanted to work on an all inclusive playground. He stated that since then the desire has been to expand the project to move of a recreation area so the original charge does not give them that ability. He stated that it is easily doable but wants the Board to be aware of any changes.

Chairman Renzoni stated they want to change the name from 'All Inclusive Playground Committee' to 'Holden Inclusive Park Committee' and change the charge of committee to include a recreational space universally designed for all ages and abilities. He stated that they also want to increase the size of the Committee to 7. He asked if there were any objections to these changes; the Board did not object.

7. Town Manager Update

None

8. Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Lukes stated that it was pretty straight forward minus any changes the Board wished to make about the School District. He stated if they were to consolidate he suggested consolidating those to Article 28. He stated that would eliminated 6, 11, and 16 and 28 would become 24 and 25 would be Voc Tech.

Motion by Sel. Curran, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO OPEN THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AS PRESENTED.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Curran, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO SET THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AS DISCUSSED ABOVE.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO CLOSE THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AS PRESENTED.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Chairman Renzoni asked if there were any positions the Board wanted to take tonight or wait until before Town Meeting.

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ENDORSE THE WARRANT ARTICLES THAT ARE BEING PRESENTED TO TOWN MEETING WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WARRANT ARTICLE 29; STREET ACCEPTANCE.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Chairman Renzoni asked if they wished to wait on the Citizen Petition; the Board agreed.

9. Public Building Naming Policy

Held off for a future meeting

10. Town Manager Review

Chairman Renzoni stated that they needed an Executive Session to discuss this further and he had spoken to the Town Manager about his review.

11. Response to Citizens Address

Sel. Bates suggested adding the MBTA as an agenda item.

Chairman Renzoni stated this is different from Affordable Housing; he stated that they are in compliance right now and that this is something that would increase the population of Holden. He stated that the Manager is working with CMRPC behind the scenes.

Mr. Lukes stated that they had not yet received anything from CMRPC.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she is saddened and disappointed by the actions of a Board member this week against herself and another Board member calling on an entire group to harass her because of her personal opinion around this election. She stated the Board is all different and it is democracy. She stated that it should not make it to this Board. She stated what was asked is illegal. She stated that in the last ten years they have come a long way within the Board and in collaboration of other Boards and that email took them back ten years. She stated that she wants this in the record that it should not be tolerated.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the word illegal was used twice. He stated that if someone believes that a law has been violated that they should report that to the police, not the Board of Selectmen. He stated that he agreed that last year members of the BOS were endorsing social media posts stating candidates may be racist or homophobic and liking and sharing. He stated that they should not be weaponizing their Selectman pages. He stated it was clear last year and this year as well.

Sel. Herlihy stated that last year was not weaponizing a post on social media. She stated that he may think that it was insinuated but it was not and it was on a private page.

Chairman Renzoni stated it was not ten years ago it was last year and he agrees with her; it was unacceptable.

Sel. Curran stated it was a private social media page.

Chairman Renzoni stated that members of the Board of Selectmen endorsed social media posts that insinuated that members were homophobic and racist. When called on it then from a sitting member. He stated that it was unacceptable then and unacceptable now. He stated he was happy to talk about it this all evening and would pull up the post from last year if need be. He stated he is not backing down. He stated that he is sorry it is happening this year but she was involved last year.

Sel. Herlihy stated that was not harassment and asking people to harass another citizen which is what this is, is not right.

Chairman Renzoni stated it was suggesting someone was homophobic and racist because they were not on a poster was horrible and it was a horrible personal attack and it should be kept out of politics

12. Selectmen Minutes

None

13. Selectmen Miscellaneous

None

14. Selectmen Subcommittee

Sel. Curran stated that Holden Community Garden held their annual Earth Day Clean up and had a great turn out. They were thankful for the delivery of loam and looking for further expansion.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he was approached by a scout that was interested in becoming involved and he would send him his way.

Mr. Lukes stated that the Town Manager meeting would need to be done by early June.

Motion by Sel. Curran, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 24, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

APPROVED: 4/3/24 As Corrected