

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 7, 2021**

**6:20PM**

**Senior Center**

Present: Anthony Renzoni, Richard Bates, Chiara Barnes, Geri Herlihy, Robert Lavigne

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager  
Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager  
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder

Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:31PM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE COMMON VICTUALER LICENSE FOR HOLDEN RECREATION SNACK SHACK AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, second by Sel. Lavigne, it was, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE PARADE PERMIT/ROAD RACE FOR CENTRAL MASS STRIDERS 7/25/21 AS PRESENTED.**

Ryan MacKay, 106 Bond Street, was invited up to speak about the event. He stated that this was their first year of hosting the Vintage Market event and that it was an opportunity that popped up for them about three weeks ago.

Sel. Lavigne asked if there was any comment from the police.

Mr. Lukes replied that Mr. MacKay had worked well with the Town and police in the past; he stated all relevant departments had signed off on this.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC ENTERTAINMEN LICENSEFOR LILAC HEDGE FARM, LLC FOR 6/12- 6/13 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY WINE AND BEER LICENSE FOR LILAC HEDGE FARM, LLC FOR 6/12-6/13 AS PRESENTED.**

**2. Citizen Address**

The Board reminded all citizens that wished to speak that they limit the comments to 2 minutes.

Sue Sullivan, 53 Blossom Square was present. She stated that she came to speak to the Board about opening the Senior Center at a previous meeting and that it had opened and had been wonderful. She stated that the Friday morning café was near capacity and it was wonderful to see the seniors getting back together.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she was also there because she believed the Board received her letter requesting that the Board consider renaming the Senior Center in honor of Cindy Beck. She stated Ms. Beck was instrumental in the Senior Center building and continued to work for the seniors. She stated she could not even say all that Ms. Beck did and that on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Senior Center it would be a wonderful time to honor this woman. She stated she understood the Board could not go back and forth but that she hoped they would consider this

Brendon O'Malley, 19 South View Road, was present at the meeting. He stated that he was the father of two children that attend Mayo School and he was there to speak his support of Deb Femeia. He asked the Board to not let emotions rule this decision as it will have an impact on the academic, social, and emotional wellbeing of the children. He stated that they need a calm, professional, emotionally mature individual that was willing to work hard and Deb Femeia was that person. He stated that she was a career technical writer and project writer and all those that made her success in her job would be what could help her wrap her head around the complex issues that surround the school district.

Chairman Barnes indicates that two minutes have passed.

Sel. Lavigne stated that as people took the podium he wanted to remind the public of rules of decorum; he stated that you were able to speak for someone but not against someone.

Dr. Joe Sabato, 47 Boulderhill Road was present at the meeting. He stated that this was the 5<sup>th</sup> time he had been to the Board with regards to traffic safety. He stated that two weeks ago he was almost killed and that was what pushed him to start a petition. He stated over 70 people had signed it. He stated that when residents of a community work with the government they are able to come up with effective solutions. Mr. Sabato stated that there were no speed signs or stop signs and he had never seen a police car patrol. He stated that he thinks there is an opportunity for safe community to help. He stated that the program is also effective for drowning preventions.

Chris Buck, 2046 Main Street, Jefferson was present at the meeting. He stated that he was there to discuss the ongoing brown water problem. He stated that on April 26<sup>th</sup> they ended that there would be a follow up for filtration and extension of filter and then on May 21 there was another brown water incident. He stated that he called John Woodsmall, Director DPW, and the policy had been disbanded. Mr. Buck stated that he went back to look and there was no expiration or deadline or clause and he reached out to find out why.

Mr. Buck stated that on 4 different days they have not been able to use water. He stated that they were told that there was hydrant flushing this week and that he had on his camera at 8:30 that they skipped the hydrant in front of his house. He stated that they indicated it was a low point that they can't flush it. He stated that he told them to do it that this has been a problem and he thought how many times in 8 years had they skipped this hydrant. He challenged the Board to come up with a solution to this problem.

Jennifer Lish, 15 Avery Road, was present at the meeting. She stated that Mass General Law 26.00 states that public school districts encourage respect regardless of race, color, sexual orientation, and that school committee members and superintendents must strive to do this as well. She stated that she was there to urge the Board to have candidates for the school committee that have a history of respect and dignity that is required by Mass General Law and consistent with basic decency. She stated that a person who has a history of not speaking like that should not be allowed on the School Committee.

Jack Edelman, 64 Autumn Circle, was present at the meeting. He stated that he echoed the statements of Ms. Lish. He stated that certain individuals have a history of bigotry and that run a bigoted tabloid blog that track hate and can have an impact on academic freedom. He stated that this person puts harassing things out there and that it is a serious concern.

Jim Ramsey, 1010 Boulder Hill Road, Jefferson was present at the meeting. He stated he was there to talk about Safe Communities and that he does walk his dog in the neighborhood and that traffic is fast and it is hard to get out of the way. He asked the Board to take this into consideration.

Jessi Hacklin, Holden MA, was present with his wife at the meeting. He stated that they have two kids that went through the meeting and that he wanted to echo Ms. Lish and Mr. Edelman's words. He stated that this was a very important appointment and that this person should represent the Town of Holden. He stated that they would expect the member of a school committee to be held to a standard and that it is his understanding that one of the people that the Board is considering has exhibited conduct that they would not condone. He stated that he urged the Board to consider someone other than this person.

Taryn King, Holden MA, was present at the meeting. She stated that she sent an email and that she wanted to speak today about the important decision that the Board had regarding the open seat for the School Committee. She stated that she was a Senior Manager in a non profit and that in all her hiring she looked for people with excellent skill set in addition to those that are committed to the vision and core values of the organization. She stated that she had spent some time looking at the strategic plan and assumed that some of the candidates for this position did as well. She stated that the Board should appoint the individual that had the same core values and represent the district. She stated that a committee member is important and that the person appointed should have values in line with the organization.

Linda Long-Belil, 35 Brentwood Drive, was present at the meeting. She stated she was a member of the School Committee and urged the Board to choose the most qualified person that would make the community proud and that they would be pleased to see among administration, teachers, and students.

Aiden Kearny, 111 Mason Road, was present at the meeting. He stated that he was there to address the opening for the School Committee. He stated that when people meet face to face and it is not just words on a screen they are able to understand differences and understand that they are not that different at all. He stated that he was the elephant in the room; the person everyone was talking about. He stated that he was the person they were calling a bigot and talking about and when talking about an environment that is not a good environment he is the father of two children that moved here because of the schools. He stated that his daughter loves to learn and she was broken hearted to not go to school and for the announcement to be made the day before they were supposed to go back. He stated that was unacceptable. He stated that when a member of the school committee stated that “10K died and it was a lot of kids” it was not right. He stated that he ran for the school committee as a loving parent and member of the community who wanted better for our kids; the same thing all of them want regardless of political affiliation.

Mr. Kearny stated that he lived at 111 Mason Drive and welcomed anyone that wanted to talk to come and have coffee with him. He stated he was not a monster or a bigot; he was a loving father who wanted better for his kids and hoped everyone wanted the same.

Chairman Barnes closed Citizen Address.

### **3. Holden Housing Authority Appointment, To expire 5/9/2022**

Karen O'Connor was present at the meeting. She stated that she enjoyed working on the Housing Authority and liked serving the community. She stated that she was a loud advocate and wanted to run again.

Sel. Herlihy asked why she was not on the ballot.

Ms. O'Connor stated that she had previously been a write in candidate and that just didn't happen this year.

Jeannie Henderson, 20 Cook Street, was also present at the meeting for the Holden Housing Authority Appointment.

Ms. Henderson stated that she had over 20 years experience with a non profit in Worcester and they managed over 100 units of housing. She stated that she thinks that she could give a different perspective and help improve the Commission.

Sel. Renzoni asked Ms. Henderson if she considered taking out papers.

Ms. Henderson replied that she did and that she intended to next time.

**Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPOINT JEANNIE HENDERSON TO THE HOLDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 5/9/22**

Sel. Renzoni thanked both people for coming out and stated that he thought both were perfect candidates but he wanted to encourage new people to volunteer and get involved in the community.

**4. Wachusett School Committee Appointment, To Expire 5/9/22**

Sel. Renzoni thanked everyone for coming out. He stated that he had spoken to a lot of people who provided the Board with input. He stated that for the benefit of the public; after Town Meeting the Board met and was not ready to make a decision on this appointment. He stated they did agree to offer successively candidate 4, 5, and 6 and then go to resumes. He stated that with this close of election and with the amount of people that turned out that this seemed the fairest way to proceed.

Sel. Herlihy replied that the Board did not agree to this on the night of Town Meeting. She stated that they had discussion that if this was decided before the election it would be one thing but that it was too late at this point because people came forward and expressed interest. She stated that she wanted everyone that came forward to have a chance to speak and be interviewed.

Sel. Bates stated that he had asked to see resumes and that the Board did not agree. He stated that they wanted time to think about it. He stated that it takes a lot of time and effort to get on the ballot and that numbers 4, 5, and 6 did have the chance to debate so that commitment is what should be recognized.

Sel. Lavigne stated that they should be invited up and speak. He stated that he agrees that it takes a lot to run a campaign and he understands the logic of appointing the 4<sup>th</sup> place person in the ballot as that person got more votes than most of the present School Committee. He stated that there was one person that dropped out; but that he wanted to hear from the rest of the candidates that ran.

Chairman Barnes invited Barry Dellecese up to the podium.

Mr. Dellecese stated that he was one of the candidates that ran. He stated that he has four children two of whom are in the schools and if you add it up they have 46 more years of schools. He stated they moved there 2.5 years ago and came for the community and district and that was what motivated him to run. He stated that he wants the best for the kids. He stated that over the last 18 months he has become more involved in School Committee meetings. He stated that he realized that there was an opportunity to bring his background of software engineering and project management which are data driven fields and collaboration into the School Committee. He stated that the School Committee was responsible for policy and budget and administration. He stated that he was not happy

with the last 12-15 months with Covid and how decisions were made. He stated that it felt unfair to parents and that there was not a lot of transparency. He stated that if parents did not speak out and the state did not step in the kids would have never gone back. He stated that he felt that the School Committee and Administration was too reactive and he stated that he thinks that they need to be more strategic. He stated he also feels as though the School Committee and the Town need to have a better working relationship in order to plan for bigger things. He stated that he wants to bring a strategic vision and be more pragmatic and data driven in the decisions. He stated that he has 46 year of schooling left and he is very invested in the Wachusett Schools.

Sel. Herlihy asked if Mr. Dellecese wanted more data where would he start with the challenge of the budget. She asked what his vision was about that and what could be done.

Mr. Dellecese stated that he was not an expert but that he thinks there could be better communication and collaboration and that he thinks planning should go beyond one year. He stated that the budget is coded and he does not understand it and that he thinks that it needs to be explained in greater detail. He stated that they should all know what they are getting for their money and right now that is not happening.

Sel. Lavigne asked if he had any thoughts on the size and structure of the School Committee.

Mr. Dellecese stated that he had not sat on the Committee but as he watched it and applying it to his world; generally making decisions with that many people is difficult. He stated that 22 feels like too many but lowering it makes more work per person. He stated that having not been involved he does not fully appreciate the full question but that decision making is problematic.

Aiden Kearny, 111 Mason Road stated that he ran for School Committee. He stated that he largely articulated his point in Citizen Address but that he was upset and dissatisfied with the lack of communication between the Superintendent and School Committee and the parents/ community. He stated that he called all ten members of the Holden School Committee and heard back from one. He stated that he felt that parents were dismissed and pushed aside. He stated that if parents did not flood the School Committee demanding that they open he does not think it would have happened. He stated that they needed bold leadership; closing the schools was easy but opening needed creativity and solutions and that sitting in front of the computer was not a substitution for being in the classroom.

Mr. Kearny stated that they moved here from Worcester because they wanted better than Worcester so we should not have followed Worcester's decision.

Mr. Kearny stated that he feels this position should go to someone that ran. He stated that they came out, knocked on doors, and debated. He stated all three candidates got over 700 votes and took the initiative to get out there and do something about it. He stated

previous School Committees ran uncontested and there was finally some enthusiasm for this Committee. He stated if you were not enthusiastic enough to get on the ballot then you were not as deserving to be appointed to the committee.

Mr. Kearny stated that as far as his skills he was an Eagle Scout, was the oldest of 7 and was an 11 year veteran teacher. He stated that as well as teaching he has built his own business outside of that and that he thinks kids deserve better than this.

Sel. Lavigne thanked Mr. Kearny. He stated that Mr. Kearny is a known internet personality and he asked what they would get if he was sitting on the Committee as far as other committee members, administration, and staff.

Mr. Kearny replied that he would be respectful and would treat it like the important institution it is. He stated that he feels mutual respect is important even when you disagree because there will always be issues that people disagree on.

Sel. Bates asked if Mr. Kearny could sit on the School Committee with his profession.

Mr. Kearny stated that he would make a pledge that if he is appointed he would not discuss anything from the school committee on his professional platform.

Ronald Shin, General Dentist, was present at the meeting and wished to be considered for the School Committee appointment. He stated that his wife has a masters in early education and has taught Title 1 literacy. He stated that his wife was a teacher at Mayo and he has young children. He stated that he wanted the best possible education for the kids and he thinks that there should be opportunities to fuel kid's imaginations with proper funding for music, sports, and other opportunities as well. He stated that he also feels as though the schools need to address mental health issues.

Dr. Shin stated that he thinks that it is vitally important for teachers to be well supported and that as a husband of a teacher it blows his mind how much they are expected to spend of their own money. He stated that he wanted to ease the burden for the teachers.

Dr. Shin stated as a first time homeowner, parent, and the first time he came in public to run for a committee he stated he was there to learn and take as much in as possible and do the best he can. He stated that he cares deeply about education and the well being and happiness of the kids.

Sel. Lavigne asked why Dr. Shin was seeking appointment now and did not take papers out to run.

Dr. Shin replied that he just moved into the community.

Sel. Lavigne asked if Dr. Shin's wife was employed by the district and how he would handle conflict of the budget.

Dr. Shin replied she was and that he believes that is what would make him a good candidate.

Sel. Renzoni stated that Dr. Shin stated that he wanted to ease the burden of supplies for teachers. He stated that there is a cost associated with that and he asked where they would find those funds in the district.

Dr. Shin replied he needed more information about that and once he had more information to work to come up with solutions that benefit everyone.

Debbie Femia, 182 Wachusett Street, was present at the meeting. She stated that if she were to say what the criteria to fill the School Committee seat should be it would be three things; why would they care, are they qualified, and do their values line up with the strategic vision. Ms. Femia stated that she did not run because she was supporting a candidate that did win and she did not want to run against them. She stated now that there was an additional seat she decided to throw her hat in the ring.

Ms. Femia stated that she cared because she has lived in Holden since 2002 and has a 15 and 10 year old. She stated that she is very invested in the curriculum and what they would be taking away from education. Ms. Femia stated why she is qualified was that while she was a total newbie to School Committee but that being a Tech Writer she knows how to write instructions and she has the role of being a diplomatic communicator in her position. She stated that it is her job to make sure that software developers and project managers work together and communicate well and she thinks that those skills along with her diplomacy would be a resource she could use in this capacity.

Ms. Femia stated that as far as her values; she feels as though there are basics such as math and reading you need to learn in school but that to make kids better you need to do that by not limiting the teaching. She stated that it is important to have people learn from each other so that they can see things through others eyes. She stated she thinks it is important to be inclusive and to allow everyone to be respected. She stated that she does understand that there is a budget challenge and that it is complex but she looks forward to learning about it and working to make it more meaningful.

Sel. Renzoni asked Ms. Femia who she currently felt herself align with in the School Committee.

Ms. Femia replied she did not feel that was a fair question and her goal is not to side with anyone but to listen to everyone and contribute in a way that compliments it all.

Sel. Renzoni stated that Ms. Femia mentioned the budget; he asked what the problem with the budget was in her opinion.

Ms. Femia replied that it was very complex. She stated that one immediate issue that needed to be solved was the transportation issue. She stated that may be a real interesting challenge that they could tackle and overcome.



Sel. Renzoni replied that he felt that was a great observation. He stated she may not be aware but that State Representative Chandler was very influential and even she could not get it on the floor. He stated that this is a problem in the district but the state was not going to fix it. He stated it needed to be fixed locally.

Sel. Lavigne asked Ms. Femia about the Committee size.

Ms. Femia replied that as someone that has not sat on the committee it was not fair for her to give an opinion on that. She stated that if the Committee is functioning well and everyone was working together with a common goal then the size should be fine. She stated problems arise when there is no collaboration.

Sel. Lavigne asked if elected on day 1, what her goal is for Administration.

Ms. Femia replied that she would want to understand their positions and look forward to see what their goals were in terms of promoting respect and inclusivity and how they can broaden the schools perspective on the world.

Sel. Herlihy asked if Mr. Femia has looked at the budget using her experience as a technical writer.

Ms. Femia replied that she has not done that but thinks it would be a fun project.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she thinks that the Committee is so big it is hard to get points across. She stated that she thinks Ms. Femia's goals seem to support inclusivity and having some changes to the curriculum which would be big; she stated that she does nothing that would be able to happen immediately.

Ms. Femia replied that she did not want giant changes all at once but to push forward over time. She stated that did not want to come onto a Committee and change it right away.

Sel. Bates asked if she had given any thought to what curriculum they could expand to especially with regards to the LGBTQ community.

Ms. Femia replied that the options are so wide that narrowing it down would be the challenging part. She stated that she thinks you need to start little by little possibly by picking an LGBTQ author and introducing it into the curriculum in many ways.

Sel. Bates asked what she thought should be removed from the curriculum in order to make room for this.

Ms. Femia replied that was a challenge and she didn't know the answer yet.

Sel. Lavigne thanked all the candidates for coming out. He stated that he had never seen so many qualified candidates.

Sel. Lavigne made a motion to appoint Mr. Dellecese to the School Committee with a term to expire 5/9/22. Sel. Renzoni seconded the motion.

Sel. Lavigne stated that his reasoning behind this motion was both because Mr. Dellecese was the next person in line with regards to votes that he had and also because he said working with the Towns with a strategic vision was important to him. Sel. Lavigne stated that this is something that has never been accomplished and that it needed to be.

Sel. Renzoni agreed that all the candidates have something to offer. He stated that he thinks that they need to put someone in place that share their vision to Holden and represent both the town and the school.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she wished to offer the support for Ms. Femia. She stated that with her background as a technical writer she thinks that she will be able to collaborate with the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee, and the citizens. She stated that Ms. Femia was also the only candidate that has reached out in the past.

Sel. Lavigne stated that Mr. Dellacese has reached out in the past.

Sel. Herlihy stated that other people had spoken for Ms. Femia earlier in the meeting and that the Board was there not to make the decision for the five of them but for others as well.

Sel. Renzoni replied that to that point; Mr. Dellecese did receive the support of 750 citizens of Holden. He stated that he also took out papers, debated, and campaigned. He stated he was a candidate that was paying attention and answering questions all along and that he thinks the Board should support him.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE BARRY DELLECESE TO THE WACHUSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 5/9/22 BY A VOTE OF 4-0-1.**  
(Herlihy: no).

Chairman Barnes thanked everyone for coming out. She stated she was grateful anytime a citizen comes to show interest in the community and they always want opinions, comments and perspective.

Chairman Barnes called a recess at 7:54PM.

Chairman Barnes called the meeting back to order at 8:00PM.

**Appointments Cont.**

David George was present at the meeting.

Chairman Barnes invited Mr. George up to the podium and asked him his reason for wanting to be reappointed.

Mr. George replied that he had been serving the community in some capacity for 15 years and has experience in large city land use. He stated that he was happy to contribute the knowledge he has to the ZBA.

Sel. Renzoni asked him an instance he contributed to a decision last year.

Mr. George replied that the use of Stonehill Drive was one example. He stated the ZBA looked to understand what reuse it would be for and the Board came up with conditions they felt were reasonable to allow for new commercial business in town. He stated he felt the Board worked creatively to help this happen.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE DAVID GEORGE FOR ZBA REAPPOINTMENT FOR A TERM FROM 6/18/21-6/18/24 AS PRESENTED.**

#### **5. Response to Citizens Address**

Sel. Lavigne asked to have Mr. Woodsmall at the next meeting in order to discuss the brown water issue.

Sel. Lavigne left the meeting.

#### **6. Town Manager Update**

See attached

#### **7. Selectmen's Meeting Schedule**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED BY A 4-0 VOTE TO APPROVE THE SELECTMEN 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE WITH THE SUMMER DATES CHANGING TO 7/12/21 AND 8/16/21.**

#### **8. Selectmen Minutes**

Minutes were tabled for next meeting.

#### **9. Selectmen Miscellaneous**

Sel. Herlihy asked to return to Dr. Sabatos' petition from Citizens Address.

Mr. Lukes stated that there had been two shifts that monitored the road on different occasions but that the road is narrow with no sidewalk and was not an ideal place to walk. He stated that he did not know what a committee could do to fix this.

Sel. Herlihy asked what the desired outcome for Safe Communities was.

Mr. Lukes replied that if someone wanted to create a committee or program that they could do that on their own and he does not think the Town would need to stand this up.

Sel. Herlihy stated that the DPW director stated that we already participate in something like this.

Mr. Lukes replied that Safe Streets has a lot of criteria and is measurable and works with street conditions and repair along with traffic enforcement. He stated he could forward the electronic report to the Boards attention for review.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he had let Dr. Sabato know that he would meet up with him to discuss a citizen group further.

Sel. Renzoni stated that Sel. Lavigne left but that Friday State Representative Ferguson and himself went to Mountview and he wanted to thank Mr. Smith for putting this together.

Sel. Renzoni stated that after the orders to lower the flag, he did see the schools flags were not lowered. He stated he reached out to Dr. McCall and it was addressed and he wanted to thank him for doing so. He stated that this was a bout respect.

Sel. Renzoni stated that School Committee Member Gufsatson stated that she was disappointed that the Board was not televised at the end of the Town Meeting. He stated that traditionally the Board is not televised at the meeting before or after Town Meeting because it is the Board taking positions and occasionally other business. He stated this is an HCTV issue and they can reach out if need be.

Mr. Lukes stated that Holden Cable let them know earlier that they were not able to broadcast live.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the gazebo was partially destroyed and this tends to happen on Wednesday half days. He asked the district to correspond with parents and that if need be the police will become involved.

Mr. Lukes replied that they would be increasing patrol and that the town does not tolerate vandalism.

#### **10. Selectmen Subcommittee**

No updates

Sel. Renzoni asked if the Water/Sewer advisory committee was settled.

Mr. Lukes replied that members were appointed but he was not sure about the first meeting.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 7, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 8:36PM.**

**APPROVED:** September 20, 2021



TOWN OF HOLDEN  
MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Peter M. Lukes  
Town Manager

June 1, 2020

**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** Peter M. Lukes,  
Town Manager

**SUBJECT:** *Town Manager Update*

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1. **Bandstand Concert Series** – The Summer Bandstand Concert Series schedule has been added to the town's website [HoldenMA.gov](http://HoldenMA.gov). We are excited to host a full series this year without the need for grids on the lawn or masks for concert-goers. Weekly reminders that will include the individual band/concert theme will be posted on the town's Facebook page throughout the summer.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ [ ]

Signature ☐ [ ]

2. **Town Pool Opening** – The town pool officially opened on Saturday, June 5. The weekend saw temperatures in the 90's and we saw a number of our residents making use of the pool throughout both Saturday and Sunday.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ [ ]

Signature ☐ [ ]

3. **Year-to-Date Revenue and Expenditure Reports** – Attached are the Year-to-Date Revenue and Expenditure reports for the period ending March and April 2021, prepared by Lori Rose, Town Accountant.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ [ ]

Signature ☐ [ ]

4. **ECC Property Update** – We have been told by DEP that soil removal from the ECC Site on Princeton Street will be completed by the end of June. We are also thankful to Representative Kim Ferguson for securing approximately \$65,000 in additional state funds that will go to the town for the purposes of securing the building and other minor cleanup of the property. We will continue to work with DEP to monitor and clean up any remaining hazmat. Ultimately the town will likely take the property through tax title and issue an RFP for redevelopment.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ [ ]

Signature ☐ [ ]

5. **18 Industrial Drive** – Steel has been delivered and is going up at the DPW Facility site. The project continues to progress in spite of extreme volatility in the vertical construction industry. Prices of materials are increasing at a nearly exponential rate. Recent bids that have been released in other Massachusetts communities for similar DPW Facilities have resulted in cost estimates that were double the bids received by Holden over a year ago.

Information ☒

Vote ☐

Signature ☐

6. **Memorial Day Review** – This year's Memorial Day Parade was the biggest in years. Local youth sports groups joined the parade along with a World War II Sherman tank, marching band, fife and drum band and our Honor Guard. The additional part of the parade route was well received and it appeared that residents were very happy to be out and about once again post-Covid. Many thanks to the veterans who participated, to the help and participation of Holden Fire, Holden Police, and Holden DPW, and to everyone who came out to march and watch from the sidewalks.

Information ☒

Vote ☐

Signature ☐

7. **Former Landfill (Holden Dump)** – The former landfill has been reviewed by DEP once again and they have agreed to only one more permit and then we will be working toward closure. This is great news for the future of the property and also for the Town which will save approximately \$40,000 in annual costs on the property as we move forward into next fiscal year.

Information ☒

Vote ☐

Signature ☐

8. **HMLD Update** – This board voted to approve the financing plan for Chaffin Substation a couple of months ago, and MMWEC approved the financing at 2% at the end of May. Shutoffs of delinquent accounts have begun and will continue throughout June. I have warned of this day at Select Board meeting several times throughout the pandemic. HMLD has tried to inform delinquent customers that they would need to work out some kind of payment plan. Those who have not done so will be having their service turned off shortly. HMLD is owed over \$100,000 in utility bills, which is over seven times the normal amount this time of year. Lastly, the HMLD monthly report for March 2021 is included in your packet, provided by HMLD Director Jane Parenteau.

Information ☒

Vote ☐

Signature ☐

9. **WRSHS Graduating Seniors Parade** – High School Seniors were allowed to have a parade of cars over the weekend that traveled through the five towns of the region. Although this parade takes quite a bit of policing and traffic control, the towns were happy to provide the service due to so many losses that the seniors felt during the year as a result of COVID restrictions, canceled events and closed schools. There were, sadly, some participants who chose to not follow our simple rules for safety and a small minority who showed disrespect to our police officers while they tried to enforce safety rules and rules of the road. We will not be holding this event in future years. This was the last time that Holden will be allowing a


parade of this kind through town. I believe that other towns in the district will have the same position.

**Information** ☒

Vote ☐

Signature ☐

Should you have any questions regarding these matters, please feel free to contact my office.



Peter M. Lukes  
Town Manager

Cc: Department Heads