



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
ROOM 200/ZOOM
March 22, 2022

Chairman Kimberley Emberg called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:00 PM. Selectmen in attendance: Donald Alcombright, Jessica Kramer (virtual), and Sheila Vaughn.

Staff Present: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator; Gloria Mitchell, Assistant Town Administrator; Patricia Tucker, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

Announcements Ms. Emberg read:

- This meeting is being recorded by PACTV. Anyone intending to make an audio or video recording of this meeting should notify the Chair at this time.
- Financial Assistance Applications are available on the Town's website or by calling the Selectmen's Office.
- Annual Town Election is being held on April 23, 2022; all residents will vote at Kingston Elementary School.
- Koi Pond Estates, a new development in Kingston, is currently holding a lottery for two affordable dwelling units – Applications are available at the Kingston Town House and Library or email lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com. The deadline to apply is April 4.
- A vacancy on Capital Planning
- Ms. Emberg asked everyone to join in a moment of silence in memory of De Vere Charles "Chuck" Wusenich, a Kingston resident who passed away on Wednesday. Chuck served the Town of Kingston for over 40 years in different capacities, starting with the Capital Outlay Committee in 1976; as a member of the Board of Registrars for 30 years, he also served on the Cable Advisory Board, Finance and Town Charter Study Committee. In addition to these town committees, Chuck served as Chairperson of the Kingston Republican Town Committee.

OPEN FORUM

Andy Davis of 11 Crystal Drive, Chair of Recreation, was in attendance to update on a few things for Recreation; music in the Parks is starting again on Tuesday nights beginning on May 17.

Mr. Davis also wanted to mention that the Friends of Kingston Dogs/Boneyard donated \$500 to build the new playground at Gray's Beach.

Jean Landis Nauman of 84 Wolf Pond Road was in to talk about the agenda item for an assistant town planner and urges the Board to consider this position and believes the job description should include more focus on housing in the Town.

Elaine Fiore of 60 Cole Street agrees with Ms. Nauman that housing should be included in the job description.

Town Planner Valerie Massard spoke to that to the request to add housing focus to the job description and stated that would require more requirements of the applicant that may include a master's degree. Ms. Massard is hoping the position can help her accomplish all that she can as the Town Planner and is not in favor of adding housing to this position.

Bill Arrowsmith of 141 Monks Hill Road wanted to let the Board know he is concerned with the signage and work done at Camp Nekon over the weekend. He feels that this is a fire hazard situation that is escalating.

APPOINTMENTS

Recognize Matt and Dawn Naylor, Owners of Skin Esteem, for Their Support and Assistance During the COVID Crisis

On behalf of the Town of Kingston, Fire Chief Mark Douglass will present Skin Esteem Owners with a gift from the Town for their assistance in providing COVID vaccinations in 2021. The Naylor's provided their business, staffing, and vaccinations they were able to obtain to Kingston residents when getting vaccinated was not as easy as it is today.

Fire Chief Douglass was in attendance to present the Naylor's with a presentation and a gift.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Request to Establish an Assistant Town Planner Position

Mr. Hickey began the conversation by saying that the administrative assistant had resigned from the Planning office. Mr. Hickey worked with Ms. Massard and agreed that the assistant town planner would be needed within the office.

The union is in agreement with this recruitment.

Ms. Vaughn is in favor of this position.

Ms. Emberg asked how the Town could support the housing needs presented at Open Forum. Mr. Hickey stated he would have a conversation with Ms. Nauman on possibilities.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Ms. Vaughn, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to authorize that Human Resources, with the assistance of the Town Planner, start the recruitment process for the hiring of a Full-Time Assistant Town Planner

Review of Complete Street Project Recommendation

Mr. Hickey presented this to the Board, and Ms. Massard provided information to the Board and discussed the data within the packet.

There was a discussion regarding the wording on page 2:

"Upon approval by the Project Team," The Board briefly discussed the language. It was mentioned that Ms. Massard would update to Project Team.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Ms. Vaughn, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the Complete Streets Policy as amended

Elizabeth Ottman of TEC was in attendance to present the Complete Streets prioritization plan by sharing her screen with Board and the public. All information presented was provided in the meeting packet.

After approval, the next step will be to submit the plan to Mass Dot.

Ms. Massard, this list is a comprehensive list reviewed by staff amongst Old Colony Planning.

Pine duBois of Elm Street wanted to add that she is unsure of the timing but would like to inform the Board that Jones River is installing a fish ladder and is concerned with construction.

Ms. Massard assured me that; Lake Street is not the first on the list.

Mr. Hickey asked if the Board wanted to leave it up to the staff which projects would be moved forward first.

Pamela Gould of Landing Road, how does one get a copy of the list as she has excellent concerns responded to the survey about traffic.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Ms. Vaughn, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the Complete Streets Prioritization List

Discussion of Implementation of Thickly Settled Bylaw

Mr. Hickey started by saying that at the March 8, 2022, Board meeting, Board members requested an agenda item to discuss designating Howland's Lane, Main Street, Landing Road, and West Street as thickly settled, allowing the speed limit to be reduced to 25 MPH.

Mr. Hickey stated he spoke with Police Chief Splaine, Superintendent of Streets, Trees, Park Paul Basler, and Town Planner Valerie Massard. Staff unanimously recommended that the Town-wide adopt thickly settled streets by law rather than applying the new speed limit designation to specific streets.

Chief Splaine stated that there would be signs at the entrance to all access to the Town that says the Town adopted a thickly settled. It was noted that the staff reached out to Mass DOT to discuss Main Street, where the Commonwealth has established the speed limit through the speed permit process. A request from the Town of Kingston must be submitted for MassDOT to reconsider the speed permit.

The Board discussed Main Street in that the intent is to lower the speed limit.

The Board discussed in length the signage within the Town regarding speed limits.

Ms. Emberg, Mr. Alcombright, and Ms. Vaughn favor Town-wide.

Ms. Kramer is in favor of more signage.

Pine duBois of Elm Street believes the boundary signage is great but insufficient.

Ms. Susan Sherman of 215 Main Street was in attendance and

Discussion of signage can be done at a future meeting and address the concerns that have been raised tonight.

Motion by Ms. Kramer with no second.

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to apply MGL c.90, section 17C, reduction of the current speed limit of 30 MPH to 25 MPH on any roadway inside thickly settled or business district town-wide. And further, Howland's Lane and West Street and applicable sections of Main Street and Landing Road have signage stating that they are thickly settled. In addition, there will be a request for additional signage on additional roads.

In addition, the Board requests the Town Administrator to contact MassDOT to begin the request reverting the speed limit on Main Street back to the statutory 30pmh.

Mr. Hickey stated that the vote tonight would not go into effect until the proper signage is placed.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to apply MGL c.90, section 17C, reduction of the current speed limit of 30 MPH to 25 MPH on any roadway inside thickly settled or business district

town-wide. In addition, the Board requests the Town Administrator to contact MassDOT to begin reconsidering the speed limit regulation on Main Street.

Ms. Kramer asked for a future agenda item to discuss signage.

Open/Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Hickey started by discussing the information in the packet by adding the additional items requested and removing the Conservation article as requested by them.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to open the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting warrant

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the additional warrant articles received after the warrant closed on January 21, 2022. And that the Wetlands Protection Bylaw Amendment warrant article be removed

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Ms. Vaughn, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote.

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen close the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting warrant

Request to Extend Employment Contracts of Harbormaster and Deputy Harbormaster for One Year

Mr. Hickey stated that after speaking to Chief Splaine, a final determination of how police reform man impacts the Harbormaster/Deputy Harbormaster position had not been made. Based on the continued lack of definitive direction, Chief Splaine and Mr. Hickey is recommending extending the one-year contract for both the Harbormaster and Assistant Harbormaster for an additional year.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Ms. Vaughn, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the contract extension through June 30, 2023, of Interim Harbormaster Thomas Taylor and Richard A. Krueger Jr. as the Interim Deputy Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable.

Annual Appointment of Animal Inspector

Ms. Emberg stated that the Town must appoint an Animal Inspector annually. Kingston's current Animal Inspector, Debra Mueller, is willing to serve for the upcoming year.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Ms. Vaughn, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move to reappoint Debra Mueller as Animal Inspector through April 30, 2023

Request Authorization to Purchase a Used Fire Engine from the Town of Yarmouth

Chief Douglass was in attendance to outline the request to purchase a used fire truck from the Town of Yarmouth. Chief discussed all the issues that their current fire engine has given the fire department.

Ms. Vaughn asked what happened to the fire truck that they got rid of. Chief Douglass stated there was a company that would take them and refurbish.

The ladder truck should be delivered by the end of May.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Ms. Vaughn, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the purchase of a 1996 Emergency One fire engine in the amount of \$7,500 from the Town of Yarmouth

Acceptance of Council on Aging and Recreation Donations

Ms. Emberg stated that the Council on Aging and Recreation Department requests that the Board accept the following donations.

Ms. Emberg asked about the Boneyard Committee donating on behalf of the Dog Park when the Boneyard requested the Town to pay for cleanup at the Boneyard.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 4-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the following donations:

For the Council on Aging:

- \$50 donation from Robert Tassinari
- \$15 donation from an anonymous donor
- \$300 donation in memory of Dan O'Connor, a former Kingston resident, and COA participant

This item was tabled for more discussion.

For the Recreation Department: \$500 from the Boneyard Dog Park

Town Administrator Update – Mr. Hickey reviewed the following with the Board:

Kingston received \$38,405 from the State to reimburse Covid Emergency Sick Leave for employees who used this special sick leave since last year. These funds will go into Free Cash at the end of the fiscal year.

The Capital Planning Committee will be finalizing their recommended Capital Improvement Plan tomorrow evening.

The siding repair work at the Central Fire Station is complete. The project scope was new siding and the replacement of rotten wood behind the siding.

Interviews with candidates interested in the Health Agent have begun.

Kingston Wind Independence LLC, or KWI, the company that once owned the wind turbine at the former landfill, filed a 10 million dollar lawsuit late last week against the Town of Kingston. However, KWI is willing to settle for \$1 million in the next couple of weeks. Counsel is reviewing the filing.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Ms. Vaughn stated that the Town elections are the week of school vacation, and there is an absentee ballot on the website.

Also mentioned was that June is Pride Month, and there will be a discussion at a future meeting if Kingston will participate.

Ms. Kramer will be on maternity leave for the next six weeks.

Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to recess to Executive Session to not return to Open Session for the purpose of To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares, Assistant Town Administrator and Deputy Fire Chief and litigation update.

Land Acquisition

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(2) - To conduct collective bargaining sessions – FOP, Lodge 64, Delegate Authority to hear step 2 grievance between the Town of Kingston and FOP Lodge 64

Approve/Release Executive Session Meeting Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Tucker
Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda

Agenda Addendum

Assistant Planner change

Complete Streets information

Thickly Settled Streets

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Animal Inspector Appointment

Fire Truck

Donations

Town Administrator Report