

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of December 12, 2022
FINAL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Chairman.

PRESENT: Chair Richard Wilson; Vice Chair Kevin St. James; Electra Alessio, Chris Bashaw, Charles Hart, Select Board Members

APPOINTMENTS:

None

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Chairman Wilson reported on **Stained Glass** subcommittee activity, saying that more people have expressed interest in purchasing windows, and it will go out for public donations in January. He will visit the factory tomorrow with committee members. Selectman St. James said that the **Conservation Committee** discussed a possible purchase by a federal organization of land in the Sargent preserve. He said they will be coming to the board with a presentation. He also said that Conservation will be bringing forward two warrant articles for 2023.

Selectman Bashaw said that the **Planning Board** looked into the liquor license request for Saddle Up's cigar bar and found that it had been put under another name by mistake. The address issue has been resolved. He said there was discussion by the Planning Board about whether or not this addition to the business needs site plan review. He said it needs to be separate from the food establishment due to the smoking aspect.

Planning also discussed Comcast at Fieldstone Industrial Park, and the status of trees to be planted at Bresnahan Storage. Selectman Bashaw said that Bresnahan's last extension expired on October 15; the Planner will reach out to them and report to the Planning Board tomorrow; this may be recommended for enforcement action. Zoning Articles will be finalized after legal review is completed.

Selectman Hart said that the **Budget Committee** will have one more meeting, on December 18th at 6 pm at the Fire Station.

PUBLIC COMMENT 1:

DPW Director Phil Coombs addressed the Board to say that the Winter parking ban is in effect, and although the public was informed of this in a tax bill flyer, people apparently did not read it. He said there were multiple problems with cars parked in the road, sometimes on both sides, and this needs to be gotten under control. He said the police Chief has agreed to help by knocking on doors and issuing warnings, but after that, cars in the roadway during a plowing event will be towed.

OLD BUSINESS:

ARPA proposals and expenditures

The Board reviewed an updated chart of American Recovery Plan Act proposed expenses and expenditures to date. It was agreed to remove the line for water test kits.

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 Warrant Articles

The Board reviewed an initial list of warrant articles that had been mentioned over the course of the year, as well as two proposed by the DPW Director.

Mr. Coombs explained his proposed “snowy day capital reserve fund”, saying that residents want to see something of value from their tax money, and that they want their roads paved and kept clear. He said the idea would be to take leftover funds in the salting and plowing budgets, and anything over \$100,000 would be put into the new fund, to be saved for those purposes.

Mr. Coombs had also submitted an article for a non-binding referendum which would ask the voters if the town should move forward with the concept of one-way traffic around the Plains and determine the feasibility of this.

Other articles to be brought forward were discussed briefly, including:

- Making the part-time Planning Administrative Assistant position a full-time position to serve all land-use boards
- Re-adopting the Veterans’ Tax Credit with some revisions, as required by the DRA

It had previously been decided not to put cost of living increases on the ballot, and also to wait to propose a change in voting hours to coincide with petitioning to change state election hours at the same time, in 2024.

Employee compensation matrix

The Board briefly discussed what had been done in the past to pursue a wage matrix; a company had come to the Board in 2018 with a proposal to do this work for the town at a cost of \$350 per position. References had been solicited at the time, and a similar project done for the town of Hampton had been shared. Salary surveys from Hampstead and the NH Municipal Association, done in 2021, were also on hand. Selectman Bashaw said he had sent the board an email containing a pay and classification audit done for Rockingham County in 2021, which also may be helpful to review.

Ginger Way

The Administrative Assistant said that this private road had come to her attention when putting together information to update the tax maps. In talking to Ellen Faulconer, she had been told that it was never accepted by the Town, only assigned for 911 purposes, and that the Select Board would be the ones to accept it to be an official private road. It was agreed to bring the question to the Planning Board before proceeding.

PFAS Grant money available

The Administrative Assistant said that she had been called this morning by Anne Sheehan of Sanborn Head, who relayed that the NHDES has identified \$980,000 in available grant funding to be used for PFAS mitigation efforts. In Kingston’s case, this could be used for point of entry systems. However, it may make it more difficult in the future to get grant money toward a town water system. She said that she had few

details, but if the Board wanted to pursue the grant, the application would have to go in right away.

Mr. Coombs said that in his opinion the town should not supply the systems because it would then be responsible in perpetuity to maintain them at a cost of \$1800 per year each. He said that supplying bottled drinking water is fulfilling the Town's obligations at this juncture. He also said he thought that solutions to PFAS contamination will end up being funded by lawsuit money in the way the MBTE money was distributed.

The Board agreed that it could not make this decision so quickly and without better information. The Chairman said that the Town should continue with its current course of action, which is to wait for results of the current round of testing and explore options then.

BOARD BUSINESS:

Boat Launch funding

The Chairman asked Mr. Coombs if he had an opinion on whether the Town could benefit from state funding offered for repair of municipal boat launches. Mr. Coombs said he had not seen the information; it will be sent to him.

PUBLIC COMMENT 2:

None

CORRESPONDENCE, APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS:

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: By Selectman St. James, to approve the meeting minutes of December 5, as submitted.

SECOND: by Selectwoman Alessio

All in favor

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Susan H. Ayer, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board