

**Kingston, New Hampshire  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting of May 8, 2017  
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Main Meeting Room of Kingston Town Hall. The meeting was broadcast on public access channel 21. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Selectmen Peter Broderick and George Korn.

**Discussion of Dog Park Concerns**

Bob Bennett of Newton, Chairman of the Kingston Dog Park Association, was present at the request of the Board, along with other dog park users and members of the public. Chairman Heitz advised that the reason for having invited Mr. Bennett is the ongoing concern over operations of the dog park and the number of biting incidents.

Mr. Bennett provided the Board with copies of the registration form that park users are asked to fill out, the brochure that is provided to registrants outlining park rules and procedures, and the dog incident report form on which each instance of a bite involving the breaking of skin is to be reported to the Police Department. He also provided copies of the minutes of several association meetings.

Mr. Bennett advised that the association intends to post new signs at the park entrance to make visitors aware of the rules and regulations for park use. They have raised the age of children allowed to be present from 5 to 8 to increase safety, and they're developing a list of email addresses for park users that will allow global distribution of alerts and any changes or additions to rules. They also intend to more closely follow their own regulations, noting that a bite incident on April 14<sup>th</sup> had not properly been reported to the Police.

Mr. Bennett advised that it's unusual to have more than 12 dogs present in the park at a time. Individual owners are limited to three dogs, to ensure they can focus on their dogs' behavior. Dogs are required to be vaccinated and properly licensed. Owners are not required to produce identification to verify their registration information. Although use of the park is not restricted to Kingston residents, Mr. Bennett estimates that most users are from within a 10-mile radius of Kingston. Sue Clark of Danville advised that she thinks approximately 50% are from Kingston, with most of the rest from surrounding towns and a small percentage from out of state (mainly Haverhill). She said that the park has about 500 registered users, with maybe 100 of them being regular users. New tags are issued annually and users who don't have a current tag are requested to pay the annual \$5.00 fee and receive a new tag.

Mary Fiddler, who lives near the park, spoke about her experience with park users who don't properly dispose of their pets' waste, throwing bags of waste into trees as they leave the area. She stated her opinion that the group operating the park should police its use better and suggested that use of the park should be restricted to Kingston residents only. Selectman Broderick advised that there has been heavy illegal dumping in the area that he says he has no doubt comes from park users. He also spoke about the liability exposure to the town and its officials if, knowing that there is a safety risk existing at the park, no remedial action is undertaken. He stated that the park presents a serious problem for which serious solutions need to be found. Stephen Hayes, a Kingston resident, noted that signs posted on site clearly state that the Town is not liable for damages. It was agreed that such a disclaimer does not keep lawsuits from being filed or the town from having to defend against them.

Discussion was held concerning the benefits that the park affords to the local area, and the fact that the park operates at no cost to the town other than for some grading and plowing activity provided by the Highway Department at the Selectmen's request. Selectman Korn suggested that the park association might consider limiting the size or breed of dogs who are allowed in the park as a means of reducing the likelihood of incidents. Chairman Heitz advised that, at a minimum, the dog park needs to provide its own insurance coverage, holding the town and its officials harmless from exposure to liability for any incidents that occur there. The \$5.00 fee charged at present could be substantially increased to pay for the supplies, signs, insurance, etc. that the park needs to operate safely.

The Selectmen concluded that the park association needs to discuss and implement some means to limit exposure of the Town and make the park a safer environment, in order to keep the Town from having to make the decision to restrict access or close the park entirely. Mr. Bennett agreed that he will call a meeting of the Dog Park Board, at which they'll discuss a course of action to obtain insurance coverage and tighten up procedures of operation. He will provide a letter to the Selectmen within a month advising what they will do to address the problems.

**Recreation Building Discussion**

Recreation Director Paul Butler was present to present quotes for flooring at the Community Recreation building at 24 Main Street. The low bid was \$16,262.50. Additional to the new flooring, there is to be installation of concrete pads at entryways, and mats inside each entry to catch dirt and sand. Mr. Butler advised that Road Agent Richard St. Hilaire, in his capacity as Buildings Maintenance Supervisor, is in favor of the project. Selectmen Broderick and Korn agreed that an

expense of that size should be presented to the Budget Committee and approved by voters. A purchase order submitted by Mr. St. Hilaire for the Board's approval will be held until next year when the project has received approval.

#### **Fire Department Discussion of New Fire Station's Need List**

Chief Bill Seaman was present with Kent Walker of the Kingston Fire Department to review with the Board the needs list developed for the architectural firm that will be designing the proposed new fire station. Mr. Walker provided a spread sheet with the components of the proposed building, estimates of the amount of space each will be allotted, the use to which each component will be put; a comparison to the existing facility, and an explanation of how the existing facility limits the department. Each component was discussed. Chairman Heitz suggested that, as certain components are not an immediate need - the proposed building design having been developed to meet future and well as present needs - it may be advisable to leave spaces undedicated, for permanent designation at a future time. In particular, it was agreed that bunk rooms are not generally necessary at this point, but may be if the department ever goes to 24/7 coverage. Other areas that may become a necessity at some point but are not at present include numerous office spaces and a large weight/exercise room.

Selectman Broderick asked whether, with a goal of closing South Station once the new facility is in operation, the town will need to have as many trucks as it now has. Chief Seaman explained that the number of trucks is driven by need; every fire incident now has all three pumpers in response, both to provide necessary pumping capacity and to transport firefighters. The only difference is that with the new facility, all of the trucks will be housed in the new central location so it won't be necessary to send someone to pick up trucks from both locations. Selectman Broderick also asked whether the 12-bay design of the new facility is necessary. Chief Seaman advised that there are eleven equipment pieces now housed in the two stations. Mr. Walker advised that the town's ISO rating will not be affected by closing of South Station so that doesn't need to be a consideration.

A Building Committee meeting with the project architects is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, and the department invited the Selectmen to be present. It's expected that there will be a total of four to six such meetings as the project develops. The department hopes to have some information for voters at the March, 2018 meeting.

#### **Planning Board Audio Visual Presentations Discussed**

Lynne Merrill of the Planning Board asked if the Board will contact its cable equipment provider concerning a system whereby plans and documents under review by the Planning Board - and other Boards and Commissions - can be projected onto large screens from a computer tied into the cable broadcast system. That way interested parties present at meetings as well as residents watching on the public access channel will be able to see what plans are being discussed. It was agreed that Selectman Broderick will contact the company and discuss the matter.

#### **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn it was voted to accept the minutes of the April 24, 2017 meeting and non-public session as printed. Chairman Heitz abstained from the votes.

**MOTION:** Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn it was voted to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2017 meeting as printed. Selectman Korn abstained from the vote.

The Board reviewed the sole proposal for removal of the Grace Daley House. No action was taken.

#### **Acceptance of Lions Club Donation of Granite Benches**

**MOTION:** Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Heitz, it was unanimously voted to gratefully accept a donation of four granite benches to be situated around the renovated bandstand located on the Plains. The donation is being made by the Kingston Lions Club in recognition of Lions International's centennial celebration.

#### **Administrative Issues**

An inspection station approval for 105 Route 125 was signed.

A compliance request for property at 1 Jericho Drive was reviewed and a letter requesting compliance was signed.

Joseph Scutellaro, Jr. was appointed to serve as part-time Police Officer.

Emily Calhoun was appointed to serve on the Conservation Commission.

A newsletter from the Kingston Lake Association was reviewed.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

**Respectfully submitted, Catherine Grant, Administrative Assistant**