

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of April 1, 2019
FINAL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room at the Town Hall.

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Heitz; Phillip Coombs, Kevin St. James, Donald Briggs, Jr., Richard G. Wilson, Selectmen.

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman St. James, **SECOND** of Selectman Briggs, it was voted by roll call to adjourn to Non-Public session under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A:3, II (c): Matters which, if discussed in public, might affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this Board.

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, St. James, Coombs, Wilson; Motion passed.

The Board adjourned at 6:31 PM.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman St. James, **SECOND** of Selectman Coombs, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 7:00 PM.

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs, St. James, Wilson; Motion passed.

MOTION: By Selectman Briggs, to seal the minutes of the non-public session for an indefinite length of time, as releasing the minutes would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

SECOND: By Selectman Coombs

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs St. James, Wilson; Motion passed.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Kingston Youth Baseball and Softball (KYBS)

Anthony Scafidi and Chris Bashaw were present to follow up on their discussion with the Selectmen on February 11. At that time, they had hoped to use some of the money available in the Magnusson Trust for a large field rake and a shed. They said that after talking to Road Agent Rich St. Hilaire, they are making some changes to their request.

They said that Mr. St. Hilaire had advised that it would be better for the Town to own and maintain a large piece of equipment such as the rake, and for Town employees to be the only ones using it. They are looking into getting a lawn tractor without a deck rather than the larger rake. In addition, a work crew to build a shed is not going to be available from the Town, so they plan to buy a pre-built shed instead. Pictures and prices of the various items they are looking at were given to the Selectmen for discussion.

Selectman St. James said he was concerned about the quality of the ready-built sheds, and wondered if the materials could be bought and have the County do the work. Mr. St. Hilaire, also present, said that he and his crew have enough to do, and when the County crews come in it also makes work for him.

There was a discussion of the various sheds and the snack shack already at the field and the idea of organizing items, with the addition of new space, so that other organizations using the field will only have access to their own equipment.

Prices were discussed; a shed will be roughly \$4500. They hope to also purchase the tractor, new field liners, rakes and trash cans, and put up a net on the left field outfield fence on Magnusson 2. The net would be to protect cars parked along the fence. Mr. St. Hilaire said there is about \$25,000 in the Magnusson fund. Mr. Scafidi said that the goal is to use as little as possible and leave funds for future needs.

It was estimated a new tractor would be around \$14,000. Selectman Briggs said he might be able to find a donated tractor. Chairman Heitz recommended that Mr. Scafidi and Mr. Bashaw coordinate with Mr. St. Hilaire and Selectman Briggs to see if they can come up with a donated tractor and to discuss storage and other details. The Selectmen had no objection to KYBS approaching the Trustees of the Trust Fund to ask for funds for the shed and other items if not donated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Heritage Commission - American Indian site

Chairman Heitz said he would take this item, not on the agenda, out of order. Debra Powers and Ernie Landry addressed the Board to inform them of an opportunity at the Recreation property which they said came about because of the project underway there to clear trees and put in a playing field and basketball court. They said they contacted the NH Division of Historical and Cultural Resources and learned that the area had been identified as an American Indian site years ago when Route 125 was moved. They said the site may or may not have archaeological significance, and while the state is not demanding that this be pursued, they have said there is a large potential for artifacts at the site, and have recommended a preliminary dig.

Mr. Landry described the process, saying that the first step would be a Phase I-a Archaeological Review. This would involve small test pits and checking the soil, and if anything is found, a report will be made; if significant, they may recommend a Phase I-b Review which would be more extensive. The time involved would depend on when they can get someone to come and do the work, and on what is found. Any artifacts would be sent to Concord for study. At the end of the process, the artifacts would be returned to the Town. Mr. Landry and Ms. Powers gave more information about what might be present on the site, saying that artifacts had been found in the area, as well as charcoal pits.

Asked about when this could take place, in view of the Recreation project already underway, Mr. Landry said that this has not been pursued yet, that he had talked to two State archaeologists today.

Selectman Coombs said that the problem is that the Highway Department has time to do the field work now, and it has to be done now if the new field is to be usable for next summer. He also said it did not seem the work is disturbing the site much. Ms. Powers

said she had talked to Recreation Director Paul Butler and told him that she did not want to stop the fields from going in, but there may be a hold on when it can be done.

Selectman St. James asked what they hope to find. Ms. Powers said that arrowheads and pottery can be found anywhere, but in this area they had found soapstone. She said they are looking for areas where native Americans lived for a long time. Chairman Heitz asked why in the past 20 years the State did not initiate a study; Mr. Landry said that they have the whole state to deal with and only three archaeologists. He said they do not come out unless something causes them to do so, such as a request from a town. Mr. Landry added that they are not looking for specific artifacts, but rather the history of the Town that may be unknown, from 1,000 years ago.

Selectman St. James said that he understood the interest but that the Town also wants to build a ball field and now they are being stopped. Mr. St. Hilaire said that the key player, Mr. Butler, is not present, but from his standpoint he hopes the project will not be put off until next year, but if it is, he has plenty of other work to do.

There was a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of having the preliminary study done, the costs associated with it, and the time involved. Timing and cost are unknown, and there was a suggestion that a time limit should be set for the preliminary study to be performed. It was decided to have the Heritage Commission return in two weeks to report on what they find out; Selectman Wilson said a certain amount of money should be approved in case it is needed to proceed.

MOTION: by Chairman Heitz, to allow Heritage to see about getting an archaeologist in as soon as possible, and to agree to up to \$2,000 to be used from the Heritage Fund for the purpose of paying for a Phase I-a study.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs.

In favor: Heitz, Briggs, St. James, Wilson; Abstain: Coombs

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: by Selectman St. James to approve the public session meeting minutes of March 25, 2019, as written.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs.

In favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs, St. James; Abstain: Wilson.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Selectman St. James said that this is a new procedure the Board had talked about, to speak with appointee candidates to the various Committees about their interest in serving. The following appointees, all current members up for re-appointment, spoke to the Selectmen about their interests and challenges, and answered questions. The relationship of the committees with the Board of Selectmen, and the need for communication, was discussed.

Charlotte Boutin, Alternate Member of the Heritage Commission:

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs, to reappoint Ms. Boutin as Alternate Member of the Heritage Commission, for a term of one year.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs
All in favor

Margaret Bean, Conservation Commission:

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to reappoint Ms. Bean as Member of the Conservation Commission, for a term of three years.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs
All in favor

Ernest Landry, Heritage Commission:

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs, to reappoint Mr. Landry as Member of the Heritage Commission, for a term of three years.

SECOND: by Selectman St. James
All in favor

Debra Powers, Heritage Commission:

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to reappoint Ms. Powers as Member (Chair) of the Heritage Commission, for a term of three years.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs
All in favor

Evelyn Nathan, Conservation Commission:

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs, to reappoint Ms. Nathan as Member (Chair) of the Conservation Commission, for a term of three years.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs
In favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs, Wilson; Abstain: St. James

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None.

ADMINISTRATIVE: APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS, CORRESPONDENCE:

- On a motion by Selectman St. James, seconded by Selectman Wilson, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a letter designating Selectman Briggs as administrator for Kingston pertaining to grants and asset forfeitures (DUNS). (Selectman Briggs abstaining)
- Cub Scouts Pack 90 applied for permission to hold a food drive on Sunday, April 7 at the Town Hall, from 9am until 1pm. All approved.
- Elderly exemption applications (2): both approved.
- Veterans Credit application (1): approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Electrical agreement through Rockingham Planning Commission:

A Memorandum of Understanding has been received from RPC for the Selectmen to review. This will be tabled until the Board has had time to read it.

Heating oil/propane

Prices of heating oil and propane paid by the school district last year were compared to prices paid last year by the Town. A decision on joining in a purchase agreement with the School District has not been made.

Recreation Project information:

Selectman Coombs said that Recreation Director Paul Butler had forwarded a letter to him that he has drafted for publication in the Carriage Towne News, informing the public about the work being done on Recreation property. Chairman Heitz suggested that Selectman Coombs share the information for the benefit of the public. Selectman Coombs gave a synopsis of the history and status of the project, saying it is the area set aside for a fire station last year that was not approved. The Highway Department is now cutting trees to make way for a multi-purpose playing area; this project was discussed with the Selectmen and the Planning Board before it was started. Trees had to come down, as when one is cut others will fall and some are diseased. Hardwoods that could be saved were. The reason the high school fields are no longer being used is that the cost of bussing the kids there is prohibitive, and they can't walk over on the state highway. Selectman Coombs said that the area will fulfill the intended use of the property, and will include a small parking area open to public use. Chairman Heitz added that the kids currently play dodgeball in the parking lot, which is not safe.

In conclusion, Selectman Coombs said this will enhance the Recreation Department greatly. Paul Butler will be sending a letter to the newspaper, and the Board is available if anyone has any further questions.

Working group for DOT Route 125 Project:

Glenn Coppelman asked about the working group for the DOT project, which had appeared on the agenda. There was a discussion of who to include in the group, especially whether to contact business groups such as the Exeter Chamber of Commerce. Selectman Coombs said that actual local business owners should be included. Selectman Briggs will reach out to business owners and the Town of Plaistow. Mr. Coppelman said that he thought the RPC representative would likely be Dave Walker, and that the Planning Board will discuss sending a representative at their next meeting. This list will be finalized as soon as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Coppelman said he had taken an interest in the discussion with committee members; he said he felt it was a very good idea to have them come in and felt it should be standard procedure. He also said that the committee members that were here tonight are extremely dedicated, that the Town is fortunate to have so many good volunteers, which is a credit to the community.

Babscott Lane

There was a discussion of a purchase order for work to be done at Babscott Lane. The matter of a culvert under a resident's driveway has been discussed multiple times, and the remedy for the problem not clear. It was determined that the Road Agent will be contacted for clarification before signing the purchase order.

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Briggs, **SECOND** of Selectman Wilson, it was voted by roll call to adjourn to Non-Public session under the provisions of NH RSA 91-

A:3, II (I): Consideration of legal advice.

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, St. James, Coombs, Wilson; Motion passed.

The Board adjourned at 9:15 PM

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Coombs, **SECOND** of Selectman St. James it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 10:10 PM.

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs, St. James; Motion passed.

MOTION: By Selectman Briggs, to seal the minutes of the non-public session for an indefinite length of time, as releasing the minutes would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

SECOND: By Selectman Coombs

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs St. James, Wilson; Motion passed.

Adjournment:

MOTION: by Chairman St James to adjourn at 10:15 PM

SECOND: by Selectman Coombs.

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ayer
Administrative Assistant