

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of December 10, 2012
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Selectmen's Office of the Kingston Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Mark Heitz and Selectmen Peter Broderick and George Korn.

Discussion of Community Recreation Center Improvements Progress

Richard St. Hilaire was present to discuss progress in completing improvements to the Community Recreation Building. Recreation Director Donna Duddy was unable to attend. Mr. St. Hilaire advised that he's been hoping to get some input from the Recreation Commission as to what improvements to fields and the building grounds they propose. Interior improvements were delayed when plans changed to include a commercial kitchen, but a plan has been developed and, once heat and plumbing work is completed, the construction work on the kitchen and bathrooms can begin - hopefully after the first of the year. It was agreed that preliminary work for installation of air conditioning will be done, although the actual installation won't be done at this time.

The Board suggested that the Recreation Commission appoint a Chairman to whom concerns and questions can be addressed as they arise.

Town Field Use Discussion

Selectmen reviewed a report received concerning placement of a shed on Comeau Field by the football league that schedules use of the field. It was agreed that the league president will be requested to attend a Selectmen's meeting in the near future to discuss that issue as well as others that have arisen concerning field use.

School Board Budget Public Hearing Date Discussed

School Board Budget Committee member Roger Clark advised that the Public Hearing for the proposed 2013-2014 School District Budget will be held on January 9, 2013 at the SRHS Auditorium, beginning at 7:00 pm. The budget proposal includes increases of \$700,000.00, mainly in the areas of insurance and retirement costs.

Discussion of FOKOS Land Acquisition Warrant Articles Proposed for 2013

Rick Russman and Ernie Landry of FOKOS were present to discuss proposals for open space land acquisitions that may be on the 2013 Town Meeting Warrant. A 50 + acre parcel off of Depot Road owned by the Bakie Trust has been offered by the Trustees for purchase as conservation land and is in the process of being appraised. Although the property is in the Commercial Zone, which generally is not considered by FOKOS, they are seeking the Board's approval to move ahead with acquisition since it's the wish of the owners that the property be conserved. The Board agreed that, as long as the owners are aware that they will be foregoing any chance of a possibly larger return if the land ever should be considered for development, they will support going ahead with a Warrant Article for the purchase. Chairman Heitz added that he probably wouldn't consider removing so large a parcel from the possibility of commercial use were it all upland, however the parcel in question is substantially wetlands so may not be optimal for development in any case. Judith Whitten, a Trustee of the Trust, advised that it had always been her grandfather's wish that the property be protected and his heirs also are very happy with the prospect of having the land under Conservation easement.

Mr. Russman then advised that a 98-acre parcel in the same general area as the Daughtrey property on Rockrimmon Road, is available. The Board already has agreed to support a Warrant Article for the Daughtrey parcel, and FOKOS proposes to request voter approval for purchase of the additional parcel as well, since both parcels are in the watershed and prime for conservation efforts.

Mr. Russman reported that the present balance of the Land Acquisition Fund is approximately \$800,000.00. \$185,000.00 has been earmarked for the already approved purchase of the

LaBranche farm on Little River Road; an estimated \$60,000.00 will be requested for the Bakie purchase; the Daughtrey parcel will entail an \$85,000.00 cost; and the Cheney property will entail approximately a \$300,000.00 cost, depending on the appraisal. Since those expenditures, if approved, will greatly deplete the available funds, it's expected that a Warrant Article requesting an appropriation to begin replenishment will be submitted.

Chairman Heitz requested that Mr. Russman and Mr. Landry remember when working on the details of conservation easements, that the town wants to retain water rights on any conservation parcels acquired.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Broderick and second of Selectman Korn it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the November 26, 2012 meeting as printed.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick it was unanimously voted to accept and seal the minutes of the November 26, 2013 non-public session as printed.

Administrative Issues

Selectmen reviewed and discussed a letter advising of a lighting violation on Main Street. It was agreed that Selectmen Broderick and Korn will visit the site to view the alleged violation, but that if the light represents a pre-existing situation relative to the current light ordinance, there may be no violation.

Selectmen reviewed and discussed a proposed agreement with the School District and First Congregational Church relative to tie-in of the Church to the well and main that provide fire suppression capability for the area town and school buildings. Of particular concern are the provisions for purchase of a generator to keep the system working during outages. It was noted that the details of the purchase have yet to be reached and that the town will be responsible only for its portion of whatever size generator is needed for the fire suppression system pump. If the School District opts for a larger generator to cover other purposes, the District will assume the entirety of the cost for that upgrade.

Discussion was held concerning a tax deeded property that the former owner would like to recover. Chairman Heitz will convey the Board's decision to the individual and report back on whether there is agreement.

Adjournment

Upon motion of Selectman Korn and second of Selectman Broderick the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm and the Board retired to address administrative issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Grant
Administrative Assistant