

**Kingston, New Hampshire  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting of April 19, 2021  
FINAL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Richard Wilson, Vice Chair; Electra Alessio, Kevin St. James, Donald W. Briggs, Select Board Members.  
**(Chairman Phillip Coombs arrived at 7:19 pm)**

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT I:**

Fire Chief Graham Pellerin said that ground breaking for the new fire station has taken place; he said that two purchase orders are before the Selectmen for work that has gone through the bidding process. He explained the work to be done.

**MOTION:** by Selectman Briggs, to award the contract for compaction and concrete testing to Geotech, and to sign the purchase order in the amount of \$14,940.

**SECOND:** by Selectwoman Alessio

**All in favor via roll call vote.**

**MOTION:** by Selectman Briggs, to award the contract for remote door access, phones and time lapse cameras to Pellmac Industries and to sign the purchase order in the amount of \$23,867.

**SECOND:** by Selectman St. James

**All in favor via roll call vote.**

Chief Pellerin informed the Board that the first meeting onsite with the architect and construction manager will be on Thursday at 11:00 am. This will be a regular meeting, times and dates to be determined.

Town Clerk Tammy Bakie brought a list to the Selectmen of the oldest residents in Town, which had been requested. She then gave her opinion that, now that the NH Governor has lifted the statewide mask mandate and the Town can make a decision on its own guidelines, masks should no longer be required in the Town Hall. The Selectmen said they would be addressing this matter later in the meeting.

Highway Agent Rich St. Hilaire said that the NH Dept of Transportation is preparing for a public hearing (May 19) on the upcoming Rte 125 project and has asked for input from the Town in a couple of areas. There was a brief discussion of the options presented for Granite Road Extension, including whether it should be reclassified as a Class VI road or a Class V Service Road. It was agreed that Selectman Briggs and Mr. St. Hilaire are most informed on the topic and will represent the Town at the public hearing.

The Highway Agent then said that Consolidated Communications, the company that is doing utility work for 5G upgrades in town, approached him regarding running conduit

underground. He asked if the Board would like him to review each case individually, and also if the company should be required to post a \$5,000 bond. After some discussion, Mr. St. Hilaire was told to take each case individually and use his discretion on whether a bond is necessary.

**Selectman Coombs joined the meeting at this time.**

#### **COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

Selectman St. James said he had spoken with **Recreation** Director Paul Butler, who had observed an incident of drinking alcohol on Town property, by members of the Adult Softball League. He said that Mr. Butler received an email from the League contact person, who had not been present and expressed his own disappointment with the incident. Selectman Briggs asked to talk about this in closed session, as there is a legal issue that goes along with it.

Selectwoman Alessio reported that the **Kingston Days Committee** is looking for ways to raise money, and wanted to know if there is any prohibition to selling lottery tickets. Selectman Briggs said he will check into this. Selectwoman Alessio added that the committee is looking for bands willing to play for free, or only for free will donations.

Selectman Wilson said that the **Kingston history book** has gone to the printer and is due to be delivered at the end of May. He said 200 of the 750 have been sold in advance, and that this is all there will be as the cost of printing more would be prohibitive. As a promotion, Selectman Wilson said that it is planned to have the oldest person in Kingston read excerpts of the book.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Landfill Report**

Chairman Coombs had prepared a written report on the state of the closed landfill located on Route 125 after consulting with Rich St. Hilaire and the engineering firm that does testing at the site (CMA Engineering), by phone, in person, and during three site visits. He gave some background about the site and concerns about water levels rising against the landfill, which is unlined, and soil erosion and wildlife infiltration that could cause damage and possible failure of the cap material. He explained that the cap soil is nearly devoid of grasses and is extremely sandy, so that soil amendments and a more frequent cutting schedule are necessary to stop erosion. He suggested as an alternative the introduction of grazing livestock, which would enhance soil fertility while stimulating desirable plant growth. Chairman Coombs spoke of wildlife incursions as well, and the problems they cause. Solutions to this include repairing fences and more frequent mowing or grazing.

Generally, he said the Highway Department has handled the site with the utmost of professionalism and attention to detail. He said that going forward he would be happy to propose a plan for the grazing method of maintaining the cap.

**(Selectwoman Alessio temporarily left the meeting at 7:39)**

### **Town owned land: Response from Pillsbury Pasture resident**

The Board reviewed correspondence from Charles Mazza, who owns 38 Pillsbury Pasture Road along with his daughter and son-in-law. Mr. Mazza, who along with his wife was the original owner of the property, was responding to a letter from the Board, in which the owners were directed to remove property from the adjoining Town-owned lot, and restore the lot to its original state. He explained the history of the situation, and the reasons a school bus was parked partly on Town property. He also clarified that a boundary marker was not removed, as had been previously thought, and suggested some possibilities for his family and the Town to go forward with a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Selectman St. James said that even though the marker was not removed, it was covered over. He also said that the Town lot was meant to be for a community playground, and it still needs to be restored, and should be done now and not years in the future. Selectman Wilson concurred. Chairman Coombs said that the land was set aside for a purpose and the Town needs to adhere to its own rules. The Board also agreed that a reminder should be included, that a driveway needs to be 20' off the boundary line. The Administrative Assistant will contact Mr. Mazza.

### **Hawk's Ridge: Letter from Building Inspector**

The Board reviewed information submitted by the Building Inspector about the ongoing issue with an inground pool having been installed within the 50' buffer area at this condominium development. This will be forwarded to Town Counsel for advice.

### **Sean Drive sign request: Follow-up**

Selectman Briggs said he had talked with the Highway Agent about the possibility of putting up "No Outlet" signs at this cul de sac; he said he is looking into it.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Barn easement applications**

Three applications for Discretionary Barn Easements under RSA 79-D have been received. It was agreed to hold site walks to look at the structures on Monday morning, April 26, and to hold the public hearing on all three applications on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Code Complaints: Process, Policy draft**

Chairman Coombs explained that this matter had come up at an Inspectors meeting; there is some confusion about the process for code complaints through Planning and the Select Board. The Board will review the draft policy prepared by the Administrative Assistant, and bring changes to the next meeting.

### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

#### **Summer Meeting schedule/Department Head meetings**

It was decided to begin scheduling regular daytime meetings with Department Heads; Selectman Wilson suggested these be held in place of the nightly meeting every month there is a fifth Monday. Leaving out Memorial Day, the dates will be June 29, August 31 and November 30. An initial meeting will be held next Monday, April 26 at 9 am, when dates and times can be set.

The Selectmen's Summer schedule (meeting every other week) will begin on June 7. The regular weekly schedule will resume after Labor Day.

**(Selectwoman Alessio returned to the meeting.)**

**Changes in State mask mandate for Covid-19**

Selectman St. James said that in light of the Governor having lifted the mandate to wear a mask in public places he thinks the Town should also lift this mandate. There was discussion in which Selectwoman Alessio and Selectmen Briggs and Wilson expressed their opinion that it may be premature. The Health Officer will be asked to review the guidelines put in place last spring and suggest revisions if needed. No changes will be made immediately.

**Completed evaluations - reminder to give to Finance Director**

Selectmen were reminded that the evaluations need to be returned to the Finance Office.

**Volunteer Appreciation Week letter**

A letter drafted by the Administrative Assistant was read by the Chairman and approved to be sent to all Board and Committee Chairmen for distribution to their groups.

**Softball Field Use violation**

(Addressed above.)

**PUBLIC COMMENT II:** None heard

**CORRESPONDENCE, APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS:**

- **Intent to excavate: Map R-2 Lot 8, Torromeo**—This was signed for submittal to the State.
- **Appointment forms for the Fire Station Building Committee members were signed.**
- **Appointment forms for the Conservation Commission were signed.**
- **The Junkyard License renewal was signed for Ken's Auto Salvage.**
- **Field Use request for Flag Football and the old fairgrounds was approved.**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** by Selectman St. James to approve the public and non-public meeting minutes of April 12, 2021, with one amendment to page 2, paragraph 4.

**SECOND:** by Selectman Briggs

**All in favor via roll call vote.**

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:**

**MOTION:** by Selectwoman Alessio, to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Legal

**SECOND:** by Selectman Wilson

**All in favor via roll call vote**

**Meeting adjourned to non-public session at 8:20 PM.**

**MOTION:** by Selectman St. James, to return to public session at 8:45 PM.

**SECOND:** by Selectwoman Alessio

**All in favor via roll call vote.**

**Motion made to seal these minutes:** Motion made by Selectman Alessio, seconded by Selectman Wilson, because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would...

\_XX\_ Affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

**Roll Call Vote to Seal Minutes:**

Phillip Coombs	Y	Richard Wilson	Y
Kevin St. James	Y	Electra Alessio	Y
Donald Briggs	Y		

**Motion: PASSED**

**Discussed in non-public session: Legal issues**

**Adjournment:**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Ayer, Administrative Assistant