

**Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of February 8, 2021
FINAL MINUTES**

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

PRESENT: Phillip Coombs, Chair; Donald Briggs, Vice Chair; Electra Alessio, Kevin St. James, Richard Wilson (via Zoom software), Select Board Members.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

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

SECOND: by Selectman St. James

All in favor via roll call vote

Meeting adjourned to non-public session at 6:33 PM.

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to return to public session at 6:55 PM

SECOND: by Selectwoman Alessio

All in favor

MOTION to seal these minutes for an undetermined length of time, made by Selectwoman 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.
Passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Discussed during non-public session: Personnel matters

APPOINTMENTS:

Ellen Faulconer, Town Moderator re: Candidates Night 2021

Ms. Faulconer spoke with the Board about “if, how and when” to hold a Candidates Night this year. After some discussion, it was decided to hold the event on February 25th at 7:00 PM, via Zoom software only. Candidates will be notified, and the public will be instructed to send their questions in ahead of time to the Selectmen’s Administrator. A drop box for questions will also be placed at the Town Hall.

Tammy Bakie, Town Clerk - Meeting minutes

Ms. Bakie informed the Board that by law her office needs to retain a paper copy of all meeting minutes of all Town boards and committees. She said in many cases, she has had none submitted for years. At this time, she is asking all board and committee representatives to come in and check their folder in her office, and provide any minutes that are missing. It was agreed that all board and committee chairpersons will be notified. In addition, Ms. Bakie said they need to check that all their members have been sworn in, as they are not authorized to vote in their committees until this happens.

Ms. Bakie noted that the State should be approached about updating this rule, which currently only allows the minutes to be stored in paper or microfilm form, not electronic.

Kingston Days Committee

Charlotte Vinciguerra and Carol Carbonneau of the Kingston Days Committee spoke to the Selectmen about tentative plans for 2021. They said with the ongoing pandemic and uncertainty about what the next 6 months will bring, the committee had considered shortening the event to one day, along with incorporating safety measures. However, the response they got to their Facebook page posting on these ideas showed that everyone wants the event to be a full weekend as in the past.

Selectman Briggs said that what they can and can't do will depend on State guidance when the time comes. Ms. Vinciguerra said that the problem is that a lot of planning needs to be done, and money spent to prepare; she said they don't like to spend funds until they have an idea of what they will be able to do.

After further discussion, it was determined that the committee will go forward with planning for a full 2 to 3- day event, as many activities do not require close contact. Chairman Coombs noted that Recreation Director Paul Butler, who is now on the Kingston Days Committee, will be a valuable resource, having set up several events with safety measures for COVID-19.

Appointment forms for committee members were signed by the Board.

Art Wolinsky: Presentation on Beaver Control

Conservation Chair Evy Nathan introduced Art Wolinsky of Raymond NH, who works with water flow control devices for management of beaver dams. She said that this is of interest to Kingston, as one area that could benefit from this type of device would be the area behind the dog park, where the Highway Department has had to pull out beaver houses every other year. She said this has been upsetting to residents, and that Mr. Wolinsky's solution could make the citizens happy and benefit the Town as well.

Mr. Wolinsky gave a power point presentation about beavers themselves, how they cause problems, and what the solutions are. He said that dam breaching, trapping and relocating have been tried and are either ineffective or no longer an option. Flow control devices, also called "beaver deceivers", are the option he advises. He said that beavers react to the sound of running water by damming it. By controlling the flow and leveling the pond water, where the beavers build can be managed in such a way that they don't affect pipes and culverts.

Details were given about the various types of devices that can be installed, with photographs of areas where they are in use.

At the end of the presentation there was a discussion of the viability and cost of installing such a system. Ms. Nathan said that the bridge near the fairgrounds, where the Highway Department has had to remove beaver houses repeatedly, is a good place to experiment and see if this works. She said the cost to install would be \$1500, of which

\$500 could be paid for out of a matching grant from NH Wildlife. Brian Martin of the Highway Department commented that the system would need to be monitored and maintained as well.

Chairman Coombs said that this is worth considering, and he would like to take the Road Agent out to the area to take a look. He said that funding options will need to be explored.

PUBLIC COMMENT I:

Beverly Manning of 23 North Road spoke to the Board about recycling, saying she has done it all her life and thinks it is worthwhile. She said that it costs more per ton than trash and wondered if the town intended to continue the recycling program when the current contract expires. She also questioned what Waste Management is doing with recycling, because if a load is contaminated by unaccepted items, it will be rejected and put in the trash.

Chairman Coombs said that there had been a conflict with Waste Management in which they tried to increase the Town's cost mid-contract, citing the problems with China no longer accepting recycling. This was not successful, but the costs will be going up when a new contract is negotiated. He said he has talked to the Road Agent, and attended a Rockingham Planning Commission meeting 2 years ago, on the subject of setting up a recycling transfer station in town. He said there is value in a lot of items, and that glass, for instance, can be crushed and used for road beds, repairs and catch basins.

Chairman Coombs said that many municipalities are looking at cutting out their recycling programs, which would only fill up limited landfill space faster. He said there is no appetite in Kingston to stop recycling, and he feels that the Town should take a more active role.

OLD BUSINESS:

Selectwoman Alessio read a prepared statement, responding to a letter written by Andrea and Almus Kenter to both the Select Board and the Planning Board, referring to land she has under agreement.

Ms. Alessio said that she was approached almost 2 years ago to see if she would be interested in selling land she has that abuts the Town forest. She said she agreed to the sale, and the purchase and sale is contingent upon the development being approved.

This all occurred prior to her being elected to the Select Board. Last March when she was elected to the Select Board, she informed the Board of the impending sale and stated she would recuse herself from anything to do with the development of the 266 route 125 project, on the ZBA or on this Board. Ms. Alessio went on to say that she has been active in various Boards and organizations in town for 40 years, from Moderator to School Board to Select Board, while also operating a local grocery store, developing the Carriage Towne Plaza, and founding a newspaper. She said she has always maintained the utmost in impartiality and transparency. She said that public officials should be

truthful and transparent; she said that she has always been and will continue to be throughout this project.

Draft employment contracts

Selectwoman Alessio said that the two employee contracts are still with the attorney that was retained for legal review. She said the Fire Chief contract is the most time consuming as it is to be used as a template. Chairman Coombs asked that Selectwoman Alessio have the attorney expedite the Highway Agent contract so that the appointment can be made.

RSA 79-e Application: New information received

The Board has received an email from Ernie Landry of the 79-e committee, questioning the ability of the Board to grant extra years of relief for the Science building, as it may not meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Board will await further guidance.

Sale of Town Land

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to have the Administrative Assistant send the information about town parcels currently being considered for sale to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission for review, as required by RSA and town policy.

SECOND: Selectwoman Alessio

All in favor via roll call vote.

Notice of Violation, 44 Main Street

This notice has been reviewed by town counsel and can now be signed and mailed.

NEW BUSINESS: (None)

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Chairman Coombs said the subject of mailboxes and plowing came up at the Inspectors meeting and there have been many questions; he said that for the record, a 2" pipe or a 4 x 4 post are the only acceptable means of anchoring a mailbox to the ground. Time will be taken to go around and identify problematic mail box posts; they can't be in the Town's right of way, for example. Questions may be directed to the Highway Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT II: None heard

BOARD BUSINESS:

266 Route 125 Conditions of Approval

Selectman Wilson said that the Inspectors should be consulted about the Conditions of Approval for the 266 Route 125 project. He said these are set by the Planning Board, not the Select Board. Chairman Coombs said that what specialized inspections will be needed for the project needs to be looked into as well. There was a discussion of what had been needed at the All American Assisted Living site. Selectman Briggs suggested a technical review meeting for the new project. Selectman Wilson said that will be fine,

but as the plan may be approved based on conditions at the next Planning Board meeting, any input needs to happen now.

Selectman Briggs asked Fire Chief Pellerin if the town has sufficient fire equipment to battle a blaze at a large warehouse. Chief Pellerin said that mutual aid will cover in case of a fire. He did agree with Selectman Briggs that a repeater is needed for communication. Chief Pellerin said that the inspectors need to be consulted about how the large work load will be handled. Selectman Wilson noted that there will be a tremendous amount of electrical work on the warehouse building. The inspectors will be brought in to at least one technical review meeting.

Performance Bond Agreement - Teatad, Inc.

It was agreed to send this form to legal counsel for review.

Town Report cover and dedication page

These pages were reviewed and approved by the Board.

IT Services Contract

Town Counsel has reviewed this contract and made several suggestions. The contract has also been sent to Primex, the Town's insurance company for liability review. The comments will be sent to Block 5 so that they may amend the contract.

Right of Way, U4-100, U4-101

Selectman St. James has been contacted about the right of way that runs through these two lots, where a new home was built. The deed was to specify that the ROW may not be blocked; the "no parking" sign and walls on either side will be enforced.

CORRESPONDENCE, APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS:

- **South Shore Outboard Association has submitted a COVID-19 protocol to be used for their event, which will be held in September if possible. This will be given to the Health Officer for review.**
- **Benefit Contribution Deduction Service Agreement: On a motion by Selectman Briggs, seconded by Selectwoman Alessio, it was agreed to authorize the Chairman to sign this agreement. In favor: Alessio, Briggs, St. James, Wilson. Abstain: Coombs. Passes.**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: by Selectwoman Alessio, to approve the public and non-public meeting minutes of January 16 and 25, and February 1, 2021, as written.

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs

All in favor via roll call vote.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs

All in favor via roll call vote

Meeting adjourned to non-public session at 8:50 PM.

MOTION: by Chairman Coombs, to return to public session at 9:05 PM

SECOND: by Selectman St. James

All in favor via roll call vote.

MOTION to seal these minutes for an undetermined length of time, made by Selectwoman 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.

Passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Discussed during non-public session: Personnel issues.

MOTION: by Selectman St. James, to adopt a new application form for 91-A requests; to have the Administrative Assistant craft a Right to Know Request policy; and to authorize the addition of one more keypad lock to the Town office doors.

SECOND: Selectman Briggs

All in favor via roll call vote

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ayer, Administrative Assistant