

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19

MONDAY JUNE 15, 2020 – 6:30pm

Minutes - APPROVED JUNE 29, 2020

In attendance: Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier, Bob Solomon

At 6:37pm, Joe opened the meeting. At the time the meeting started there were 14 participants on the call.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department –Chief Scott Cain reported as follows:
 - The Department is looking into WatchGuard Body Camera systems. There are currently in car cameras and also body cameras, however the length of time that footage is held is a concern. The system Chief Cain is considering will be helpful to protect the Town and protect the officers.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - In person trainings will resume June 23rd.
 - Chief True has been working with KES on their 5th grade graduation night and reopening plans for the fall.
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True
 - Stay at Home 2.0 expires at midnight and it will become Safer at Home with slightly different guidelines.
 - Town Employees are encouraged to be tested, Chief True can assist on coordinating testing.
 - If anyone needs PPE, please let Chief True know ASAP.
 - There have been some minor changes of the phased Town Hall Re-Opening Plan. There was a brief discussion on the elections coming up in September and November. Residents should see the website or contact the Town Clerk for questions. There was brief discussion on the antibody testing and testing of town employees. There are no known current cases in Kensington.
- Road Manager – David Buxton was not present.
 - Bob said he spoke with Dave. John Bell will be providing a sample contract sometime this week. Dave and Chief Cain will need to meet to review the necessary details.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin reported as follows:
 - Collections are slower compared to years past. Approximately 20% of tax bills have been paid.
- Building Inspector- Norman Giroux was not present.
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present.
- Town Clerk – Carol Beers Witherell reported as follows:
 - Carol and Sarah have worked out a schedule for the summer.
 - Residents have been leaving messages at the Town Clerk's office, but are forgetting to leave a call back number. Residents should be careful entering any account information online to avoid bad check fees due to incorrect account numbers.
 - If there are any questions regarding elections or absentee ballots, reach out to the Town Clerk's office.
- Recreation Committee- There was nothing to report.
- Conservation Commission – Sydnee Goddard reported as follows:
 - There was a discussion on diversity, equity, and inclusion in town. Sydnee described an experience a co-worker had last year with Kensington Police that Chief Cain is further investigating. The trail committee wants to ensure that that the trails are welcoming to all and all Town Departments are aware of this inclusivity.
 - Chief Cain briefly summarized what is known about the experience Sydnee described. Chief Cain explained the background checks that the members of the department go through. Chief Cain is further investigating to determine if there was any behavior that would have been questionable or if the officers followed typical protocol for a suspicious vehicle.
 - It was suggested that a subcommittee with a focus on ensuring that everyone feels welcome in Town be formed.
 - The Board discussed potential goals of the subcommittee and that the members of the committee should be a diverse representation.

- There is a Forest Management Plan in place for Hodges Conservation Land. The Conservation Commission has been working with a forester to complete the forestry this summer. This would be paid for by funds that are in the Trust fund.
- There was a discussion regarding a neighbor who has been removing stones from the conservation land to build a stone wall and there is evidence of brush being hauled into the conservation land. Sydnee said she has already educated the landowner, but the behaviors seem to have continued. The Board discussed sending the owner a formal letter and possible next steps.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust- Hez Mercadante reported as follows:
 - There has been a lot of interest in renting the park. The Trust needs clarity on the current guidelines. Chief True will coordinate with Hez to meet to discuss new guidelines.
 - Unfortunately, there was a significant amount of vandalism that recently occurred at the park. Anyone with information should contact the Trust and/or Kensington Police. The Trust is looking into security cameras.
- Planning Board Fees and Public Hearing - Rob Chase reported as follows:
 - Rob explained that the Planning Board has been discussing changes to the Planning Board Fees and has proposed a new schedule of fees to match the work that each application will require. A Public Hearing is required to make changes to fees. The Board will host a Public Hearing June 29th. There was a brief discussion on the Circuit Rider Contract that will renew in July. The changes to the fees should also help to address how the Circuit Rider's time is spent.
- Trail Committee – Rob Chase reported as follows:
 - The Trail Committee has completed some cleanup projects on the trails. There are approximately 40 people who are on the volunteer list to help. Agreements with landowners have been put into place which allows the committee to maintain trails that enter on private property and grants permission for individuals to use those trails.
- Library – Susie Gilbert reported as follows:
 - There is a phased reopening plan in place for the Library. Tomorrow, curbside service will be starting. Requests will be taken through the online OPAC system, by phone, or email.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Farm at Eastman's Corner Liquor License
 - The Liquor Commission requires that the Board send a specific letter stating that liquor service would be allowed if that is the case. The Board had previously decided to send a letter stating that there was no comment. After some discussion and review of RSA, it was determined that the service would fall under agrotourism based on the original approval in 2012 for a farm stand. It has been proven that over 35% of their sales are from their products, which allows the agrotourism. Kathy will draft a letter stating the town has no material objection to the consumption of alcohol on the patio.
- Adopt a Visibility Site Application
 - Farmhouse Blooms NH wants to "adopt" the triangle at the end of North Rd at Drinkwater Rd. Typically the Police Department coordinates this. The materials are donated. There was a brief discussion on forms and liability, but the Board had no issue as long as appropriate channels are followed.
- Signage
 - There was a formal complaint about the Black Lives Matter sign that was placed along Route 150. It was determined that this is private property and any complaints about signage would need to be brought to the property owner.
- Seabrook Intent to Excavate
 - Vanessa has been working with NHDES to further research and hear their recommendation how to proceed. This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Circuit Rider contract
 - Rob Chase summarized the Circuit Rider contract. The contract requires approval and signature from BOS. The Board will review and discuss at the June 29th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Perambulations – Topic tabled until the fall.

Discuss boundary walkers – Topic tabled until the fall.

OTHER BUSINESS:

At 8:28pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the minutes from June 1, 2020. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

The Board will review bills, payroll, and mail. There were no questions.

The next meeting will be held on June 29th.

At 8:31pm, Bob made a motion to adjourn. Vanessa seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Lalime