

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19
MONDAY JUNE 29, 2020 – 6:30pm
Minutes – APPROVED JULY 13, 2020

In attendance: Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier, Bob Solomon

At 6:33pm, Joe opened the meeting. At the start of the meeting, there were 13 participants on the Zoom call.

At 6:33pm, Joe opened the Public Hearing.

The following was read aloud: *A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Selectmen on JUNE 29, 2020, VIA the public platform Zoom, at 6:30pm, in accordance with RSA 41:9-a to amend the fees for Planning Board applications in the Town of Kensington. The second hearing, if needed, on this proposal will be held on July 6, 2020 at 6:30pm on the Zoom platform. This process is in accordance with RSA 41:9-a requiring the Board of Selectmen to hold a public hearing before amending fees.*

Rob Chase, Chairman of the Planning Board, explained the changes in Planning Board fees. The Planning Board would like to be more in line with other surrounding town's fees' and wants to ensure that Kensington is not having expenses from applications. There were examples provided of several times that the Rockingham Planning Commission Circuit Rider's contract time has been used up reviewing single applications. The Planning Board wishes to avoid this problem in the future.

There were no questions from the public. **At 6:40pm, the public hearing was closed.** There was no further discussion from the Board. **At 6:40pm, Bob made a motion to adopt the Planning Board application fees as presented. Vanessa seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Bob voted yes, Vanessa voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

The Board reviewed the Rockingham Planning Commission Circuit Rider Contract. This is a one year contract with two payments. The contract was explained by Rob Chase. There were no questions from the Board. **At 6:42pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the Circuit Rider Contract as presented. Bob seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Bob voted yes, Vanessa voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.**

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department – Chief Scott Cain reported as follows:
 - The Department is hoping to hire several part-time officers as current part-time officers are leaving to go to larger agencies.
 - The PD is looking into cases of vandalism at the Town Park.
 - The PD has been busy with multiple investigations. Property crimes are increasing. Residents are reminded to lock their vehicles.
 - Chief Cain presented the Board with proposals for new firearms and for upgrading the WatchGuard system. The firearms the department has are at the end of their life expectancy. The new firearms were included in the budget; the cost is approximately \$7,000 for 10 new Sig Sauer firearms taking advantage of the trade-in program. The Board will review the proposals at the next meeting.
 - Chief Cain looking further into the matter brought up at the last meeting. From his investigation, there was minimal contact with the woman who felt intimidated. It is possible there was a misunderstanding. The Board was appreciative of Chief Cain's diligence on this matter.
 - There have been many fireworks complaints. Residents are reminded of the fireworks ordinance in town.
 - The radar on the Tahoe is not working and may need to be replaced.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - A/C failed in Ambulance 2. It has been addressed.
 - Ponds are lowering, as are people's wells and other water supplies. If residents begin having a problem with a well, please contact Chief True. If the dry weather continues large piles of brush may not be allowed to be

burned until water sources recharge. However, pits and small contained fires will be allowed to continue at this time, but the fire must be completely extinguished before going inside.

- In person training started last week while using masks, hand washing, cleaning, and social distancing.
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - A brief COVID-19 case summary was provided along with a brief summary of guidelines and what is open.
 - Chief True continues to procure PPE and equipment to deal with potential cases of COVID-19.
 - Chief True continues to submit projects to FEMA and GOFERR for payment of those expenses. More updates will be provided at the next meeting.
 - It is possible there will be a Seabrook Station drill in September.
- Road Manager – David Buxton reported as follows:
 - The Town should be receiving the Road Construction Contract this week
 - Roadside mowing is scheduled to start towards the end of next week and will take approximately 1 week to complete.
 - Dave explained concerned he has about the application for the Adopt a Visibility Site. Dave explained that that space is used for snow in the winter and that there is a drifting problem in that area. Planting in that area could create a problem as it is crucial that that space is available for snow storage. It was suggested that the applicant be made aware of the concerns and would need to agree not to plant any permanent shrubs or install any signage that would be damaged or in the way during the winter snow storage. Dave would like documentation of understanding of certain conditions if the application is approved.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin was not present.
- Building Inspector- Norman Giroux was not present.
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present.
- Town Clerk – Carol Beers Witherell was not present.
- Recreation Committee
 - Bob said that the Recreation Committee is still planning on Old Home Day, however there is lots of uncertainty around what that will look like in the current environment.
- Conservation Commission – Rob Chase reported as follows:
 - There is a widening project happening on the Southern side of Hodges Conservation area. The Trail Committee will also be assisting. Once the project starts, the trails on southern side will be closed from the Stumpfield entrance until about the granite stepping stones. The logging will use managed by Forester Charlie Morano. The hope is that this will be completed in July. The Conservation Commission and Trail Committee will also be working on posting the Conservation area as no hunting and no motorized vehicles.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust- Hez Mercadante was not present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Summer Concert Series discussion

- Karen Parker Feld and Peter Freeman addressed the Board regarding an application for an Open Air Assembly permit. The applicants explained that they would like to reinforce a sense of community and create a valuable resource for the community. The applicants are well aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and are willing to take any necessary precautions to ensure that this is the safest environment possible. The applicants are proposing a concert series on their private farm. The applicants have done much of the legwork and are willing to assume all costs and liability. Attendance could be limited through ticketing if deemed necessary. The applicants summarized their plans and the layout of the summer concerts which would be held on Sunday afternoons from 3-5pm. This is not a commercial venture, and the applicants will make no profit off of the events. All gross proceeds would go to the musicians. There were concerns expressed by the Board about the volume of potential attendees that were discussed. The applicants have met with Chief Cain and Chief True to work on plans for these events. Chief True said that the plans he has been presented with will meet the guidelines under the Governor's orders pertaining to COVID-19. Social distancing and masks would be required. There was concern about the traffic and crowd management. The applicants explained that there would be crowd managers and if necessary, police details. There was extensive discussion by the Board regarding COVID-19 closures and large crowds. Rob Chase spoke in support of the applicants, encouraging people to make their own decisions with what they are comfortable with doing as long as the event meets the Governor's guidelines. There was concern

about the Town putting more restrictive guidelines in place than the Governor's guidelines for those in attendance. Chief Cain did have concerns about the traffic design and emergency plans. He suggested requiring a police detail(s) depending on number of attendees. There would be no parking permitted in the roadway. The PD is also concerned about alcohol and maintaining the laws and regulations. The applicants explained that the costs for police details have been anticipated and they want to ensure that these events are done properly. Neighbors would be notified and also provided with free passes to attend. Chief True spoke about the Safe at Home Guidelines, which based on his discussion with the applicants, would be met. Chief True and the applicants also discussed fire lines, parking, seating, concerns about dry conditions, limits on number of attendees. Chief True is working with the applicants on emergency planning. From a FD perspective, Chief True feels that this event is feasible, but suggested giving a permit for 1 event instead of the series with a review of the first event prior to additional permits being issued. There was discussion on if this is commercial activity in a residential area. The RSAs and regulations were referenced and there was no immediate issue. It was suggested that this may fall under agritourism. The Board discussed allowing the permit for the entire season, with the understanding that the permit could be revoked for any reason by the Town. ***Vanessa made a motion to approve the Open Air Assembly permit for the season for 100 people, with the understanding that a higher number of attendees could be entertained at a later date, and the understanding that the permit is revocable at anytime. Bob seconded the motion.*** Chief Cain explains that he would need at least 72 hours notice prior to an event. ***Vanessa amended her motion to make approval conditional on Chief True and Chief Cain's review and approval of an Emergency Management Plan. Bob seconded the amendment. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Bob voted yes, Vanessa voted yes, and Joe voted no. The motion passes 2-1.*** The applicants plan to come back to the Board after the first event to discuss how it went.

Town Hall Phase opening

- The Board discussed the Town Hall re-opening plan. There was discussion on the possibility of a hybrid in person meeting that is also on Zoom. There would be costs associated with that option, however Chief True has offered to try to assist through COVID-19 reimbursements if possible. The Board agreed that there needs to be a wider discussion including town hall employees on this topic. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Park Opening

- Bob reported that the park remains open with the bathrooms closed.

Adopt a Visibility Site Application

- Tabled until a later date.

OLD BUSINESS:

Seabrook Intent to Excavate

- Tabled until a later date.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Assessing Office

- ***Vanessa moved to approve the Yield Tax Levy for both Map 9 Lot 13 and Map 3 Lot 1. Bob seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Bob voted yes, Vanessa voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.***

At 9:01pm, Bob made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2020 meeting. Vanessa seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Bob voted yes, Vanessa voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

The next meeting will be on July 13th.

At 9:03pm, Vanessa made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joe. Bob voted yes, Vanessa voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Lalime