

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19
MONDAY February 15, 2021 – 6:30pm
Minutes - DRAFT

In attendance: Bob Solomon, Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. There were 25 participants on the meeting at the start of the call.

Casella presented an alternative for automated trash collection system which would no longer use the current trash sticker system. Brian Groshon from Casella addressed the Board and explained when the contract was first initiated in Spring of 2020, there was a discussion on facilitating the amount of waste, one option being an automated collection program. For the automated collection program, Casella provides a trash and recycling container (either 35, 64, 96-gallon cart capacity) to each residence. There is a cost savings as a result of a reduction in labor/insurance and it helps to control amount of waste put at the curb. There is a potential grant opportunity towards a discount on recycling services over the lifetime of the agreement. The Board explained there was some discussion on Kensington Connects and a survey asking for comment and feedback on feelings of automated trash collection. The two biggest areas of concern were getting rid of jobs as well as concern for folks with long driveways having to haul large carts and that the automated process would not necessarily be easy for all folks. Mr. Groshon explained that there would be no jobs lost as a result of Kensington switching to the automated system; they are struggling to find employees to do the work. The Town would have the option to select varying cart sizes. Casella also offers a homeowner cart use program (residents that had a container that was designed for automated collection, could continue to use that container). All containers have handles, 2 wheels, and a flip style lid.

Sandra Silvernail of 9 Palmer Drive asked if the sticker program would be used and she has a driveway that goes uphill and uses a dolly for the trashcan. This would replace the sticker program and the carts have wheels.

Hez Mercadante of 43 Wild Pasture Rd asked if there would be an extra charge for recycling. The cost benefit is the transition to automated, there would not be an additional cost to the community. There is a grant through the Recycling Partnership that would also be potentially available.

Bill Bavin of 10 Palmer Drive asked if someone could ruin a recycling pickup or trash pickup load by improper disposal. Casella anticipates that non-recyclable items find their way to material recovery facility in Boston and strive to keep contamination at a 5%-10% range within the community. Those items are separated out.

Ken Leonard of 39 Osgood Rd asked about shared driveways asking how containers would need to be lined up and expressing concern that driveway access would be hindered. Casella would prefer that the carts are lined along the ends of the driveway, in this situation with a shared driveway, the bins and barrels can be placed relatively closely. This may be a situation where an alternative solution with Casella may be needed.

Ms. Silvernail asked if they have to go with a 5-year contract, is that without a cost increase or will there be a yearly increase. In the agreement, there would be rate adjustments year over year. There has not yet been an official proposal. The carts would come with a 10-year warranty and Casella would replace carts as needed.

Pat Bonnevie of 10 French's Lane asked how the Town would benefit by this and how would residents needing extra barrels be addressed. The Town would maintain the current collection schedule of weekly trash and weekly recycling. All municipalities that have automated collection, there are households that are provided an additional cart due to unique circumstances. Ms. Bonnevie would prefer to stay with the stickers.

Therese Wallaga of 1 North Rd asked if residents would be able to choose their barrel sizes. This is a small enough community to customize container sizes. Typically, its recommended to offer the 96-gallon cart for trash and recycle.

Residents can request an additional cart and purchase a sticker deeming eligibility for a second container. There was a brief discussion of Casella potentially mandating the shift to automation in the future.

David Perkins of 20 Stumpfield Rd asked about results of the survey on Kensington Connects. 140 people chimed in, 20 not sure, 57 in favor, 64 not in favor.

Wendy Berry of 24 Amesbury Rd asked if the grant was one time for the barrels and if a grant would be sought each year. Ms. Berry also expressed concern that the entire population is not online, particularly the elderly. Would Casella be willing to pickup the old barrels prior to the switch? The grant is equivalent of \$15.00 per household plus \$1.00 per household for marketing. That would be awarded in the form of a credit from Casella. Casella would facilitate pickup of old barrels.

Mr. Bavin said he hopes this Board and future Boards rely less and less on Kensington Connects and allows people the opportunity to give opinions in an open forum. He is in favor of the switch to automated collection but would like the Board to utilize Kensington Connects less. The Board explained that the information gathered on KC is just one piece of puzzle and it is not the Board's intent to make a decision based solely on information or discussion from KC.

Mr. Perkins asked how long is left on the current contract. The Town is 1 year into a 3-year contract, and there are two option years available.

The Board would entertain a specific proposal from Casella that would be voted on by the Board in a public meeting with notice so residents have an opportunity to participate in that process.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department –Chief Scott Cain reported as follows:
 - Lately there have been “free-staters” going to Town Halls and Police Departments with the intent for officials to violate their first amendment rights; this is an FYI.
 - Currently the PD is conducting a background check on another potential employee. There is not yet a formal resignation from the other officer.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - The weather forecast shows considerable rain, snow and ice tonight and tomorrow am, so conditions may be poor for driving. Another storm is brewing for Thursday night and Friday as well, with significant snowfall- then expect some melting conditions next week. So, please watch your basements (flooding), furnace and pellet stove vents (keep clear) and watch for flooded roads especially next week. A note will be put on the website and social media advising people to have someone watch and check on their place while they are on vacation.
 - **At 7:43pm, Bob made a motion to appoint the following individuals to the Fire Department: Jacques Basson, Jared Auger, Nicole Bennett, and Chris Hamel. Vanessa seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes.**
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - If there is anyone in the Town who is part of 1A or 1B and does not have an appointment, please reach out to Chief True at 603-918-1615. There may be some last-minute opportunities to get vaccinated- but “last minute” is emphasized. If you want to be on that list (no guarantee)... call or text Chief True. If you are having problems getting an appointment or scheduling, call 211 first- or 772-1047 (EM) and we will help you. If anyone wants to volunteer for one of the vaccine centers- please call Chief True - we can get you in contact with the right people.
 - Our next EOP meeting will be February 24th.
- Road Manager – David Buxton was not present.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin reported as follows:
 - The Board reviewed the Title Research Contract.
 - **At 8:14pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the contract with Sanders Searchers LLC for a projected amount of \$340.00 with an expiration of December 31, 2021. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes.**

- Building Inspector- Norman Giroux reported as follows:
 - Norman has been working on an explanation of the permitting process. Norman explained the late fee letter for permits that have expired and what his process for handling cases like this would be to the Board. The Board has already discussed and approved the fees. The purpose of this discussion was to understand the Building Inspector's process.
 - The lost permit card has been updated. The Board reviewed with the Building Inspector and would like to move forward using the newly created version.
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present.
- Town Clerk – Interim Sarah Wiggin was not present.
- Recreation Committee- Elaine Bodwell was not present.
- Conservation Commission – Sydnee Goddard was not present.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust- Hez Mercadante had nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cemetery Trustees request for legal review
 - The Board briefly discussed the request. An opinion was provided by the NHMA but additional direction is needed. The Board will address with Town Counsel.
- Planning board request for legal review
 - The Board briefly discussed the request. This is relevant to an application and the Board needs further guidance that that from the Circuit Rider. Case law may exist that is relevant. The Board will address with Town Counsel.
- Review of Handbook for Employees
 - The Board had previously reviewed the Handbook for Employees. The purchasing policy was removed from the handbook and has been updated. There will be an employee handbook and an addendum for police. It has been reviewed by counsel. **At 8:21pm, Bob made a motion to approve the Employee Handbook as presented. Vanessa seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes.**
- Purchasing Policy for town employees
 - This will be tabled until the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Intent to Cut
 - The Board reviewed the Intent to Cut. **At 8:32pm, Bob made a motion to approve the Intent to Cut for Map 2 Lot 3. Vanessa seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes.**
 - There was a brief discussion regarding work on Kady Lane and a bond.
- Intent to Excavate
 - **At 8:33pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the Intent to Excavate for Map 9 Lot 2. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes.**
 - **At 8:34pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the Intent to Excavate for Map 11 Lot 30. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes.**
- Approval of Board Minutes February 1, 2021
 - **At 8:40pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the minutes from February 1, 2021. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes.**

The Recreation Committee is working on a plan for summer camp and is meeting with the Sawyer Trust.

There will be a Candidates Night on February 23, 2021 on Zoom. The next regular meeting will be March 1, 2021

At 8:40pm, Vanessa made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Lalime