

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

95 Amesbury Rd

MONDAY November 1, 2021

Minutes – Approved 11/15/2021

Meeting 6:30pm

At 6:30 J. Pace called the meeting to order.

J. Pace reviewed an email that was received concerning an accident on Drinkwater Road. A resident had suggested embankments and double yellow lines as ideas to deal with traffic they would like the Board to review. Speed limits were discussed as the Board is still in the process of trying to adjust Town roadway limits because of concerns residents have had. The Police Chief is looking into a traffic study. The Board will take this into consideration and will look to further review speed limits and hear from residents' concerns and follow up with a response.

The Board would like the public to know that it is important that residents feel they can reach out and be heard.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

- Police Department – Chief Scott Cain was not present.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True was not present.
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True was not present.
- Road Manager – Matthew Armstrong-
  - Matrix paving started work on the loading dock at the salt shed.
  - Cleaned up storm debris from the recent nor'easter including a tree that had fallen at Kensington Farms. The Board discussed options for handling downed trees. The Road Manager described who would be called in the case of needing assistance.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin had no comment.
- Building Inspector- Gino Rignoli was not present.
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present.
- Town Clerk – Sarah Wiggin was not present.
- Recreation Committee- Elaine Bodwell was not present.
- Conservation Commission – Sydnee Goddard was not present.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust- There were no trustees present.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- TAX RATE SETTING – The Total Tax Rate for 2021 will be \$18.72, which has gone down. This will be the rate used for December's taxes. The tax rate and balances were discussed, as well as tax refunds and abatements. The use of Fund Balance was explained and discussed, as were possible actions that could be taken using the Fund Balance. Currently the Fund Balance for the Town is approximately 10%, which is within DRA guidelines. J. Pace felt that he was ok with building up the fund balance to possibly prepare for Town infrastructure needs. Valuation of houses was discussed.

***At 7:07pm B. Solomon made a motion to set the 2021 tax rate at \$18.72. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.***

The Board reviewed two veterans tax exemptions.

***At 7:14pm B. Solomon made a motion to approve the veterans tax credit for Tax Map 7 Lot 19-7 and Tax Map 5 Lot 31. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.***

The Mosquito contract for 2022 and its costs and benefits were discussed.

***At 7:19pm B. Solomon made a motion to accept the Northeast Vegetation and Mosquito Control 2022 contract for a total of \$24,000. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.***

There was discussion of the parcel located at Tax Map 8 Lot 44 that has been receiving a charitable exemption at 100%. The Board discussed which parts of the property should be exempted.

***At 7:24pm B. Solomon made a motion to exclude the house at Map 8 Lot 44 from charitable exemption currently valued at \$201,000 and further authorize the Assessing Clerk to levy those taxes as soon as possible. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.***

***At 7:44pm B. Solomon made a motion to approve Justin McLane as a Full Member of the Planning Board with term expiring April of 2022. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.***

Avitar Tax Maps were discussed regarding the cost and benefits of having Town Tax Maps updated yearly rather than every 5 years. The new plan would be a 3-year plan of which would have maps updated and delivered every year.

***At 7:59pm B. Solomon made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$8,085.00 over the next 3 years for the purpose of the annual map updates and authorize the chair to sign. B. Gustafson seconded. All voted in favor.***

The Board signed off at bills and payroll.

***At 8:03pm B. Solomon made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. B. Gustafson seconded. All in favor.***

B. Gustafson reached out to the Heritage Commission and they will be discussing the sign in front of the Town Hall.

***At 8:16pm B. Gustafson made a motion to adjourn. B. Solomon seconded. All voted in favor.***