

KENSINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19

MONDAY May 4, 2020 – 6:30pm

Minutes – APPROVED JUNE 1, 2020

In attendance: Joe Pace, Vanessa Rozier, Bob Solomon

Joe called the meeting order at 6:30pm.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department – Chief Scott Cain reported as follows:
 - Bills for FEMA were submitted and sent copy to Jon True and Selectman
 - There was brief discussion on the CARE Act announced by the Governor today affecting police and fire employees. Chief Cain will look into this more on how the funds are going to be paid out.
 - Chief Cain purchased the warranty for the WatchGuard camera system in the amount of approximately \$2,200.00 through the cruiser revolving fund. The older the equipment is, the more expensive it is to warranty. Chief Cain would like to start purchasing new cameras as these are coming up on their life expectancy.
 - The morning of the tomato sale, the PD will put cones on 150 to prevent parking in the road.
- Fire Department – Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - There was a problem with E2 transmission and a leak in the power steering pump. At the same time, there was other maintenance that needed to be done. It is currently in West Ossipee for work and should be done by Wednesday.
 - The department continues to handle EMS/Fire calls, but are not seeing the “usual” calls such as possible strokes, chest pain, trauma. Chief True wants to let the community know that the FD/EMS and hospital community has plans in place to make sure a patient is safe and protected from COVID as much as possible and individuals who need help should continue to call.
 - There is an inspection scheduled with Bruce Cilley for Eastman’s Corner this week to serve beer and wine. It was noted that the approval can pass administratively, but under EO #40 could not be used until allowed by the state
 - Chief True has been in contact with the Veteran’s Hall to discuss Flag Day and Memorial Day.
- Emergency Management - Chief Jon True reported as follows:
 - There was discussion of the Stay at Home 2.0 and EO #40 relative to reopening of town buildings.
 - The UV sanitizer has been installed in the Town Hall. Chief True has asked for burn rates of PPE from each department to help collect inventory.
 - Chief True would like to meet with the Summer Camp Program and a Selectman’s Rep to discuss the program.
 - Campgrounds will be opening and will be required to follow the rules in Executive Order #40.
 - The Kensington Helpers volunteers have logged about 50 hours of helping the community so far.
- Road Manager – David Buxton reported as follows:
 - The shoulders have been graveled on Wild Pasture.
 - The Town received 2 bids for brush removal: Cheeza’s bid was \$1,400.00 and Seacoast Tree was \$11,500.00. Dave will be in touch with Cheeza to confirm the understanding of the scope of work.
 - The Road Reconstruction Scope of Work was sent to 4 contractors. Bids were due today however one contractor would not be able to get the bid in in time, and Dave and Bob spoke about postponing the opening of bids until the 2nd meeting in May. There was concern that the full board had not seen the scope of work to discuss and approve prior to it being sent out. There was discussion that going forward, the full Board would like the opportunity to review a scope of work of this size and ensure that best processes are being followed.
 - Beavers continue to be a problem in town. There is flooding on Laurel Lane due to the culvert being blocked. Dave has attempted to contact Sydney Goddard with the Conservation Commission. The issue needs to be addressed in a more permanent manner than continuously cleaning out the culverts. The trapper that does work in Exeter has been contacted. Vanessa will work with Dave and the Conservation Commission to address this issue.

- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin reported as follows:
 - Before the next meeting she will work with Kathy to get a new warrant from the Board.
 - There was discussion on optional messaging to go out to the community on the tax bill.
 - Carlene expressed her appreciation for the UV Sanitizer and said she feels much safer having that available for her use as needed.
- Building Inspector- Norman Giroux reported as follows:
 - Norman reported that he has been asked by the Buxton Family to verify monuments. He will pick up a larger map at Town Hall this week.
- Treasurer- Sara Belisle was not present.
- Town Clerk – Carol Beers Witherell reported as follows:
 - The Town Clerk’s office has remained busy and she appreciates having the UV Sanitizer available especially for handling cash.
 - All who received online registration renewals are reminded to sign them; they are not valid until signed.
- Recreation Committee was not present.
- Conservation Commission – Sydnee Goddard was not present.
- Sawyer Kensington Trust- Hez Mercadante reported as follows:
 - The Trust will be meeting on Wednesday night. Hez feels that the bathrooms should not be opened until at least June 1. There is concern that the current requirements of cleaning and staffing the bathrooms would not be able to be met by the Trust at this point.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Department Promotions- Chief True

- Chief True proposed the following promotions: Jason Greene to Deputy Chief, Scott MacDougall to Captain, and John Lebel to Lieutenant. A pinning ceremony would be held at a later time. Chief True briefly explained the hierarchy of the department and that these promotions assist in having a succession plan for the department. It was explained that the financial impact was built into the budget and Chief True summarized the financial impact for the Board. **At 7:24pm, Vanessa made a motion to promote Jason Greene to Deputy Chief, Scott MacDougall to Captain, and John Lebel to Lieutenant. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.** Congratulations to all!

Wetlands on 152 Drinkwater Road

- Vanessa explained that the Planning Board met last week to consider revising the conditions that were previously approved for 152 Drinkwater Rd, specifically the removal of the conditions regarding the wetland violations and remediation. It was explained that NHDES is involved and is working with the applicant. The Planning Board voted to remove the conditions pertaining to the wetland violations at their meeting on April 24, 2020. It was suggested that although removed from the conditions of approval, the matter is still being addressed and that the Board should somehow memorialize that there was a violation and the NHDES is working with the applicant to ensure that it is mitigated. There was concern that if this is not somehow memorialized it could be viewed as the Town is ignoring the issue. There was lengthy discussion and explanation of the history of the application and how the violation was found. The Planning Board has already decoupled the violation from the project, but there was question as to whether the Board should be acting as Code Enforcement to somehow memorialize the violation. There was some concern that any action could establish a precedent for future violations. Mike Schwotzer, a Planning Board member, further explained the history of the application and the discussion that took place at the April 24, 2020 Planning board meeting. He suggested that the violations were already memorialized in the minutes from that meeting and will again be memorialized in the minutes of this meeting based on this discussion. It was explained that the Town will receive documentation from NHDES that the wetland violations have been addressed. If the Town does not receive such documentation it was suggested that the Board act as Code Enforcement at that time. IT was noted that Kensington has no expertise on wetland violations. It was stated that because this is a unique situation where there was a previous violation on an existing application, there is no precedent created. Each matter is addressed case by case. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the landowner that the Town is aware of the violations and is acting in capacity of Code Enforcement by having NHDES oversee the wetland mitigation.

Vanessa will work with Julie, Rockingham County Planning Commission Circuit Rider, on the language for the letter and then it will be reviewed by legal. Bob and Joe agreed.

Report of ATV and stones moved on Hodges Property

- The Board received an email from Sydney Goddard, Chair of the Conservation Commission, that during a walk on Hodges Conservation property, she came across a trail off the back of 4 Weare Drive where stones were being removed to build stone walls. She politely let them know that isn't acceptable practice. At the same time, she was asked about motorized vehicles allowed on the property and explained that the conservation easement prohibits use of motorized vehicles on the property. The situation will be monitored and if needed, the Board can pursue this further. The Board would like to remind the public that any conservation land should be enjoyed, but left exactly as it is found, and that nothing should be taken from the property.

Raise for employee

- There was a very brief discussion on a possible raise for an employee. It was noted that this topic could be discussed in non-public, but it was decided that it may be discussed at a future meeting.

Liquor Permit for Eastman's Corner-response if any to state

- The Board will need to wait until after the Fire Inspection for any further action. Mike Schwotzer explained that he sent a memo to Vanessa stating that this should be addressed by the Planning Board as well.

Journeyman Trucking Request

- Norman Giroux received a call regarding an occupancy permit for Journeyman Trucking. There was a brief discussion of the allowable uses of the property and it was determined that the owner would likely need to go before the Planning Board and Zoning Board before receiving state approval. Chief True added that a fire inspection would be required as well. The Board will respond to the letter providing the process that would need to be followed.

Summer Camp

- There is a contingency plan in place for Summer Camp, but no other news to report or discussion topics.

Class of 2020 Banner

- Jen Macek said that she was driving in East Kingston and saw the banners on telephone poles for the Class of 2020. Rhonda Pogodzienski explained that there is a group of parents in town working to try to make something similar happen. They have been in touch with the East Kingston parents who did this and were told that they needed permission from the Town to proceed. It was explained that they would also need to contact Unitil for permission. It was explained that there would be no cost to the Town. The Board agreed that it's a nice idea and would encourage it as long as all involved parties are notified and give permission.

The Board reviewed bills. ***At 8:27pm, Vanessa made a motion to approve the bills. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.***

At 8:30pm, Bob made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2020 meeting. Vanessa seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

The next meeting will be on May 18, 2020.

At 8:30pm, Vanessa made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Joe took a roll call vote. Vanessa voted yes, Bob voted yes, and Joe voted yes. The motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Lalime