

Kensington Board of Selectmen

June 22, 2017 - Notes from Minutes of Public Meeting

Attending:

Norman DeBoisbriand

Robert Wadleigh

Linda Blood

Motion to Call Meeting to Order at 6:30 pm - DeBoisbriand

Second – Wadleigh

Vote – All voted in favor

Norman recognized Kensington resident, Lynne Monroe, a Historical Conservation consultant, who had requested time to speak at a Public Meeting on the Plan NH Charrette application and process. Lynne distributed two handouts to the audience.

Lynne asked four additional people to make comments during her presentation: Bob Solomon, Glenn Greenwood, Elaine Kaczmarek, and Glenn Coppelman (Kingston, NH). Summarizing Lynne's comments:

Plan NH is a professional organization with an interest in helping communities to better organize in their vision of preservation of their communities. Plan NH offers experts in planning/design and preservation. They have an interest in helping communities preserve and re-purpose new and old buildings such as the Hilliard-Prescott house in Kensington.

The application process, if accepted by Plan NH, results in a two-day event for interested town residents, with volunteer specialists. They learn about the town via tours, sharing meals, talking, generating ideas. There are no pre-conceptions. After the meetings, they go back and come up with ideas and come back in approximately a month with a presentation of potential ideas. After the approved application goes in, there is much planning to do at the Town level. Who will make presentations at the Charrette ceremonies?

Glenn Coppelman (Kingston) shared perspective from his participation in the Kingston Charrette last year. His community had also participated in a Community Visioning or Profiling exercise in 1999. Their focus was on the Village Green community core. He stated that over 200 people participated in the Plan NH meeting in 2016. He further talked about how the Kingston Charrette took place, considerations of having, the discussions, funding, etc.

Glenn Greenwood, professional planner and resident of Kensington, stated he has participated in four past Charrette's, with three focused on community centers becoming more important to their communities (Hampton, Hampton Falls, Newton and Kingston). They focused on underutilized buildings in town and what to do with them. It is an investment in the community. You desire to get people talking to each other about their communities and the future.

Elaine Kaczmarek, resident of Kensington who has recently purchased the Hilliard-Prescott historically significant home in Kensington, spoke of her acquisition and its history (general store, post office, stage coach stop, and office of the Republican party). Her grandmother lived there. She bought the house

and nine acres which contains a path to Sawyer Park and abuts the Town cemetery. She believes it could become a valuable community resource. Charrette will allow discussion on potential uses. She stated the house is in pristine condition. She will make some improvements and see where it goes. It was built in the 1780s.

Lynne Monroe explained that approval by BOS of the application is the first step. If Plan NH chooses the Kensington application, they begin the planning process and gathering the people to attend. The \$5000 application fee is due when Kensington is actually chosen. Town will not need to pay the fee; Lynne Monroe has guaranteed it. The costs are associated with conducting the Charrette, providing room and board for the professional volunteers who attend, and miscellaneous hospitality costs during the two-day meeting.

The size of the NH Planning Team is between 10 – 14 people including architects, historians, transportation engineers, civil engineers as examples.

The Charrette process is not about buildings only (even if the application contains language focusing on the building preservation); it is about getting the process started, letting citizens share their thoughts about their community, and the conversations can lead anywhere.

Linda Blood asked about the results of other Charrettes, and do all of the recommendations have to be a warrant article? Glenn Greenwood responded, “not necessarily”. It appears to depend on the type of changes that are pursued. Another citizen asked about experience of Plan NH in creating regional cooperation in fields of energy or conservation. Presenters did not have information on this, but suggested that their volunteer professionals can tackle many different types of issues.

Citizens asked about “next steps” after Charrette is finalized with suggestions and options presented to the Town. Lynne Monroe responded that BOS, Planning Board, and interested citizens can carry the ideas forward. She suggested options like a Historic District, Heritage Commission as being good ideas to pursue. These spin off of the current subcommittee.

Being no further questions or comments from audience, DeBoisbriand made motion to sign the Plan NH Charrette application. Blood provided a Second. BOS voted aye. DeBoisbriand signed the application. Lynne Monroe thanked the BOS for their support.

Resident, Linda Bennett commented that she missed the past of the Town meetings and discussions where everyone attended and deliberated on warrant articles and such together. Others agreed.

BOS then moved onto the second agenda item pertaining to the Recreation Committee. Committee members Donna Carter, Randy Bandoian, Holly McCann (and Linda Blood member and BOS member) were present. Also present was Kensington Summer Camp Director, Emily Greenwood. Summer Camp is scheduled to start week of June 26th at Sawyer Park. In previous days issues have arose with positions of Assistant Director, Senior Counselors, working hours, and pay scales. Rec Committee and Camp Director wanted to brief BOS, answer any questions, and seek final guidance/approval on proposed resolutions.

DeBoisbriand advised Ms. Greenwood that there had no intention of requiring camp directors to work over 50 hours a week. He asked if there was any possibility that directors could stagger their work hours

to make total coverage possible. Ms. Greenwood indicated the concerns had arisen due to both directors having vacation time during the camp weeks. Staggering would not be possible due to this. The current Assistant Director has withdrawn her request for employment this year. She is not able to work after 2:30 pm and has other plans. Suggestion was made to hire another Assistant Director from within the Counselor ranks. Ms. Greenwood shared the names of three individuals who are a minimum age of nineteen (all may be over 19?) and have several years of experience as counselors at Kensington Summer Camp (all have at least 3 years' experience). They are trained in first aid, CPE, and AED operations. They also are knowledgeable in the established protocols for managing emergencies such as shelter in place.

Ms. Greenwood suggests that she can offer and rely upon these individuals to act (as needed) as Assistant Director during her vacation (July 10 – July 21) and from 2:30 pm to camper pick-up at end of day. It was suggested that BOS offer these Acting Assistant Directors a salary of \$14.00 per hour for the hours they are called upon to act as Director. For the remaining hours of their work, they will be paid their current Counselor salary.

BOS members asked Ms. Greenwood if she was completely comfortable with this suggested arrangement and had no doubts for its success. BOS must be able to rely on her judgment as they have no knowledge of these individuals. Ms. Greenwood has worked with and trained them – she is confident of the success of this plan. Ms. Greenwood will proceed.

BOS asked Ms. Greenwood about the attendance numbers for camp weeks:

Session 1 = 30, Session 2 = 17, Session 3 = 26, Session 4 = 26, Session 5 = 29, Session 6 = 29, Session 7 = 28, Session 8 = 26. Registrations are still coming in. Currently, she believes there are four applications for financial aid to campers. All applications should be forwarded to Kathy Felch of Town Offices- only as a collection point. BOS will react to all applications. Wadleigh urged Ms Greenwood to let the BOS know if any issues with camp arise. He asked her to send short message to the BOS.

Ms Greenwood was asked to please put together very rough estimate of potential bottom line for 2017 camp. Will it at least break even, or is there potential for a negative bottom line. She was asked to consider revenues from paying campers against her known or estimated expenses (supplies, salaries, etc) and to present to BOS. She agreed to make that effort.

Public session then ended with a motion by DeBoisbriand to go into Non-Public Session at 8:30pm. Second by Wadleigh. All voted in favor.

Notes prepared by Holly McCann and presented to Kathy Felch for her consideration. Kathy was ill and could not attend meeting.