

TOWN OF KENSINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Kensington Town Hall
95 Amesbury Road
Kensington, NH 03833
MONDAY
April 17, 2023
Meeting Minutes
6:30 PM

In attendance: Joseph Pace, Robert Solomon, Robert Gustafson

J. Pace called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Public Comment-

- NH State Representative Susan M Porcelli
 - She reported that it is a very busy session so far. She indicated that there is a lot of work to do before the bills pass onto the Governor.
 - She is looking to have office hours in the town hall on Wednesday evenings when the town hall is open.
 - In Hampton Falls the first Saturday of the month she has open hours.
 - There are some concerns about the cell tower, and there are no state statutes this is a local control situation and she hopes that Mr. Solomon will support having the local citizens be heard.
 - J. Pace informed her that there is a letter to the state about the large groundwater withdrawal proposed and she stated that she will review the proposals and she will get back to them.
 - B. Solomon stated that he has no control over the running of the meeting for the planning board. S. Porcelli would just like the board to listen to the comments made by the people.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- Police Department –Chief Scott Cain –
 - The current prosecutor is retiring and he has a new contract that is the same as the current contract, he has observed her and believes that she would do a great job for the town.
 - **B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the contract and have the chairman of the select board sign on behalf of the board, B. Solomon seconded, all in favor.**
 - Tuition Reimbursement Program for Police Department Employees. That will be reviewed and sent off to legal for a final review. The board will decide at their May 1 meeting.
 - J. Medicio will be on the **SERT** team, which is a great benefit to the town. We might have to invest \$1000 of equipment in him but it is great that he has made this team. Congratulations to J. Medicio on his hard work to be on this team.
 - James Collier will be starting next week and has completed his background check. He will start here on the 20th of April, and it is about 3 weeks of internal training and to learn the department procedures.

- 2 cars came in and the leasing program is what is holding up the delivery of the vehicles now. We just need to have the leasing agreement finalized before receiving the vehicles.
- ALS Bike ride is all set, no issues they will have a detail. Crows Feat, no issues with that, and as long as they comply and keep the same pattern for traffic followed.
- B. Solomon stated that there is a large permit for the park and there will be about 150 cars possibly and Chief Cain will discuss the traffic issues with them when the permit comes in.
- Offsite liquor permit for 244 Amesbury Road, no issues with that permit either.
- Road Manager – Matthew Armstrong-
 - Ordered the last two loads of salt
 - Two roads, New Boston Road and Hickory Lane were regraded after this winter's lack of frost.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin- She has a bill for completing the tax lien that will need to be signed and that will complete the lien process for the town.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Open Air Assembly- Crows Feat-
 - J. Pace reviewed Chief True's responses.
 - Is the layout the same as last year? K. Parker Feld was in attendance and explained that the layout will be the same as last year's.
 - He is aware that there is a building permit on the site, if the building construction was to affect the egress, that needed to be kept clear. If there were more than 100 people, there needed to be a detail. K. Parker Feld explained that the building permit is for an adjacent lot.
 - Please contact the fire chief if over 100 people.
 - He will also keep her on the storm list.
 - K. Felch gave K. Parker Feld a hard copy of the chief's remarks.
 - B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the permit based on the satisfaction of the Fire Chiefs' comments, and B. Solomon seconded, all in favor.**
- Road Permit- ALS Ride to be held on June 25, 2023
 - The board reviewed the permit, and it has been signed off on by the Chief of Police.
 - **B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the ALS Ride Road permit, and B. Solomon seconded, all in favor.**
- Grange Hall Permit to use Hall- 6-16-23 Memorial Service
 - The board reviewed the Grange Hall permit for a private memorial service. There were no questions from the board.
 - B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the permit for the use of the Grange for a Memorial Service, and B. Solomon seconded, all in favor.**
- Alcohol permit for the park- The board reviewed the permit for the use of alcohol at the park for the CMS Sunshine Group.
 - J. Pace asked if this falls under the regulations of the town park and if that is still allowable. The ability for the board to approve alcohol permits at the park was voted on by the town in 2010. The board is only approving the use of alcohol, not the park permit.

- Chief Cain stated that he was told it would be under 100 people, but the permit states 100 or more. Chief Cain believes that they should be okay where they stated that they will have under 100 attendees.
 - B. Solomon made a motion to approve the serving of alcohol for this permit; B. Gustafson seconded, all in favor.**
- Appointments to the Zoning and Planning Boards for Carly and Aaron Fenton.
J. Pace explained that Carly Fenton will be appointed to the planning board as a full member and Aaron Fenton will be appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as an Alternate member.
 - **B. Gustafson made a motion to appoint Aaron Fenton as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Carly Fenton as a full member of the Planning Board; B. Solomon seconded, all in favor.**
 - J. Pace swore both in at this time. K. Felch informed them that the appointments are held with the Town Clerk and she will remind them when their terms are up.
- Revised Ordinances- J. Pace stated that the public hearing for the revision of the ordinances will be on May 1, 2023. Please reach out to the Chief with any questions before the meeting.
- Reverting previously changed Ordinance for the use of the Town Park.
 - The changes to the Regulation of the Town Park Ordinance was changed in 2013 without a vote of the town. The board has sought legal counsel on how to remedy the situation and there will be changes brought before the voters in March of 2024.
 - The board discussed reverting back to the 1980 Regulations of the Town Park as amended in 2010.
 - The board will schedule their annual meeting with the trust for the fall of this year to discuss regulating the use of the town park. The board does not see where this will be an issue.
- Town Clerk Sarah Wiggin wrote to the board to inform them of the Trustee of the Trust Fund position that was voted on in March. It was not filled, and no one had gotten back to Sarah as of the day when the board appointed the outgoing member. Since then, one of the residents that were voted in came forward to be a trustee. She was just letting the board know that the appointed individual will not be taking the position of the Trustee of the Trust Funds for the year and the Elected person will sit for the 3-year term.
- Grange update to Comcast to include WIFI
 - K. Felch informed the board that the cost to add the WIFI is \$150 per month to get WIFI for the Grange. They would like to go with Xfinity because they have an account with them already. B. Gustafson asked if they have looked into Fidium. The Grange Trustees will be taking the funds from the warrant article that passed in March of this year for the upkeep of the Grange. The board would like the Grange Trustees to obtain one more quote for WIFI before deciding to add the WIFI.
- Supplemental Intent to Cut for HH Backlands- supplemental for the original intent to cut for HH Backlands. This is a supplemental for the intent already filed with the town but not finished by the end of March 2023. The board reviewed the intent to cut. **B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the supplemental intent to cut for HH Backlands, and B. Solomon seconded all in favor.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Perambulations – Spring of 2023 – J. Pace informed the board that there was some response from other towns to do the perambulations. East Kingston, South Hampton, and Hampton Falls and we are waiting to hear back from Seabrook and Exeter. K. Felch stated that the towns that replied were happy to be involved and glad that the board extended the invite. K. Felch stated that there is a couple that involves three towns. The difficulty is that it is suspected that some of the markers are missing.
- B. Gustafson stated that he has some of the coordinates from the last time that it was walked. He was unsure if it was the county or the state that has to come in and put the markers in place. K. Felch will research the rules around missing markers and who has the authority to replace ones that are missing, as well as who makes the final decision if there is a discrepancy. K. Felch will contact the towns and see what dates will work for everyone.

Town Administrator:

Kathleen Felch-

- Town Hall Painting – pick vendor from previous submissions.
 - K. Felch reported that the funds for the town hall painting were encumbered last December. The town hall will need to be scrapped and repainted. The board had not decided on what vendor to go with. K. Felch stated that both companies have good references, Northern Ridge Painting out of Exeter and Amesbury and All Pro Painting out of Lee. **B. Gustafson made a motion to accept the Quote from Northern Ridge Painting out of Exeter and for the chairman to sign the contract on behalf of the board, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.**
- Current use redesignation that has been reviewed by the Assessing Company Avitar. For HH Backlands and Hog Hill. K. Felch explained that these are the lots that were subdivided last year as well as lot lines being adjusted, the owners are looking to update the current use classifications on all the property that is currently in current use. This is just a reclassification of land within current use. The land is not coming out of current use it is remaining in current use this application is just for housekeeping. **B. Gustafson made a motion to update the current use classifications for map 4 lot 3 and map 4 lot 7-1, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.**
- The board reviewed the Carriage Barn Charitable exemption and concurred to keep the same delineations for the exemption approved and reviewed by Avitar in 2022. There are no changes to be made in relation to this exemption.
- Elderly Exemption- Map 17 Lot 23-1. Newly qualified lot for the elderly exemption this year. K. Felch informed the board that the resident does qualify for the exemption. **B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the elderly exemption for Map 17 Lot 23-1, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.**
- Elderly Exemption- A resident has written to the board and has explained that they do not qualify for the Elderly Exemption this year but believes that they should still receive the exemption. The board discussed the fact that the criteria for the elderly exemptions were set by the town at a town meeting and the board does not have the authority to change the criteria

without another vote of the town. The board understands the hardship, but they cannot adjust the criteria for one resident when there could be others in town that could benefit from the exemption but are just over the income limitations as well. The board feels that they must stick to the exemption criteria as voted by the town and will not approve the request for an exception for the resident. K. Felch will let the resident know.

- M. Armstrong's change to his rate of pay form still needed to be signed off on, **B. Solomon made a motion to approve the rate of pay and for the chair to sign off on behalf of the board, B. Gustafson seconded all in favor.**
 - Approval of Board Minutes April 3rd and 6th, 2023- B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3rd and 6th, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.
 - B. Solomon asked about the email from Barbara Greenwood asking about how the town would identify the oldest citizen in Kensington. J. Pace stated that the town of Exeter has done the Boston Post Cane. The kindergarten class would like to confirm the oldest resident in Kensington, and the board is unsure how to confirm the oldest resident in the town. J. Pace stated that the board would not mind celebrating an older resident in town but the ability to tell who the oldest resident is would be hard to confirm. J. Pace stated that if we celebrated residents that are 100 and had something special for them that would be nice. K. Felch will talk to C. Wiggin about her knowledge of people in the town.
- The board signed the bills and payroll.
 - Next Meeting Date – May 1, 2023- Opening of Landscaping Bids
Ordinance amendments

B. Gustafson made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm, seconded by B. Solomon, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen T Felch