

TOWN OF KENSINGTON
CHARRETTE COMMITTEE 2nd ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

7:00 pm

Town Hall

95 Amesbury Road

Draft Minutes

In attendance: Linda Blood, Selectman; John Valvanis, Planning Board: David Buxton, Road Manager; Jack Herney, Library; Jonathan True, Fire Chief.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Linda Blood. The initial discussion revolved around the report being posted on the website. Linda stated that she had spoken to Kathleen Felch about it, and that it was being worked on. Jack suggested we add the minutes from last meeting and this meeting as soon as possible.

David began with the traffic issues (Summary of recommendations# 4,5,6,7) and noted the traffic on Route 150 is also affecting the traffic on other Town roads, including Wild Pasture and Drinkwater Roads. These are Town roads that use taxpayer money to maintain (Route 150 is a state road). Route 150 is also described as a “commuter road” with considerable traffic from Mass to Exeter in the morning and returning in the afternoon. David then discussed the sidewalks and how the narrower roads could be a problem for large equipment/trucks and the costs associated with plowing and maintaining them.

There was an open discussion about speed on these roads and speed in various areas of Route 150. Sidewalks were mentioned along with signage as being recommended by the plan.

After discussion there was a consensus that the committee draft a letter to recommend the Selectmen request a free speed study from NHDOT- and that they include the following points:

- a) Speed evaluations and traffic study on all of Route 150.
- b) Include Wild Pasture and Drinkwater Roads in the study.
- c) Include the points noted in the Summary of Recommendations #4,5,6,7 of the charrette report.

This will give the committee and the Town and idea of what NHDOT and the engineers feel about the points. It was suggested that we offer to the Selectmen that we could meet with a NHDOT representative before the study is started. After the report is complete, the Committee can reconvene and discuss the report and make any suggestions to the Selectmen.

A discussion on the trail system followed (Summary of Recommendations #1). Various members had points that suggested the trails system could be used more and that it is a good recreational use in town. David and Linda both mentioned Linda Bennett’s name as someone who knows the trail system in the area well. Jack stated he knew of a map of the trails, but it may not be up-to-date. Discussion included the use (ATV, snowmobile, summer and winter

bicycles, walking, cross country skiing, horses and snowshoes) and liability of such a system. Linda and David said they would reach out to Linda Bennett and see if she is interested in serving and leading such a committee. After a discussion, the consensus was to write a letter to the Selectmen and recommend that the "trail committee" be re-established, that the committee be tasked with:

- a) See what uses could be allowed on various trails by various organizations.
- b) See what laws and regulations need to be addressed, including liability to landowners and the Town (signage, easements/MOUs).
- c) Consider interns or other sources to GPS the trails and create a map that could be downloaded by the public.

Jon mentioned that if the trails were wide enough for a "gator" vehicle and were labeled as "forest fire access" trails (in addition to recreational trails), that there may be money from the NH Forest Service to provide some funding to help maintain the trails while providing access for emergency forest fire and EMS use. He will investigate it and report back to the Committee. David mentioned that he had some chainsaws and other equipment that could be used to help maintain the system as well. Jon also mentioned that in 2019 the Town is due to renew it's All Hazard Mitigation Plan and the company we are looking at may be able to help with mapping, as this may be part of that plan.

A discussion followed with all members present about housing, future development, high taxes, reevaluation and high cost of houses (Summary of recommendations #3, 11). John and Jon suggested we write a letter to the Planning Board and see if there is an avenue for the Board or Town to have a study done on housing needs, current and future impacts of housing in Town, and create some materials to educate the public about how the tax-based system works. All agreed, and Jon will draft a letter for review by the Committee.

Jack suggested we look at the Grange Hall (Summary of recommendations #11) to see if there is funding to have a sound study of the Grange Hall. Jon stated there had been a new system installed and he did not believe it was finished. Jack suggested that once that is complete- if it is not corrected, that we consider some type of sound panels to eliminate or reduce the poor sound quality. Jack further stated the Library doesn't have a large space for gatherings but would use the Grange hall if the acoustics were better. The decision was to see if the system is/will be corrected, and if it was still a problem after repairs, write a letter to the Board of Selectmen to see if there is funding for a sound evaluation/study with recommendations to address any concerns.

Other issues will be taken up at the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for SEPT 17th, 2018 7pm at the Town Hall.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon True