

TOWN OF KENSINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Kensington Town Hall
95 Amesbury Road
Kensington, NH 03833
MONDAY
AUGUST 7, 2023
Minutes – APPROVED
6:30PM

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

J. Pace asked those present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment- None

Public Hearing on Grange Hall Fees

A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Selectmen on AUGUST 7, 2023, at the Kensington Town Hall, located at 95 Amesbury Road, Kensington, NH 03833, at 6:30pm,

- In accordance with RSA 41:9-a to amend and approve the fees for the RENTAL OF THE GRANGE HALL.
 - J. Pace opened the public hearing at 6:31pm.
 - Meghan Gross (Grange Building Trustee) stated that the Grange Hall fee structure does not work for the different groups who request to use the facility. The fee structure does not work for smaller groups that only want to use the facility for shorter time periods. M. Gross detailed the proposed fee updates (Addendum 1).
 - B. Gustafson asked about insurance coverage and the integrity of the floor of the Grange building due to its age. M. Gross stated that they can have someone to look into the structure to ensure it is suitable, but that the trustees do not have any concerns. M. Gross stated that they have not changed the insurance policy.
 - J. Pace invited public comment. Seeing none, the chair entertained a motion to adopt the new fees.

MOTION: B. Gustafson made a motion to accept the Grange Hall fees as proposed. B. Solomon seconded. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

AGENDA:

- **Steve Shope, Exeter Environmental Assoc. LLC- discussion with the board and explanation of Exeter’s Large Groundwater Withdrawal letter and NHDES letter.**
 - Steve Shope, PG President of Exeter Environmental Association, LLC attended the meeting to discuss the Town of Exeter’s Large Groundwater Withdrawal Application. He was asked to provide technical expertise on the recent letters received from NHDES and Emery & Garrett Ground Water Investigations on this project.

- S. Shope explained that he had reviewed the NHDES letter dated June 6, 2023 and the letter from Emery & Garrett Ground Water Investigations (GGWI) dated July 10, 2023.
- In his letter to the board dated August 2, 2023 he stated that *“the pertinent information in the two documents is NHDES's request for the applicant to send a water well questionnaire to all developed parcels within the 1,000-ft buffer from the preliminary zone of influence, to see if the water users would give permission to have their well monitored during the withdrawal test. The applicant has stated they anticipate sending the questionnaire to 50 properties, including 37 in Kensington. This addresses the concern we raised in our initial review back in February.”*
- S. Shope recommend the following for Kensington residents:
 - Those in the area should obtain a base line basic water test before the testing of the project begins.
 - Those in the area should respond to the letters being sent from Exeter on well monitoring.

K. Felch showed J. Pace an email from the GGWI stating that they are going to start surface water level monitoring the Fire Pond located on the east side of Drinkwater Road in preparation for the pumping test of the new production well in Exeter. They obtained the landowner’s permission and the testing has begun.
 - The board still has concerns about the aquifer and water levels of wells in that area. S. Shope agreed to continue advising and deciphering the communications from Exeter’s GGWI and NHDES.
 - The board thanked him for attending and discussing this issue.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Matthew Armstong and Carlene Wiggin were in attendance.

- Road Manager – Matthew Armstrong-
 - Roadside mowing has been completed.
 - The state has started to mow routes 107 and 150.
- Tax Collector- Carlene Wiggin-

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion with E. Kaczmarek and Susie Gilbert on Library Addition-Warrant Article.
 - S. gilbert presented a proposal for an addition to the library to the board (Addendum 2).
 - The library staff wants to have a preliminary discussion on the proposed addition. They have not formulated any formal plans yet.
 - J. Pace opined that he is enthusiastic about any improvements to the library, and that it should be a decision made by voters in the town.

- Crows Feat Open Air Assembly change in dates.
 - The board discussed the date change to September 10, 2023.
 - The board had no objections to the permit being adjusted for the new date.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Town Administrator:

Kathleen Felch-

- Revaluations Letter
 - K. Felch stated that she has concerns that some residents might not get their letters and would not know that their valuations are changing 70%.
 - J. Pace opined that the letter should mention that the total tax amount will remain the same, and that he felt the letter should be sent from the town administrator, since it is admirative in nature.
 - K. Felch stated that she will upload the letter to “community news” on the town website. The letter will not be mailed out.
 - K. Felch stated that the revaluations letters that residents receive from Avitar will not mention that their tax amount will remain the same. The town’s letter is meant to mitigate any confusion.
 - Sign copies of the Exeter Perambulations and send to R. Dean.
 - K. Felch presented the document for J. Pace to sign.
 - Extension requested for the MS-1, granted until 10-1-23
 - Due to the revaluation, K. Felch stated that she asked for an extension.
 - Warrant articles that the board might be thinking about for 2024.
 - J. Pace stated that he has been thinking about contemplating a warrant article to supplement the legal service budget, as 90% of that budget has already been spent this year.
 - Cemetery Tree cutting
 - The Cemetery Trustees have hired Royal Green Tree Service to cut mostly on the north side of the cemetery. A large diseased evergreen will be removed.
 - The Trustees contacted 8 different companies for bids. Royal Green Tree Service is the only company to respond.
 - Request for Extra Trash Bin
 - K. Felch presented the form for the chair to sign (Addendum 3)
- Approval of Board Minutes July 24, 2023

MOTION: B. Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes of July 24, 2023. B. Solomon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

• **Next Meeting Date – August 21, 2023**

MOTION: B. Gustafson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. B. Solomon seconded. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

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APPOINTMENTS: If you do have something that you would like to discuss with the Board, it is best to request being on the agenda of a meeting and provide details of the subject, so the Board can prepare in advance.