



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
MARCH 28, 2023

6:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Kimberley Emberg called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:00 PM. Selectmen in attendance: Donald Alcombright, Sheila Vaughn, Jessica Kramer, and Tyler Bouchard.

Staff Present: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator; Gloria Mitchell, Assistant Town Administrator; and Patricia Tucker, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. This meeting is recorded by PACTV. Anyone intending to make an audio or video recording of this meeting should notify the Chair at this time.
2. Financial Assistance Applications are available on the Town's website or by calling the Selectmen's Office.
3. Books in Bloom, presented by the Kingston Garden Club event, will run from April 5th through the 8th during library hours. Registration forms must be completed by April 1st and are available on the Town's website.
4. The annual Town Election is on April 22nd at The Kingston Elementary School.
5. The annual Town Meeting is on April 29th at the Kingston Intermediate School.
April 14th is the Last Day to Request a vote by Mail.
6. April 22nd is the 3rd Annual Keep Kingston Clean Event.
7. On April 18th and April 25th from 7 PM-8:30 PM at the Kingston Council on Aging is the Raising Chicken in your Backyard seminar.
8. Sign up to help count herring at jonesriver.org/ecology/fishcount.com counting will begin on April 1st.
9. Moment of silence for long-time resident Norman Short who passed away last week.

OPEN FORUM:

There was nobody in attendance for Open Forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

REQUEST FROM DAVID WITH MAN OF HARBOR TO THE BAY TO HOST THE HARBOR TO THE BAY CHARITY RIDE ON SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2023.

Ms. Emberg explained that a request was received from David Whitman of Harbor to the Bay to hold their 21st and final Harbor to the Bay Bike Ride on Saturday, September 23rd, 2023, through the streets of Kingston. Harbor to the Bay delivers 100% poor designation beneficiaries. Since 6.7 million dollars to date have been raised.

The Police and Fire Chief, along with the Superintendent of Streets, review and recommend the approval Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the request from David Whitman of Harbor to the Bay Bike Ride, to hold their 21st Harbor to the Bay Bike Ride on Saturday, September 23rd, 2023, with the following condition:

- The applicant successfully acquires the proper permit from MassDOT.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

Ms. Emberg explained that the Conservation Department, Veteran's Department, and Library received the following donations and have asked the Board of Selectmen to approve them. Ms. Emberg noted that thank you notes have been sent to all donated by each department.

Motion by Mr. Bouchard, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the following donations:

- \$708.23 raised via GoFundMe to Kingston Conservation Department for split rail fencing at the parking area of Blackwater Memorial Forest
- \$1,945 in donations to the Kingston Veteran's Memorial. The list of individuals is in the meeting packet if you want to review it.
- \$6,700 donation from the estate of former Library Trustee Mary Hathaway, as vetted by Town Counsel, the gift is sufficiently earmarked per G.L. c 44, s 53 A to the Library and is limited to Library purposes.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Ms. Emberg explained that the Town is required to appoint an Animal Inspector annually. Kingston's current Animal Inspector, Debra Mueller, is willing to serve for the upcoming year.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I mote to reappoint Debra Mueller as Animal Inspector through April 30th, 2024.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO MOVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS TO THE TOWN MEETING WARRANT

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Ms. Emberg explained that they have agreed on the three contracts before the Board tonight.

Ms. Kramer recused herself from the conversation and vote.

Mr. Hickey discussed the compensation study and the health insurance plan and how it was used as a basis for collective bargaining. The two most expensive health insurance plans will be eliminated, and a dental plan will be added. The cost-of-living raises were negotiated at 3.5%, 3.5%, and 2.5%.

Mr. Hickey explained that the contracts are more equitable than they have been in the past. All three units brought forth tonight have been ratified. The KTEU and Lieutenants are still being worked on, and they seem reasonable and expected to be finalized shortly.

Ms. Emberg asked the Board if they had any questions. Ms. Vaughn mentioned she liked the opt-out insurance offered to all unions. If they can prove they have insurance with a spouse, they can receive a stipend for that.

Mr. Hickey mentioned that the Town Meeting Information Icon on the website's front page would list all info with contracts, and you should start seeing that information on the front page very shortly; in the meeting packet is a copy of each of the agreements.

KINGSTON SUPERIOR OFFICERS UNION, MASS C.O.P.S. LOCAL 2386

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to the Board of Selectmen to approve the proposed changes to the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and Kingston Superior Officers Union. I further move to place a warrant article in the Annual Town Meeting warrant seeking voter consideration of the same.

KINGSTON PATROLMAN'S ASSOCIATION, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE 064

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to the Board of Selectmen to approve the proposed changes to the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and Kingston Patrolman's Association Union. I further move to place a warrant article in the Annual Town Meeting warrant seeking voter consideration of the same.

KINGSTON FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 2337

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to the Board of Selectmen to approve the proposed changes to the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and Kingston Firefighters Local 2337 Union. I further move to place a warrant article in the Annual Town Meeting warrant seeking voter consideration of the same.

Ms. Kramer rejoined the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF PATRICIA WAITKEVICH AS KINGSTON'S GATRA REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Emberg discussed the fact that in a previous meeting when the Council on Aging Director was appointed, the responsibility of the GATRA Rep would go to the Transportation Coordinator. With the recent hire of the Transportation Coordinator, the COA Director requests that we appoint Ms. Waitkevich as the GATRA Representative.

Motion by Mr. Bouchard, second by Ms. Vaughn, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen (appoint/not appoint) Patricia Waitkevich as Kingston's GATRA Representative.

REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE HIRING OF TOWN EMPLOYEES

Ms. Emberg explained that after resignations within each department of Conservation and Planning, the positions of Assistant Conservation Agent and Assistant Town Planner have been vacant. The Conservation Agent and the Town Planner were recruited for the positions. After interviews within each department, Mr. Penella requests the hiring of Julianna Denum to fill the position of Assistant Conservation Agent.

Ms. Massard is requesting the hiring of Erin Benoit to fill the position of Assistant Town Planner.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Julianna Denum to the position of Assistant Conservation Agent, a Grade C3, Step 1 nonexempt position as part of the Kingston Town Employee Union – Clerical, with an anticipated start date of March 29th, 2023, with the following conditions:

1. Provision of the necessary identification forms to satisfy the requirements of the U.S. Immigration Reform Act.
2. Satisfactory CORI check.
3. Satisfactory letter from your primary care physician that you can perform the functions of the position based on the attached job description.
4. Successful completion of a six-month probationary period.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen (appoint/not appoint) Erin Benoit to the position of Assistant Town Planner, a

Grade C3, Step 1 nonexempt position as part of the Kingston Town Employee Union – Clerical, with an anticipated start date of March 29th, 2023, with the following conditions:

1. Provision of the necessary identification forms to satisfy the requirements of the U.S. Immigration Reform Act.
2. Satisfactory CORI check.
3. Satisfactory letter from your primary care physician that you can perform the functions of the position based on the attached job description.
4. Successful completion of a six-month probationary period.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR MARCH 28TH, 2023

Mr. Hickey read his report, which is also in the meeting packet.

- The Capital Planning Committee has completed its review and made funding recommendations on the FY24 Capital Improvement Plan. Information on the Capital Plan can be found on the Town website.
- If you plan on filing for a real estate tax exemption for FY2023, you must have the application submitted to the Assessor's Office by the end of business or postmarked by the US Post Office on or before April 3rd, 2023.

Exemptions available in the Town of Kingston are:

1. Disabled Veterans Exemption
2. Qualifying Seniors Over 70 Exemption
3. Surviving Spouse or Minor Child Exemption
4. Blind Exemption
5. Community Preservation Act Exemption

When submitting your application, please remember to include all necessary supporting documents. If you have any questions on submitting exemption applications, please get in touch with the Assessor's Office at 781-585-0509.

Project Updates

- Pavement crack sealing is currently out to bid. Work on the roads scheduled for crack sealing is expected to begin in April.
- Street sweeping of Town roads has begun. Sweeping began on the west end of Kingston. Street sweeping will be ongoing until sometime around Memorial Day.

Personnel Update

- Samantha Small, Head of Children Services at the Library, has resigned effective March 30th, 2023.
- Dispatcher Christopher Caldwell has resigned, effective April 8th, 2023
- Assistant Town Planner Casey Pupek ended his employment effective March 22nd, 2023.

Mr. Alcombright asked if we are voting on the citizen petition articles. Mr. Hickey stated that the Board does not have to vote on the citizen articles.

The Board discussed how the articles would be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

MEETING MINUTES:

APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 31ST, 2023, AND MARCH 14TH, 2023

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the open session meeting minutes of January 31st, 2023, and March 14th, 2023

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Hickey started by saying that the warrant was sent to the Board, and if there are any specific questions, get them to the office in advance so that all answers can be provided before the meeting.

Ms. Vaughn discussed that she went to Aiden Ramsey's Run event, which was a great showing and event.

It was discussed that the warrant would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, second by Mr. Bouchard, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:41PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker

Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Request of Charity Bike Ride

Donations

Animal Inspector Appointment

Collective Bargaining Agreements

GATRA Rep

Hiring Information

Town Administrator Report

Meeting Minutes