



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

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: Gloria Mitchell, Assistant Town Administrator; and Patricia Tucker, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This meeting is being recorded by PACTV. Anyone intending to make an audio or video recording of this meeting should notify the chair at this time.

Financial assistance applications are available on the Town's website or by calling the Selectmen's office.

Due to a recent resignation from the recreation commission, the recreation commission and Board of selectmen are seeking candidates interested in filling the open seat until the next town election in the spring of 2023. Interested candidates must submit a letter of consideration and qualifications no later than September 29 at 4:00 PM. Please submit your information by mail to: the Kingston Board of Selectmen's office

26 Evergreen Street

Kingston, MA 02364

Or by email at ptucker@kingstonma.gov or you can email any of the Selectmen or any of the Recreation Commissioners.

All candidates will be interviewed at a joint Recreation Commission/Selectmen's meeting on October 4th.

There are two vacant Associate member seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals; please get in touch with the Selectmen's office if interested.

OPEN FORUM:

There was no one in attendance for Open Forum.

APPOINTMENTS:

JOINT MEETING WITH LIBRARY TRUSTEES TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES TO FILL OPEN POSITION DUE TO RESIGNATION

Ms. Emberg explained that there is a vacancy due to a resignation. Ms. Emberg explained the process of filling an elected seat for an individual who resigned.

Ms. Emily Curtin called the Library Trustee meeting to order.

Only one candidate came forward to fill the vacancy, Dan McKenna, who was in attendance and introduced himself to the Board of Selectmen and the Library Trustees. There was little discussion from the Selectmen.

Motion by Mr. Calderaro, second by Ms. Curtin and an 9-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint as a member of the Library Trustees effective immediately until the next Annual Town Election.

JOINT MEETING WITH SILVER LAKE KINGSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES TO FILL OPEN POSITION DUE TO RESIGNATION

Ms. Emberg explained that there was a resignation from the Silver Lake Regional School Committee, leaving a vacancy. The Silver Lake Regional School Committee is requested that a joint appointment be made with the Selectmen and the Silver Lake Regional School Committee to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Town Election.

Two candidates are interested in filling the vacancy; the following individuals are Sheila Vaughn and Chris Eklund.

Ms. Emily Davis called the Silverlake Regional School Committee meeting to order.

Ms. Vaughn told everyone that once she heard that Chris Eklund was the other candidate, she would like to withdraw her request as Mr. Eklund would be a great candidate as he has filled this seat for many years. Mr. Eklund was not in attendance.

Motion by Ms. Cortright, second by Mr. Shekane and an 8-0-0 vote, by roll call vote

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Chris Eklund as a member of the Silver Lake Regional School Committee effective immediately until the next Annual Town Election.

REQUEST FOR ROAD CLOSURE ON COUNTRY WAY ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

Ms. Emberg explained that Kate Duggan had received a request to close part of Country Way on September 23 from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM for a movie night. Ms. Duggan was in attendance and spoke about how it was a successful event last year. Ms. Emberg asked Ms. Duggan if there were any problems with cars trying to pass last year as the Chief of Police expressed concerns and asked that the event perhaps be held in someone's driveway rather than to close the road. Ms. Duggan stated that there were no issues at the last event when the road was closed.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the request from Kate Duggan for the partial closure of Country Way on September 23, 2022, from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM, with the following conditions:

1. Access to emergency vehicles is always to be maintained.
2. According to the attached map, the petitioner secures barricades and road closure signage from the Kingston Highway Department to be erected by the petitioner during the event.
 - o White Pine Lane @ Country Way – 2 Sawhorses, Road Closed Sign, 3 Orange Traffic Barrels.
 - o Woodland Avenue @ Country Way – 2 Sawhorses, Road Closed Sign, 3 Orange Traffic Barrels.
 - o At #6 Country Way – 2 Sawhorses, Road Closed Sign, 3 Orange Traffic Barrels.
3. The petitioner makes a notification to all of the neighborhood residents that are affected by the road closure.

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS ON CUSHMAN FARMS 40B SUBMISSION

Ms. Emberg explained this topic and that the department heads participated in a site visit on Friday, September 16th, with representatives from Mass. Housing and the developer. In addition, Department Heads met to review the development proposal and have drafted a letter outlining the Town's comments/concerns on behalf of the Selectmen to submit to Mass. Housing.

Town Planner Valerie Massard explained the process of a 40B and that the Selectmen can send a letter with comments, and that is what is before the Board tonight. Ms. Massard explained that water and sewer connections were discussed as they were not in the plans provided.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the letter to Mass. Housing as presented

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

ADVISORY VOTE REGARDING HOWLANDS LANE PROPERTY

Ms. Emberg explained that Board asked that Affordable Housing provide an update on the status of them

possibly purchasing this property in the future.

Town Treasurer Carl Pike addressed the Board and stated that he spoke to the auctioneer and tax title attorney on September 15 and noted that the discussion with him as well as the auctioneer, an auction of tax possessions at no cost to the Town is probably not feasible without including the Howland's Ave Hillside Club property.

If noted that if the Town decides to keep the property and transfer the property to the Affordable Housing Trust, it would require a Town Meeting Vote for that transfer.

Mr. Pike spoke of the security of the building, and if the Town keeps the building, he will request that a chain link fence be installed.

Ms. Kramer, who also sits on the Affordable Housing Trust as the Board of Selectmen seat, shared her screen and provided a presentation. The presentation provided information about the Affordable Housing Trust and that the trust is tasked with looking for opportunities to provide affordable housing. Affordable Housing Trust recognizes 4 Howlands Lane property as a potential opportunity to create new affordable housing units for our community.

Ms. Kramer discussed the map in the meeting packet and that some of the abutting properties are currently owned by the Hillside club and asked why they were not tax-title properties. Mr. Pike explained that they did not touch the other properties when the previous tax title custodian took 4 Howlands Lane.

Ms. Emberg stated that the Board needs to consider all possibilities for the property because once it is gone, it's gone. The Mr. Alcombright asked what are the ramifications if we waited until February. Mr. Pike would like to move forward with an auction in November of this year.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, second by Mr. Bouchard and a 4-1-0 vote, (Ms. Kramer abstained)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to advise the Tax Title Custodian not to include the Hillside Club in the tax title auction to be held later this year.

HIGH-LEVEL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Emberg explained that consistent with Kingston's General Bylaws, the Budget Advisory Board meeting must be held by October 1 of each year.

Ms. Emberg stated that, as the Chairman, she will be representing the Board of Selectmen but in order to do that, she would like to hear what the Board would like to see occur with the budget. In last year's discussion there was consideration to either level fund the budget or provide level services and she asked the Board members provide their input.

Town Accountant Carol McCoy was in attendance and stated that it was too early in the process for any discussions. The Board briefly discussed and members stated that they were concerned with inflation and rising costs. Ms. Kramer requested that as we look at budget for the upcoming year that we be very careful to avoid adding services that will recur for future years. Ms. Emberg thanked the Board for their thoughts and stated that she would share the Board's concerns at the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT BOARD OF HEALTH

Ms. Emberg explained that Elise Desmond submitted her resignation for employment from the Town as Administrative Assistant in Health effective September 23, 2022.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the resignation of Elise Desmond, Administrative Assistant Board of Health, effective September 23, 2022

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS FOR THE VETERAN'S DEPARTMENT

Ms. Emberg explained that the Veteran's Department is requesting that the Board accept the following donations:

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 to the Veteran's Department:

- \$100.00 donation from an anonymous donor
- \$100.00 donation from Den Forbes
- \$10.00 donation from Melissa Russel

- \$50.00 grocery gift cards from Carol and Marvin Nickerson

APPOINTMENT OF MARY BETH LAWTON AS KINGSTON'S GATRA REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Emberg explained that the Council on Aging Director has historically been Kingston's representative to the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA). With the recent resignation of the COA Director, this agenda item requests the Board to appoint Ms. Lawton GATRA Representative until the Transportation Assistant is hired.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Mary Beth Lawton as Kingston's GATRA Representative.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR - SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Mr. Hickey was not in attendance. The Board briefly spoke about the information provided.

Eversource has indicated they are interested in working with the Town to provide land abutting the Central Fire Station to construct a Police Station. Eversource would like to swap a similar piece of Town property rather than sell the property to the Town. Ms. Mitchell stated that she spoke with Chief Douglass, who was looking into this.

Streets, Trees, and Parks purchased and installed crosswalk signs at crosswalks on Main Street to make motorists more aware of an upcoming crosswalk and to be used as another tool to slow traffic.

MEETING MINUTES:

APPROVAL: OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 14, 2022 AND AUGUST 25, 2022

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the June 14, 2022 and August 25, 2022, Open Session Minutes.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Alcombright discussed that a stop sign would be added to the end of Country Club Way, where it meets with Brook Street.

Ms. Kramer added that the Librewerry event was terrific and the Agricultural Fair was a success.

Ms. Kramer asked about the timeline of the Gray's Beach playground as the old structure has been removed.

Mr. Hickey stated that the installation of the equipment is currently scheduled to go in this fall but the flooring cannot be completed until the spring.

Mr. Bouchard discussed that Mulliken's Landing project is underway and will provide the Board with updates as the project progresses.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

October 4th, 2022

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

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker
Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen
Approved: October 4, 2022

DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

Library Trustee Backup
School Committee Backup
Movie Night
Cushman 40B Information
Howlands Lane Property
Donation
Minutes
Town Administrator Report
Addendum