



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION
MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
October 10, 2023

6:00 p.m. – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Kimberley Emberg called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:15 p.m.—selectmen in attendance: Donald Alcombright, Sheila Vaughn, Tyler Bouchard, and Eric Crone.

Staff Present: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator; and Gloria Mitchell, Assistant Town Administrator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 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.
- Financial Assistance Applications are available on the town's website or by calling the Selectmen's Office.
- The Fall Town Meeting is on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the Kingston Intermediate School.
- The Board of Health is offering a flu clinic on October 18th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Town House. Pre-registration is required. Please call the Health Office at 781-585-0503 to register.
- The following Boards/Committees are looking for volunteers. Please reach out to the Board of Selectmen's office for more information
 - Affordable Housing Trust
 - Community Preservation Committee
 - Ichabod Washburn Fund Trustees
 - Kingston 300th Committee
 - Open Space Committee
 - Rent Control Board
 - Old Colony Elder Services Board of Directors
 - Meals on Wheels Program is looking for volunteers
- Upcoming Events
 - The last Chipping Day at the Transfer Station is October 21
- New Water Rates take effect on November 1, 2023. The increase will be reflected in the March 2024 quarterly bill.
- The Community Preservation Committee will be holding a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 12th at 6:30 pm to receive public input for the CPC Plan. Please see the CPC website for more information.

OPEN FORUM:

Ron Littif of 119 Barrows Drive discussed his issues about the conditions of the neighborhood, especially the roads.

Daniel Dennison of 176 Main Street brought to the attention of the Board the conditions of the sidewalks on Main Street and asked about the walk button at the intersection of Main and Brook Street.

APPOINTMENTS:

JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING BOARD TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATE TO FILL OPEN POSITION ON THE PLANNING BOARD DUE TO RESIGNATION

Ms. Emberg explained that Joanne Cullen resigned from the Planning Board in September, leaving a vacancy. The Planning Board is requesting to meet with the Selectmen to interview residents who are interested in filling the open seat before the next Annual Town Meeting. The process was explained by Ms. Emberg in terms of siting the applicable MGL and briefly reviewed how the vote will work.

Mr. Bouchard from the Planning Board called his meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

Alexander Graham was the only applicant and he spoke to the Boards and provided his background. Bob Gosling from the Planning Board asked Mr. Graham if he was planning on running in the spring for the election to which Mr. Graham stated he was. Mr. Bouchard thanked Mr. Graham for stepping up to volunteer.

Motion by Mr. Gavigan, seconded by Mr. Gossling, and a 9-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Alexander Graham as a member of the Kingston Planning Board effective immediately until the 2024 Annual Town Election.

Mr. Bouchard thanked Ms. Cullen for her years of service on the Planning Board and to the Town of Kingston and wished her all the best. The Planning Board adjourned their meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR NEW ALL-ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR PAISANO'S RESTAURANT

Ms. Emberg explained that the Selectmen's Office received an application for an all-alcohol restaurant license and common victualler license from Paisano's Restaurant Inc. It was noted that the application was given to all department heads for review and the Health Agent has not signed off on this as the owner has not gone to the Board of Health for a food establishment permit, plan review, and restaurant walk-through.

Attorney David Lawler was in attendance and explained that he understands they need to have Board of Health Approval.

Ms. Emberg read the public hearing notice:

In accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 138, a public hearing will be held on October 10th at 6:00 pm in Room 200 at the Town House, 26 Evergreen St, Kingston MA., on the application of Paisano's Restaurant Inc., Maria Sapundjioski, Manager for a new retail all alcohol beverage license. Said license is located at 6 Pembroke Street, Kingston, MA, and is described as a wood frame structure consisting of a kitchen, two restrooms, a bar area, and two dining areas. This is a one-floor establishment, with 4 exits, and table seating for 134 guests with an occupancy of 154. A copy of the application is available for viewing in the Selectmen's Office.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to open the public hearing.

David Gavigan is an abutter and was in attendance and asked about entertainment. Attorney Lawler stated that they were not planning to host outdoor entertainment at this time.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to close the public hearing.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve all alcohol license and common victualler license for Paisano's Restaurant Inc. located at 6 Pembroke Street contingent on final approval from the Board of

Health.

APPROVAL OF ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE, KINGSTON COLLECTION – The Bartending Service of New England LLC is requesting a One Day Beer and Wine Liquor License for a Sip and Stroll event on December 2, 2023, at Kingston Collection.

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

VOTE: I move to approve the request from The Bartending Service of New England LLC for a One Day Beer and Wine Liquor License for the Sip and Stroll event taking place on December 2, 2023, at Kingston Collection from 12 pm-5 pm.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY COMPACT GRANT TO STUDY THE FULL REGIONALIZATION OF THE KINGSTON AND SILVER LAKE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Mr. Hickey discussed that the School Committee voted at their meeting last week to support applying for grant funding to study regionalizing. The Town of Halifax Selectmen have voted in support of applying for grant funds to study regionalizing. The Town of Plympton does not appear to support the study. Mr. Hickey is asking for the Board's support to apply for grant funding to study the impacts of regionalizing the District.

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

VOTE: I move to support submitting a Community Compact Grant application for the purpose of studying the benefits and drawbacks of fully regionalizing the School District.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

APPOINTMENT TO COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD

Ms. Emberg that the Selectmen's Office received a request from Mary Harriman to be appointed to the Council on Aging Advisory Board. The Council on Aging Board discussed this at their September 12th meeting and voted unanimously to recommend Ms. Harriman be appointed.

Ms. Emberg discussed that although Ms. Harriman resides outside of Kingston, there are no residency requirements, and this was confirmed by Town Counsel.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Mary Harriman to the Council on Aging Advisory Board effective immediately until June 30, 2026

APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE LIBRARIAN AND WATER DEPARTMENT REPAIR PERSON

Ms. Emberg explained that the position of Substitute Librarian is a standing position at the library, the Director recruits individuals when the pool of individuals runs low, and these are filled on an as-needed basis. After the recruitment process, Donald Colon is requesting the hiring of Elizabeth Dube for the position.

The position of Water Department repair person was vacant due to a resignation to move to a higher position. After the recruitment process, Chris Veracka is requesting the transfer of William Duggan to the position.

Motion by Ms. Vaughn, seconded by Mr. Crone, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Elizabeth Dube, to the position of Substitute Librarian, a FY24 Schedule C1, less than part-time position as part of the Wage and Personnel Bylaw, with the Kingston Public Library with an anticipated start date of October 11, 2023, consistent with the terms of the offer letter.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint William Duggan, to the position of Water Department as a Repair Person, an FY24 Grade 3, Step 6 full-time nonexempt position as part of the Kingston Town Employee Union - Labor with an anticipated start date of October 16, 2023, consistent with the terms of the offer letter.

POSSIBLE RECONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

Ms. Emberg explained that Since the Board voted to support Fall Town Meeting warrant articles, the Finance and Capital Planning Committees have met and voted on the articles that pertain to them. The Board Chairs have placed this item on the agenda to discuss any articles the Board may want to reconsider.

Ms. Emberg said that there were only a few changes. The Board reviewed the changes and decided not to revote.

Jeanne Coleman was in attendance to discuss the budget article and was asking if the timeline was realistic for the school committee for their budget and discussed their struggle to adhere with the current bylaw due to not having enrollment numbers or numbers from the state so early.

Mr. Hickey mentioned that the Sewer Commissioners are considering amending their article.

DISCUSSION ON ESTABLISHING SELECTMEN'S FY25 BUDGET PARAMETERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Ms. Emberg explained that the Budget Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 11th. The Board Chair will represent the Board at that meeting. The Board should discuss any specific budget parameters they would like considered by the Budget Advisory Board at their meeting.

Mr. Crone stated education and public safety are a priority to him. The other Board members agreed that those are a priority for them as well.

Mr. Hickey explained that the conversation won't get too deep as there isn't enough information to do so but is a high-level discussion.

POLICE CHIEF SEARCH UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

Mr. Bouchard discussed the working group met on Friday and it was very productive. The posting will be out this week and will reconvene in 30 days.

Mr. Crone will be doing an online survey for residents and will speak to some department heads.

UPDATE FROM THE MBTA TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

Committee members will update the Board on the latest information related to the proposed MBTA zoning.

OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 31, 2023

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Mr. Crone, and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the open session meeting minutes of August 31, 2023.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hickey read from his report:

Financial Updates

- Free Cash for 2024 was certified by the Department of Revenue. Below are the Free Cash amounts for each fund along with General Fund Free Cash for 2020-2023.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Free Cash Amount</u>
General Fund	\$3,494,036
Water	\$97,660
Wastewater	\$93,676
Renewable Energy	\$9,401

Fiscal Year

2023	\$3,644,017
2022	\$2,067,369
2021	\$3,246,412
2020	\$2,318,244

- Another example of Kingston’s good financial condition is excess property tax levy capacity.

Project Updates

- The Playground Project is complete and open to the public. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 19th at 4:00 p.m. to acknowledge and thank all those involved with this cooperative project. All are welcome to attend.
- Kingston has contracted with the Old Colony Planning Council to perform an intensive corridor study with the Planning Office, the business community, boards and committees of the town, and residents starting this fall. The study will identify, quantify, and study in-depth the Route 3A Corridor in Kingston from the Duxbury Town Line to the Plymouth Town Line, including Route 53:

Traffic patterns, including commuting and shopping patterns for vehicular traffic to enhance traffic flow, transportation service needs, and safety will be a major part of the study and will take into consideration the new intensity of development in Plymouth's center and Cordage Park, the new apartment and future redevelopment of the Kingston Collection, and planned improvements to the Smiths' Lane bridge and Exit 20. Service functionality of intersections for patterns of movements, and bicycle and pedestrian safety will be included, along with public outreach.

This will complement, and support, the top ten recommendations being developed by the Town-wide traffic safety plan being developed by Environmental Partners for the Planning and Highway Departments working together with the Town Administrator, putting the town into a strong position to seek additional funding for potential improvements and for requesting specific state improvements on state roads through a cooperative effort. This Environmental Partners study is taking into account existing trails and trailheads, paths, and open space goals in the new plan which will enhance the overall impact of this comprehensive project.

Land use patterns, including zoning and economic development patterns, will be evaluated simultaneously, to evaluate and recommend possible planning and zoning considerations to positively impact the town fiscally and aesthetically, which will be included in the outreach and study components. Economic gaps – needs – will be identified so that recommendations relative to land use patterns can be identified. These recommendations will address housing and non-residential uses, needs, and goals/considerations.

Importantly, the Jones River and Sea Level Rise considerations will be incorporated into the planning considerations for both transportation and land use.

This study will further address several overlapping goals of the 2017 Master Plan:

- Traffic Safety and Congestion – new development in downtown and north Plymouth making use of the 3A corridor and other state-owned corridors, and the redevelopment of the Kingston Collection, will also be built into the considerations.
- Improving zoning for businesses, improving sidewalk, bike land, and pathway networks, and a mix of housing choices
- Support reinvestment on commercial/industrial properties
- Take consideration of wetlands and flood-prone areas and areas mapped as potentially impacted by sea level rise – adding protection where feasible against property damage
- Positioning the town to apply for and receive grant funding to address all of these issues, including open space planning along the corridor.

Personnel Update

- There are no personnel updates this week.

Miscellaneous Updates

- Police Chief Splaine, Town Planner Valarie Massard, and I met with the Duxbury Highway Safety Committee to discuss limiting truck traffic on Landing and Bay Roads. Duxbury was receptive to the concept and invited Kingston staff to the Old Colony Planning back for further discussion at their November meeting.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Emberg asked about Exit 20 engineering and Mr. Hickey stated that MassDOT feels a rotary is more appropriate. Mr. Hickey mentioned that no more funds should be provided from the Town for engineering as we already contributed what was requested of us.

Motion by Mr. Bouchard, second by Mr. Alcombright, and a 5-0-0 vote,
VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker
Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda
Agenda Addendum
Planning Board Applicant
New License Information
New Hire Information
Town Meeting Warrant
Donation
Minutes