



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
APRIL 22, 2025

6:00 p.m. – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Eric Crone called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:00 p.m.—selectmen in attendance: Tyler Bouchard, Donald Alcombright, and Melissa Bateman.

Staff Present: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator and Patricia Tucker, Assistant to Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. This meeting is being recorded by The Local Seen. Anyone who intends 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. For anyone interested in volunteering, there are several vacancies on various boards and committees. Please check the website for a listing.
4. Please check our website for any additional events or notices www.kingstonma.gov
 - Town Meeting April 26, 2025
 - Town Election May 17, 2025
5. Agricultural Commission is hosting Vegetable Gardening 101 – Wednesday, April 30th at 7pm at the Kingston Council on Aging.

OPEN FORUM:

Will Cushman of 273 Main Street was in attendance to talk about the spring play being held on Thursday, May 1st and Friday May 2nd of Mama Mia being presented by the Silver Lake Drama Club.

APPOINTMENTS:

Consideration and Possible Vote on a One Year Employment Contract with Deputy Fire Chief, Adam Hatch

Mr. Crone discussed that included in the Board materials is the proposed employment contract between the Town of Kingston and Deputy Fire Chief, Adam Hatch. The contract was negotiated by Fire Chief Douglass.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to approve the employment contract between the Town of Kingston and Deputy Fire Chief Adam Hatch as presented.

Consideration of Early Voting for Annual Town Election

Mr. Hickey discussed that the Board has the ability to allow early voting, this year the Clerk is suggesting that there is not a need for early voting, residents have the ability to absentee vote in the Clerk's office.

The Town Clerk is recommending the Selectmen not approve early voting and stated that voters have been allowed in the past to vote early by submitting an absentee ballot. To be eligible to vote absentee, a voter would need to be away from your city or town on Election Day, have a religious belief that prevents you from voting at your polling location on Election Day or have a disability that prevents you from voting at your polling location.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to not approve early voting for the May 2025 Annual Town Election.

Request from Town Clerk to Approve and Post the Warrant for the Saturday, May 17, 2025, Annual Town Election

Mr. Crone stated that the Board of Selectmen are required by State law to accept and post the Annual Town Election Warrant. Town Clerk Paul Gallagher recommends the election warrant that is included in the Board materials.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve and authorize the Town Clerk to post the Annual Town Election Warrant scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2025, as presented by the Town Clerk.

6:00PM Public Hearing: Petition from NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy, proposing to relocate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures on Marion Drive

Mr. Crone discussed that Verizon New England Inc. and NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy, is requesting permission to locate and relocate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways: in Right of Way Marion Drive.

Mr. Crone read the public hearing notice:

Notice is hereby given that the Kingston Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the Petition W/O# 15039504 from NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy, requesting permission to locate and relocate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways:

Three (3) new FO Poles 552/2, 552/3 & 552/5 with push brace, back guy and anchors in Right of Way of Marion Road

The hearing shall take place on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, and the meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Room 200 at the Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, MA. People interested are invited to attend and be heard in this matter.

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

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

Julie Long from Eversource was in attendance.

Mr. Crone asked if they are replacing and Ms. Long stated that they are new poles.

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

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

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the request from NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy, permission to locate and relocate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways:

Three (3) new FO Poles 552/2, 552/3 & 552/5 with push brace, back guy and anchors in Right of Way of Marion Road

Request for Change of Officers for Liquor License

Mr. Crone stated that Regal Cinemas, Inc is requesting a change of officers for the liquor license. This request was originally made and approved by the Selectmen on December 3, 2024. The ABCC requested additional information from Regal that was not provided and required Regal to submit a new liquor license application. This request is the new application.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the request from Regal Cinemas, Inc., dba Regal Cinemas Independence Mall 14 for a change in officers for their All-Alcoholic Beverages License.

Approval of April Licenses Bowling – Billiard Table

Mr. Crone stated that included in the Board materials is a summary of all annual April license renewals that have been submitted by Kingston businesses. The Summary also includes the type licenses that have been applied for by each business. There was no discussion.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Bouchard and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the annual licenses as printed in the meeting packet.

Request to Refinance an Affordable Living Unit

Mr. Crone stated that the owners of the property at 27 Bog View Road purchased the property through an affordable living unit lottery through the Office of Housing and Livable Communities. The owners would like to refinance their property and are required to receive approval from the Board of Selectmen.

The Board had no discussion.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the request from the owner of 27 Bog View Road to refinance their property with the following stipulations:

- The interest rate on the loan be a fixed rate;
- The principal loan amount should not exceed \$242,000.00; and
- Obtaining prior written approval of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Further, give the Town Administrator the authority to sign the letter notifying the property owner of the Board's decision to on behalf of the Selectmen.

Acceptance of Donation to the Council on Aging and Animal Control

Mr. Crone mentioned that the COA and Animal Control have both received donations and are asking the Board to accept:

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the following donations to the Kingston Council on Aging in memory of Mary Boman:

- \$25 from Bruce Davenport
- \$50 from Barbara Holmes and Julie Fishman
- \$15 from S.G. Keaney
- \$100 from Joyce & Geoffrey Stewart"

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to accept the donation of 10x10 pop up tent estimated value of \$100 from an anonymous donor to Animal Control.

6:15 PM Public Hearing: Street Acceptance of Timber Ridge and Sequoia Dr.

Mr. Crone stated that the 34 South Street Homeowners Association Trust has brought forth their request for the Town to accept Timber Ridge and Sequoia Dr. as Town roads. Residents worked with Town Planner, Valerie Massard to provide all the

necessary documentation for the process.

Mr. Crone read the public hearing notice

The Kingston Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing at the Kingston Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, MA, on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. to discuss acceptance of Timber Ridge and Sequoia Dr. as shown on a plan entitled "Tall Timbers Estates (Phase V) prepared by Mckenzie Engineering Group, dated September 5, 2018. The plan may be viewed prior to the meeting at the Board of Selectmen office during regular business hours.

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

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

Mr. Hickey discussed that the residents are looking to have their road accepted. It was discussed that the next step of the property owners is to have them get 90% effective approval to accept the cost of the improvements. Mr. Hickey stated the estimated cost of the improvements will be roughly \$5,000.

Ms. Massard stated the money would be to satisfy the next step, which is for a survey to have this recordable.

Nick Lancione of 17 Sequoia Drive, few of the reasons they built to the town standards, biking and running paths, out of the 34 percent of the residents in the streets have children.

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

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

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to approve the request from 34 South Street Homeowners Association Trust to move to the next step withing the Road Acceptance Policy.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Renewal of Razor Clam Licenses and Request to Reduce the Number of Available Licenses and Approve Updated Regulations

Mr. Crone discussed that annually, the Board of Selectmen awards up to 11 razor clam licenses. Similar to Town mornings, razor clam licenses have historically been awarded to the license holders from the previous year, unless they are no longer interested.

Mr. Crone continued to say that the Board asked the Shellfish Constable to recommend a minimum number of shellfish to be harvested by each license holder to retain their license the following year. The Shellfish Constable is recommending that a minimum is not required since there is not a waiting line for a license, feeling it would be counterproductive to impose a minimum catch on them

Also Mr. Cullivan made a few updates to the regulations he would like approved; the redlined document is within the Board materials.

Pamela Taylor	Matthew Wheble	John Wheble
Thomas Taylor	Ben Lansing	Jaime McEnroe
Karen Wheble	Scott McEnroe	Tyler Putney

The Board had minimal discussion.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the renewal of nine razor clam licenses of the individuals listed above for the term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, set the license fee at \$300.00 and reduce the number of available licenses to 9.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the updated Razor Clam Regulations as presented.

Authorization to Advertise and Appoint, on the Board's Behalf, One Civil Service Lateral Transfer of a Full-Time Police Officer

Mr. Crone mentioned that Police Chief Brian Holmes is requesting authorization to advertise and appoint a civil service lateral transfer of a full-time police officer. This action is a fail-safe that would allow, to appoint one full time police officer in the event that something unexpectedly happen that prevents the full-time appointment of future new hires. Chief Holmes provided a memo that is in the Board materials.

Chief Holmes stated that everything is the memo, this would alleviate any delays.

The Board had no discussion.

Motion by Mr. Bouchard, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 3-0-1 vote, (Ms. Bateman abstained)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen authorize the Chief of Police to advertise and appoint a Lateral Transfer of one full time civil service police officer on behalf of the Board.

Authorization to Establish a Range for Firearms Training and Mandatory Qualifications on Town-Owned Property

Mr. Crone discussed that in the Board materials is a memo from Det. Lt. Micheal Skowyra detailing this request.

Det. Lt. Skowyra was in attendance and presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board.

Mr. Crone asked about the train, and Lt. Skowyra answered that this is visible from the train.

Interim Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks Shawn Turner, wrote a letter in support and noted the work that his department can complete for the project.

Ms. Emberg in her absence shared her comments with Mr. Crone so that he could read it tonight which, is that she feels this should be a public hearing so that that the neighbors can have the information prior to the Board voting.

Mr. Hickey asked about the timing of use. Det. Skowyra stated the intent would be to use this primarily when the transfer station is closed. There may be a chance for this to be in use every day of the week, but they will do their best to coordinate with the transfer station hours.

Mr. Crone asked about how many shots would be roughly 2,000 rounds when all officers are involved in mandatory training. Mr. Alcombright and Mr. Bouchard both stated they support but understand why a public hearing would be beneficial to the residents.

The Board decided to have a public hearing next meeting and have it advertised on the website.

Request for Six - One Day Liquor Licenses from 42nd Parallel Brewing Co for Grays Beach Music Nights

Mr. Crone discussed that Stephen Darby of 42nd Parallel Brewing Co is requesting a one-day liquor licenses for Gray's Beach Music Nights at Gray's Beach on June 24, 2025, July 8, 2025, July 22, 2025, August 5, 2025, August 19, 2025 and September 2, 2025 from 6:00pm-8pm. Provided with the application that was signed off on by the Chief of Police and Fire is a certificate of insurance. Recreation Director Susan Woodworth requested to approve this request with any rain dates that may be necessary.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Alcombright and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the six (6) one-day liquor license requests from Stephen Darby of 42nd Parallel Brewing Co for Gray's Beach Music Nights at Gray's Beach for June 24, 2025, July 8, 2025, July 22, 2025, August 5, 2025, August 19, 2025 and September 2, 2025 from 6:00pm-8pm along with any rain dates that may be determined by the Recreation Commission.

Appointment of Wastewater Laborer

Mr. Crone discussed that due to a promotion within the Wastewater Department there is a vacancy. After the recruitment process, Superintendent David Walsh is recommending the hiring of Ryan McKee to the position.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 4-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to appoint Ryan McKee to the position of Wastewater Laborer full-time, Grade 3, Step 3, nonexempt position within KTEU Labor with the Wastewater Department with an anticipated start date of April 28, 2025 contingent with the terms in the offer letter.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hickey read from his report:

Financial Updates

- Kingston was recently notified that grants were received for the following purposes:
 - a. Student Awareness of Fire Education \$4,682
 - b. Senior Awareness of Fire Education \$2,200
 - c. Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant \$4,554
- The existing contract for paving was renewed for the second and last year at a price of \$95.48 per ton. The current rate, if a new bid was solicited, would be approximately \$112 per ton.

Project Updates

- The final paving on Main Street is currently being installed. Work is expected through Friday, April 25th from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. There will be delays because of alternating traffic with possible detours. Ramp closures on and off Route 3 will occur one or two days during the project.
- Acting Streets, Trees and Parks Superintendent Shawn Turner will present his list of recommended roads to be paved during the next few month at the Board's May 6th meeting.
- The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has awarded Kingston a \$44,000 grant to update the Town's Housing Production Plan and Housing Needs Assessment (a required plan under the State's Executive Orders for compliance regarding housing). Local Match is provided by the Affordable Housing Trust and the Planning Board (through its public benefit accounts) totaling \$12,000. Old Colony Planning Council will be the contractor to perform this work. The update is expected to be completed by April 2026.

Personnel Update

- There are no personnel updates this week.

Miscellaneous Updates

- There are no miscellaneous updates this week.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

It was discussed that Town Meeting is Saturday beginning at 9am at the Kingston Intermediate School.

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

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tucker

Assistant to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda

Agenda Addendum

Town Administrator Report

Public Hearing NSTAR

Change of Officer Information

Street Acceptance

Memo from Shellfish Constable

Memo from Police Chief

Contract Deputy Fire Chief

April Licenses

Firearm Range Request

Memo from Town Clerk

One Day Liquor Request

Donations

Offer Letter