



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
May 6, 2025

6:00 p.m. – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Eric Crone called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:02 p.m.—selectmen in attendance: Tyler Bouchard, Kimberley Emberg, 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
 - o Town Elections – May 17, 2025
5. Mr. Crone thanked Tyler Bouchard for his service as a Selectmen for the last 3 years. Along with thanking him for his service he listed his contributions during his time.
6. Ms. Emberg thanked everyone who participated in the Keep Kingston Clean Event.

OPEN FORUM:

Will Cushman of Main Street attended virtually and asked about the noise ordinance in Town. Mr. Hickey stated that he would follow up on Wednesday.

APPOINTMENTS:

6:00pm Dangerous Dog Hearing

Attorney Steve Chaplin provided context for the complaint process and discussed that this dog was a part of a discussion last year during the summer.

The owners 2 dogs were found dangerous at that time and remedial measures were given to the owner. These conditions were:

1. Bert and Hank shall be confined to the premises of their keeper; provided, however, that "confined" shall mean securely confined indoors or confined outdoors in a securely enclosed and locked pen or dog run area upon the premises; provided further, that such pen or dog run shall have a secure roof and, if such enclosure has no floor secured to the sides thereof, the sides shall be embedded into the ground for not less than 2 feet; and provided further, that within the confines of such pen or dog run, a dog house or proper shelter from the elements shall be provided to protect the dogs;
2. Ms. Goldstein shall provide proof of insurance in an amount not less than \$100,000 insuring her against any claim, loss, damage or injury to persons, domestic animals or property resulting from the acts, whether intentional or unintentional, of Bert or Hank or proof that reasonable efforts were made to obtain such insurance if a policy has not been issued; provided, however, that if a policy of insurance has been issued, Ms. Goldstein shall produce such policy upon request of the hearing authority or a justice of the district court; and provided further, that if a policy has not been issued Ms. Goldstein shall produce proof of efforts to obtain such insurance; and
3. Unless Ms. Goldstein provides evidence that a veterinarian is of the opinion Bert and Hank are unfit for alterations because

of a medical condition, Ms. Goldstein shall cause Bert and Hank to be altered so that they shall not be reproductively intact.

Atty Chaplin discussed that the enclosure has only been in place for a week, so he suggested that to make the best use of everybody's time he has made a few suggestions since the insurance is being requested again as they were denied prior:

- Put this hearing over for a period in the future
- Take supplement testimony from the victim
- Proceed with hearing

Mr. Crone asked the victim if he would like to speak.

Mr. Stangellini was sworn in by Atty Chaplin who asked about the events on or about March 29th.

Mr. Stangellini provided background that he purchased the property in 2023 and built his home in 2024, since there was no other home in the area the dogs initially had free rein to run.

In June 2024, he had an incident with one of the dogs.

In March 2025, Mr. Stangellini stated he pulled in his driveway with his 2 dogs in the car, Bert followed his car into the driveway and when he got out, the dog lunged at him, Mr. Stangellini yelled, and the dog took off. When he took his dogs out of the car 3 minutes later, the same dog charged again.

The Board had no questions.

Ms. Carroll was sworn in and addressed the Board, who was not home at the time of the incident. She noted that there has been a fence for the last year, it just was not approved by the ACO.

Ms. Carroll stated there is liability insurance on her homeowners and will provide the information to the Board.

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move that the Board of Selectmen re-affirm and ratify its decision of July 30, 2024, including its prior finding that Bert is a Dangerous Dog as the term is defined in M.G.L. c. 140, § 136A.

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move that the Board of Selectmen continue this matter until July 1, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. for further consideration as to what additional remedial measures, if any, will be ordered pursuant to M.G.L. c. 140, § 157.

Approval of New Common Victualler License Slacktide Coffee Roasters

Mr. Crone stated that Slacktide Coffee Roasters is requesting a new common victualler license. The said application will be at 269 Pembroke Street, (formally Nino's Deli) for the hours of 6:00am – 3:30pm

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the new common victualler license for Slacktide Coffee Roasters, contingent on final approval from the Board of Health, until December 31, 2025.

Presentation of Recommended Streets to be Resurfaced in 2025

This item will be moved until the next meeting.

6:15 pm Public Hearing for Authorization to Establish a Range for Firearms Training and Mandatory Qualifications on Town-Owned Property

Det. Skowyra was in attendance.

Doug Dondero of 14 Copper Beach Drive was in attendance to hear about this proposal.

Mr. Crone asked about the location as it relates to the Kingston Schools, Det. Skowyra stated that it is about 1,000 ft away. The School Committee asked if most of the work would not be done during school hours.

Det. Skowyra stated that the schools will hear it, but they will not be impacted, it was discussed that the Police will notify the schools if they plan on having a long day at the range.

Ms. Emberg stated the residents that have reached out to her would like the days/times to be limited so they are aware.

Det. Lt. Skowyra stated that he doesn't feel that the noise is going to be such a nuisance.

He noted that Conservation Agent, Matt Penella found a vernal pool and realized that the standoff changed the size of the staging area slightly from the original map that was presented at the last meeting.

Ms. Emberg asked about notifying the public. Det. Skowyra doesn't want to commit but it doesn't seem like it will be a problem to notify the public on the days that there will be the big training with a number of officers.

Mr. Dondero asked about other properties in Town and after some discussion the Board and Det. Skowyra stated the properties he discussed will work.

Mr. Dondero discussed the proposed new development on Copper Beach Drive.

Det. Skowyra discussed the proposed 40B projects that came before the Board in 2022. If the project does get approved, the loss to the Town would not have any impact as it is very minimal. There are work arounds if a possible new development is approved such as written permission from the owners, special legislation or getting special approval from ConCom.

Mr. Crone stated this is a low risk as there is not a lot of money put into the creation of this.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the use of Town property located at north-western portion of Parcel 66-50, also known as "Off Cranberry Road" north of the Transfer Station and north-west of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, for the purposes of establishing, operating and maintaining a firing range for the Kingston Police Department, contingent to the Conservation Commission's approval, if the proposed project is within Commission jurisdiction.

Request for One Day Liquor Licenses from Independent Fermentations Brewing LLC

Mr. Crone stated that Independent Fermentations Brewing LLC is requesting a one-day malt and wine for Food Truck & Artisan Festival at Kingston Collection on May 17, 2025, from 10am-2pm.

The Board had no discussion.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the one-day liquor license request from Paul Nixon of Independent Fermentation Brewing LLC for Kingston Collections Food Truck & Artisan Festival on May 17, 2025, from 10am-2pm."

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Appointment of COA Van Driver

Mr. Crone stated that the COA has multiple vacancies for COA Van Driver. After the recruitment process, Holly Nighelli the COA Director is recommending the hiring of Eileen Bolger to the position.

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

VOTE: I move to appoint Eileen Bolger to the position of COA Van Driver a Grade 3, Step 2, nonexempt position within KTEU Labor with the Council on Aging Department with an anticipated start date of May 5, 2025, contingent with the terms in the offer letter.

Appointment of Assistant Director of Elder Affairs

Mr. Crone discussed that due to a promotional hire, the position of Assistant Director of Elder Affairs is vacant. After the recruitment process, Holly Nighelli, COA Director is recommending the hiring of Stacy Driscoll to the position.

Ms. Nighelli spoke a few words regarding Ms. Driscoll and her background.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by M and a 5-0-0 vote,

VOTE: I move to appoint Stacy Driscoll to the position of Assistant Director of Elder Affairs, a Schedule D-5 exempt position as part of the Wage and Personnel Bylaw with an anticipated start date of May 12, 2025, contingent with the terms in the offer letter.

Request to Deem Streets, Trees, and Parks Vehicle Lift and 2012 Ford 550-Surplus Equipment

Mr. Crone discussed that Streets, Trees and Parks is requesting the Board to deem the Mohawk 25R 25,000 lb., 4 Post Truck lift and the 2012 Ford F-550 as surplus equipment. The truck lift is being requested to be recycled as it is in distressed and a liability. The Ford F-550 is being requested to auction off.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen declare the Mohawk 25R 25,000 lb., 4 Post Truck lift and a 2012 F-550 as surplus.

Review Annual Town Meeting Results

Mr. Crone discussed that at the annual Town Meeting; the voters chose not to create a Department of Public Works. Based on that result, the Town Administrator is seeking direction from the Selectmen on the appropriate path of either filling the Superintendent of Streets, Trees, and Parks or continue to pursue a Department of Public Works.

The article was voted down at the Town Meeting and at the time of the vote, there were less than 100 voters, in Mr. Crone's opinion they should move forward with this process of having this be on the Fall Town Meeting.

The Board discussed that they heard comments regarding the job description from residents at Town Meeting so they will work on updating and communicating more often with both the Board and the public.

Mr. Crone discussed that Mr. Turner is currently handling both jobs, interim superintendent as well as foreman.

Mr. Hickey discussed that he would like to work with him, to see if there is an individual that could be interim foreman, and then possibly a seasonal laborer to help alleviate the current workload for Mr. Turner.

Ms. Emberg noted that Mr. Turner is doing a great job.

Mr. Hickey will speak to Mr. Turner regarding the next steps.

Approval of Silver Lake Parcel

Mr. Crone discussed that at the 2023 Fall Town Meeting, the transfer of a surplus parcel of land owned by the Silver Lake Reginal School District to the Town of Kingston was approved as part of the upcoming Lake Street culvert replacement and stormwater improvement project. This agenda item is requesting the Board of Selectmen accept the property for municipal purposes.

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

VOTE: I hereby move that the Board of Selectmen accept, for municipal purposes, as authorized pursuant to Article 16 of the October 24, 2023, Special Town Meeting warrant and further to authorize the Chair, to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the acquisition of said property.

Appointment of Interim Tax Collector

The elected position of Tax Collector expires on May 17, 2025. The position will be interim until next year when a dually appointed position of Treasurer/Collector will be hired.

The Board discussed timing and that if the position of Treasurer is not appointed by the next election, they will need to appoint an interim Treasurer until Jul 1, 2026 as well.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen to appoint Kenneth Moalli as Interim Tax Collector until July 1, 2026.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hickey read from his report:

Financial Updates

- There are no financial updates this week

Project Updates

- I have begun organizing the first Regional School Study Committee meeting. The meeting is tentatively May 13th. The meeting will be held in Kingston and broadcast by the Local Scene.
- Olde Colony Planning will be conducting a corridor safety study in Kingston and Plymouth starting this summer on Route 80. Travelers may notice traffic counters across the road during the summer/fall.

Personnel Update

- There are no personnel updates this week.

Miscellaneous Updates

- The Kingston Sewer Commission will hold a public hearing on May 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM in Room 200 of the Town Hall, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, to discuss and vote on Sewer Rates, Charges, Fees and Civil Penalties and Sewer Rules and Regulations, Special Assessments, Betterment, Privilege Fees and amendments.
- MassDEP performed their annual inspection of the Transfer Station this past week. All Transfer Station activities were approved during the inspection. Thanks to the Transfer Station employees for their efforts.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Emberg mentioned Tax Title Custodian, Jim Franklin had reached out, and Mr. Hickey noted that there is an agenda item in 2 weeks for an update from him.

Mr. Bouchard spoke a few words and thanked the Town of Kingston who elected him to the position, and he enjoyed serving the Town. He is proud of the current Board and how they disagree well, remain colleagues, and friends. Mr. Bouchard thanked Mr. Hickey, Chief Douglass, and Chief Holmes for their support.

Mr. Alcombright, we would like to start an open dialogue with Sewer and Water Commissions regarding their self-imposed water restrictions.

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

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 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
Dangerous Dog Hearing Information
Common Vic Application
Presentation
Public Hearing Presentation
One Liquor Request
Offer Letters
Memo from Streets, Trees and Parks