



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
ROOM 200, TOWN HALL & VIA ZOOM
JULY 31, 2025

3:45 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Erlandsen attended the meeting via ZOOM and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Kostka to call the meeting to order.

In attendance were Commissioner Loring, Superintendent Chris Veracka and Clerk Stacey Smith. There were several members of the community and town hall employees in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION REGARDING WATER MORATORIUM

Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to rescind the water moratorium as issued in April 2023. Vice Chairman Kostka seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Kostka proceeded to read a prepared statement regarding the board's position to rescind the moratorium. He stated this is based on new information provided to the water department through multiple sources. He stated an independent engineering evaluation of the KWD permitted water capacity to withdraw from existing wells has been submitted for review. He added, this review references permitted but previously unidentified water from two of our wells. He continued, that this capacity is adequate to provide for any loss of the Trackle Pond Well. This new information and the timely permitting of the new well supports the lifting of the moratorium. New information based on the 2025 Old Colony Regional Planning Study focuses on regional water conditions and brought to our attention the security and additional water supply needed to lift the moratorium. He stated additionally, drinking water quality effluent will be deposited daily into the water shed of Smelt Pond, opposite the Zone 2 of both Grassy Hole and I-86 wells by the sewer department, offsetting over 350K gallons of withdrawal daily.

Vice Chairman Kostka added, the mall is on the verge of adding a substantial tenant. Time is of the essence, tenants need access to town water held back by the moratorium. He said lifting the moratorium will not immediately impact our use as it will take months to negotiate contracts, develop plans and initiate construction. He added, taking a small risk to benefit the town as a whole is what is needed.

Chairman Erlandsen stated he was in favor of ending the moratorium. He feels this was a proactive step when it was initiated. However, he believes there may be less invasive tools to explore. He added that development plans have been placed on hold due to the moratorium. His hope is the Kingston Water Department can sit down with the Mass DEP to come up with solutions.

Commissioner Loring stated over 40 years ago, himself and two other men decided, when the original Board of Water Commissioners resigned due to a fight with the selectmen, to have an independent department. The goal was to provide adequate potable water to the residents of the town. He stated when the moratorium was put in place it was due because the town did not want to see the water commissioners take a piece of land by eminent domain. He continued to recite events related to the purchase of the property on which a new well is currently in design and engineering to be built. Three years later, the Kingston Water Department finalized a purchase for 150K. He said he is opposed to lifting the moratorium. He fears if the moratorium is lifted and development exceeds our current capacity, we are still only in the design of the new well. There is no guarantee the town will vote for the funding of the construction of the well. He would be in favor of lifting the moratorium once the design of the new well is complete, Mass DEP has granted approval and the funding for construction is acquired.

Commissioner Loring stated the Mass DEP is ready to take enforcement action. He recited the history of how, when the sewer was installed, an entire stretch of roughly 100 homes were left off of the sewer on Main St, an area that could

negatively affect the Jones River, by not being in the sewer system and was left out of both phases. He added the sewer commission's engineers have deemed that the Kingston Water Department can pump two wells at the same time, with the largest well offline. However, Kingston Water Department has not received any guidance from the Mass DEP advising us of such. Commissioner Loring stated at last week's Commissioner's meeting on July 22nd, the commission voted to wait until the next meeting on August 12th to discuss lifting the moratorium, and he feels we should do that.

Chairman Erlandsen said as much as he would've liked to wait until the August meeting, he was prepared to vote on this at the last meeting, and we held off due to concerns mentioned by another member of the board.

Commissioner Loring added, the town administrator and town counsel both agreed at the last meeting that the Board of Water Commissioners should wait until we receive something in writing from the Mass DEP.

Vice Chairman Kostka stated the reason for jumping the meeting was because a very large potential vendor could be entering the mall and indicated they were anxious to begin. However, they were looking at another site that would give Kingston all the issues of having a large store there with no increase to the tax base. He feels strongly this large business at the mall could help to increase the commercial tax base, which would help the town. He added, at the time the moratorium was placed, we did not have the land for the well. Now we have the land, the well is in design and engineering and, with the added discharge into Zone 2, he feels comfortable lifting the moratorium.

Chairman Erlandsen stated he felt the discussion had included both sides and would like to take a vote. A roll call vote was taken to lift the moratorium.

Loring- NEGATIVE, Erlandsen - AYE, Kostka- AYE.

The vote was 2-1-0 to lift the moratorium.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025 AT 3:45PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

Vice Chairman Kostka made the motion to adjourn. Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted (2-0-0). Commissioner Loring did not participate in the vote to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: KINGSTON COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TIME: THIS IS A RECURRING MEETING MEET ANYTIME

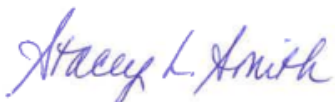
JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://PACTV.ZOOM.US/J/380921010?PWD=N0F6OTZ5NTR6WHD6ZJBXQND1NNBLZZ09](https://pactv.zoom.us/j/380921010?pwd=N0F6OTZ5NTR6WHD6ZJBXQND1NNBLZZ09)

MEETING ID: 380 921 010

PASSCODE: 993394

Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith
Clerk