



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
June 17, 2025

6:00 p.m. – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Eric Crone called to order the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:27 p.m.—selectmen in attendance: Kimberley Emberg, Donald Alcombright, (virtual) Melissa Bateman and Carl Pike.

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. Anyone interested in volunteering please reach out to the Board of Select
4. Please check our website for any additional events or notices www.kingstonma.gov
5. New Town House Hours will begin on Monday, June 30th: The new hours will be:
 - Monday—8:00am - 5:00pm
 - Tuesday—8:00am - 6:00pm
 - Wednesday—8:00am - 5:00pm
 - Thursday—8:00am - 5:00pm
 - Friday – Closed

The Board began with a call vote as Mr. Alcombright is virtual.

6. Kingston's Capital Planning and Finance Committees currently have open seats needing to be filled The Finance Committee has three openings for residents interested in helping review and recommend Kingston's annual operating budget, school budgets, and fund transfers The Capital Planning Committee, with one open seat, studies and prioritizes funding requests for municipal capital improvements such as vehicles, equipment, technology, infrastructure, land, playgrounds and public buildings, over a five-year plan. There are several other Boards and Commissions with vacancies. To see a complete list of the openings, please visit our website at kingstonma.gov. If you are interested in serving, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 781 831-6023.
7. Due to a Failure to Elect on the Planning Board, the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen are seeking candidates interested in filling the open seat until the next town election in the Spring of 2026.

Interested candidates must submit a letter of consideration and qualifications no later than June 25th. Please submit your information by mail to:

Town of Kingston
Board of Selectmen Office
Attn: Patricia Tucker
26 Evergreen Street
Kingston, MA 02364
or by email to PTucker@KingstonMA.gov

All candidates will be interviewed at a joint Planning Board/Board of Selectmen Meeting on Tuesday, July 1st at 6:00 pm.

8. Transfer Station Stickers are now on sale and will be required on July 1st.

APPOINTMENTS:

Recognition of Kingston Fire Pinning's and Captain Promotion

Fire Chief Mark Douglass, spoke and stated that we are here tonight to congratulate and swear In Captain Joshua Hatch and 4 new Kingston Firefighter Paramedics.

First, Chief Douglass thanked Captain Susan Hussey for her 27 years of service to the Town of Kingston. Susan is due to officially retire in July and spoke for everyone in wishing her a long happy and healthy retirement.

Chief Douglass continued by saying that there is a competitive assessment center "Captains Exam" was held last fall in anticipation of Captain Hussey's Retirement. This process is made up of several parts including a written exam and practical components designed to assess the overall ability of each candidate. The scores are then tabulated by an agreed upon formula, thoroughly reviewed, and results provided to the Fire Chief by the independent examiners. Joshua Hatch ranked highest in the process and became eligible for promotion to Captain after completion of this process.

Josh was promoted to Captain on May 27, 2025, taking Captain Hussey's place as Shift Commander of Group 3.

Chief Douglass continued with the pinning's which are a celebration of accomplishment and an opportunity for families, friends and residents to share in the success of the Fire Department and the individuals.

Firefighter Paramedic Elizabeth Ewell

Firefighter Paramedic Mark Leary

Firefighter Paramedic Patrick O'Donovan

Firefighter Paramedic Caroline Reed

The Board took a 5-minute recess.

Open Forum

Will Cushman 273 Main Street asked why Summer and Main Street the sidewalks are being ripped apart, and Main Street is more damaged, and should have been addressed.

Mr. Hickey stated that MassDOT is doing the ADA sidewalk improvements, and it is not the Town it is the State.

Roseann Pratt of Center Street noted the sidewalks have been in disarray .

Susan Sherman, 215 Main Street, asked about 3 pedestrian signs that were on Main, and they are no longer there, Mr. Turner stated he has 2 of them.

Ms. Sherman asked for a \$50,000 earmark for traffic calming, Mr. Hickey noted that it was for a potential mobile trailer for speed tracking, since that time the Senators office for leeway on the use of the money, traffic calming measures and that will be utilized to enhance the traffic calming abilities.

Jennifer Cushman of 273 Main Street asked if a conversation with the Church can happen regarding the bells Mr. Hickey stated there is no bylaw or state law being broken that would make the Church stop the bells. The Town does not have the authority in this matter.

Update on Kingston Elementary School Replacement Project

Mr. Hickey stated that Mike Lawless Director of Facilities was in attendance to discuss.

It was discussed that the Kingston School Department was recently made aware that only 20% of the Elementary School roof was eligible for MSBA funding. One of the eligibility criteria for eligibility is the roof needs to be 25 years old or older. Only 20% of the roof meets that criteria. The remaining portion of the roof is 24 years old.

Recently, the School Committee voted to support replacing 20% of the roof that is eligible for MSBA funding and is asking the Board of Selectmen to support the same. A warrant article will be placed on the Fall Town Meeting warrant requesting the necessary funding for the project being proposed.

Ms. Emberg asked if they receive the funding, will it make it that the Town can't apply for the 80%, Mr. Lawless stated they can apply again in 2027.

Mr. Alcombright asked if we knew if it would impact the Town if they received the money for the 20%.
The Board discussed if it is a risk if they receive the money,

Mr. Pike is reluctant to recommend if there is no amount that can be provided.
The Board discussed the impact on the Town if they applied for this

Superintendent asked for the Boards support to move forward with this.

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

VOTE: Move the Board of Selectmen support the recommendation from the Kingston School Committee in replacing the 20% of the roof that is eligible for MSBA funding at Kingston Elementary School.

Request Board of Selectmen Support of the Conservation Department's Application for a Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grant Program Application for Design and Permitting of Stormwater improvements to Drew and Seaver Avenues in Rocky Nook

Mr. Penella was in attendance seeking the Selectmen's support to apply for a grant to address and improve the treatment of stormwater on Drew and Seaver Avenues in the Rocky Nook section of Kingston. This will treat water before it goes to Kingston Bay.

The Board had no discussion

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

VOTE: Move the Board of Selectmen Support the Conservation Department's Application for a Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grant Program Application for Design and Permitting of Stormwater improvements to Drew and Seaver Avenues in Rocky Nook

Presentation from Recreation on Use of Revolving Funds

Susan Woodworth, Recreation Director, was in attendance to present and discuss how the Recreation Department utilizes the existing Revolving Funds.

Ms. Woodworth discussed that funds received for program fees, and property utilization are used for expenditures for program instructors, program supplies, and smaller property expenses as needed.

Revolving Fund bills submitted through normal procedural departmental bill processing.

Items Include:

Program Instructors/Staff

Program Supplies

Athletic Complex Expenses

FY25 YTD:

Programs offered – 335

Registrations – 6,312

Facility Reservations – 99

This does not include Building Property Uses for Recreational Programs
Field/Property Reservations - 229
Revenue – \$586,460
Expenses – \$532,632

Ms. Emberg stated that this is a great example of revolving funds and noted that the Finance Committee would like more details.

Ms. Woodworth discussed the process of bill payments to which she must sign off as well as the finance director so there is a checks and balances process.

The Board had no further questions.

Ms. Woodworth made note that the new irrigation system at Opachinski is up and running.

Request from Agricultural Commission to use the Town Property for September 21, 2025

Mr. Crone discussed that the Agricultural Commission is requesting the use of Town House Property on Sunday, September 21, 2025, from 1-4pm for their agricultural fair.

Mr. Wheble was in attendance to answer any questions.

Ms. Bateman discussed that they would like to put up a sign on the front lawn on the side, to announce the upcoming fair.

Motion by Mr. Pike, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the request of the Agricultural Commission to use Town Hall Property in the afternoon of September 21, 2025, from 1:00pm-4:00pm for agricultural fair.

Request for One Day Liquor License

Mr. Crone discussed that Reverend John Graham from St. Joseph's Parish is requesting a one-day license for The St. Joseph's Game Night at Our Lady's Hall at St. Joseph Parish located at 272 Main Street, Kingston on June 27, 2025, from 6pm-10pm.

Jennifer Cushman requests the Board to deny this request.

Mr. Crone asked Chief Holmes if he has any concerns about which he does not.

Motion by Ms. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Pike and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the one-day liquor license request from Reverend John Graham from St. Joseph's Parish is requesting a one-day license for The St. Joseph's Game Night at Our Lady's Hall at St. Joseph Parish located at 272 Main Street, Kingston on June 27, 2025, from 6pm-10pm.

Temporarily Road Closure Request

Mr. Crone discussed that the residents of Rocky Nook Ave, represented by Rebecca Hebert have requested to temporarily close portions of several roads for a neighborhood event on July 4, 2025. The request has been reviewed by the Police and Fire Chiefs, and the Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks, and their comments are included in the Board packet and proposed motion.

Mr. Pike feels that they will not maintain a ten-foot-wide street all the time, and asked if it is enforceable, appropriate legal action, his experience seeing the fireworks that local residents fire off not just on the 4th as it continues other nights as well.

Motion by Ms. Emberg, seconded by Mr. Pike and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the request from Rebecca Herbert to close a portion of East Avenue at Bayview Avenue, West Avenue at Bayview Avenue, Cole Street at Bagnell Street, and a portion of Rocky Nook Avenue from the intersection East Avenue at Bayview Avenue to the intersection of Rocky Nook Avenue at North Street on Friday, July 4, 2025, during the hours of 7:00 pm thru 11:00 pm, with the following conditions:

1. Access for emergency vehicles must be maintained. All barricades must be placed to allow emergency responders to quickly move them. Sections of closed roads must have a width of at least ten (10) feet to allow for apparatus access.
2. The petitioner must pick up all needed barricades and road closed signs from the Highway Department by noon on July 3rd. All barricades and signs will be erected by the petitioners prior to the event.
3. Notification is made by the petitioner to the neighborhood residents that are affected by the road closure.
4. Instruct the Police Department to take appropriate legal action against private citizens who use, possess, or sells fireworks.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Annual Reappointments

Mr. Crone discussed that included in the Board packet is a list of the annual Board and Commission reappointments with their expiration dates.

There was no discussion.

Motion by Mr. Pike, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 5-0-0 vote, by roll call

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the list of candidates up for reappointment to their Board or Commission shown on the master list as presented

Declare Animal Control Explorer as Surplus

Mr. Crone mentioned that the former Ford Explorer used as an Animal Control vehicle is no longer needed by the Town. The Police Department is requesting the Board designate the vehicle as surplus.

There was no discussion.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen declare the former Animal Control Ford Explorer surplus and approve the vehicle be sold. If the vehicle cannot be sold, the Board authorizes its use for vehicle rescue training by the Fire Department.

Update on the Status of Establishing a Department of Public Works

The Board discussed that this was discussed at the 5:30 public hearing which was continued until July 29th at 5:30pm

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hickey read from his report:

Financial Updates

- The School Department has notified me that the FY26 \$457,000 revenue shortfall from the State will be addressed through a number of unpaid leaves and retirements that were announced after the budget past.

Project Updates

- Security cameras at the Transfer Station will be replaced in the next couple of months. The existing security system has not operated since 2021. The security system is an important tool to ensure the proper disposal of material. Recently, someone disposed of contaminated waste oil costing the Town \$4,400 rather than the typical \$600 for monthly removal. A security camera may have identified who disposed on that product inappropriately.
- A grant application for the engineering of three intersections along Route 3A in Duxbury and Kingston has been submitted. The projects include the Route 3 at Route 3A Interchange, the Route 3A at the intersection of Route 53; and the Route 3A at the intersection of Chestnut and Tobey Garden Street. The total grant amount requested is \$2.1 million dollars.
- A grant application to upgrade the Harbormaster building and town pier is currently being completed.

Personnel Update

- Assistant Planner Erin Benoit has ended her employment due to her job being eliminated in the FY26 budget.
- Interviews are being held this week to fill the Assistant Treasurer position. I hope to have a recommendation to hire a candidate at the July 1st Board meeting.

Miscellaneous Updates

- The Fire engine approved at the 2022 Town Meeting has been received. The Fire Department staff is currently training on the vehicle.

The Town will be closed on Thursday, June 19th in

Ms. Emberg asked about the Tax Title Custodian discussion and Mr. Hickey discussed that there needs to be a conversation with Mr. Pike, Mr. Moalli and Mr. Franklin prior to coming before the Board.

Ms. Emberg had a different recollection, and Mr. Pike provided suggested changes to a document of policies and procedures to the Board for review.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Emberg provided an update on the Plymouth County Advisory Meeting and Executive Board meeting which she discussed that if there are questions, she can add to an agenda for discussion, but they discussed the revenue comparisons from FY22 to FY26 for the County overall the FY26 is the least high budget of all of those.

There was discussion of the pond management program. There are four communities (which includes Kingston) who have said yes, they want to participate in a pond management program. They are trying to get more communities to sign on.

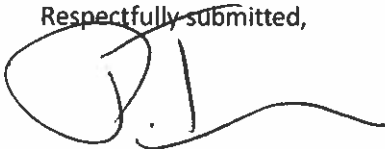
Mr. Alcombright will provide more information before the next meeting for Do no knock policy discussion.

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

VOTE: I move to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Tucker

Assistant to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda

Agenda Addendum

Agricultural Fair

Street Closing Request

One Day Liquor License

Offer Letter

Donations

Town Administrator Report