



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
TOWN HOUSE-26 EVERGREEN ST. ROOM 200 & VIA ZOOM
JULY 29, 2025

6:00 p.m. – CALL TO ORDER – ROOM 200

Chairman Eric Crone called to order the meeting with a roll call vote of the Board of Selectmen at 6:09 p.m.—selectmen in attendance: Kimberley Emberg, Donald Alcombright, 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 us at this time.
2. Financial Assistance Applications are available on the town's website or by calling the Selectmen's Office.
3. There are several 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 781 585-0501.
4. Ms. Emberg stated that if anyone is interested in volunteering to reach out as there is something for everyone and a number of vacancies on numerous boards or committees.
5. Ms. Bateman thanked COA Advisory Board members who have recently left Caty Starr, Joan Hutchinson and Mary Harriman she thanked for their time on the Board.
6. Please check our website for any additional events or notices www.kingstonma.gov

OPEN FORUM:

Will Cushman of 273 Main Street mentioned that National Night Out is on August 12, from 4:30-7pm at Silver Lake Regional Middle School.

Mr. Cushman asked for a timeline on Main Street sidewalk project as well as the Appointment of Town Clerk he would like the community to be able to choose.

Mr. Hickey discussed that the cost to fix the sidewalks is \$100,000, which is much more than they expected. The Streets, Trees and Parks Department will work on the areas that are an issue prior to the start of school. The Town will apply for a grant to complete the entire project.

Mr. Cushman would like Shirley Ave and Maple Ave sidewalks to be looked at also.

APPOINTMENTS:

6:15 PM Dangerous Dog Hearing

Mr. Crone discussed the office received notification from the Police Chief, Holmes indicating another incident involving a dog at 44 Raboth Road. Mr. Crone discussed that staff consulted with Town Counsel to notify the dog owner of the hearing.

Dog owner received the following information:

- Letter delivered to Dog owner
- Complaint # 26-0013 from ACO
- Animal Bite Report dated 7/4/2025
- A summary of the Nuisance/Dangerous Dog hearing MGL created by Town counsel.

Attorney Stephen Chaplin was in attendance as he will be representing the Town.

Also in attendance Chief Holmes, Animal Control Officer Joanna Boudreau, Assistant Animal Control Officer Soyna Buckner.

Ms. Goldstien and her counsel Attorney Cohen were in attendance via zoom.

Attorney Chaplin discussed that there have been 5 incidents with this address and the third hearing for the dog Bert. Conditions were ordered from last summer and were completed this spring.

It was noted that the dog Bert has already been deemed dangerous so that step does need to happen.

Attorney Cohen discussed that the dog owner understands all that has happened, and they are in agreement that this is unacceptable. He continued to say that it is correctable and the dynamic in the household has to change. The only option they feel is left is to rehome Bert.

Attorney Chaplin asked about a timeline for rehoming Bert, Attorney Cohen stated that they are down on fosters and there will be a discussion tomorrow regarding rehoming.

Attorney Chaplin asked Attorney Cohen if he would agree to rehome Bert by August 15th or humanely euthanized.

Also asked were the facts of the July 4th incident reviewed and agreed to, Attorney Cohen essentially the scope of the report.

Ms. Emberg asked about the location of the incident and if a hospital report was provided.

Ms. Carrol did not witness and the event.

Proposal the Board would be inclined.

The Board discussed the proposal of rehoming by August 15 and if not to be euthanized.

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

VOTE: I move that the board's prior dangerous finding be affirmed at ratifying that Bert is a dangerous dog in terms as defined in general laws chapter 140 section 136A.

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

VOTE: Based upon the facts and circumstances of his present incident in conjunction with the prior incidents that the following conditions be imposed upon Bert, that Bert be relocated on or before August 15, 2025, and if not Bert shall be humanely euthanized.

Low-Income Community Shared Solar (LICSS) Program for Kingston

Mr. Crone introduced Mark Cappadona from Colonial Power Group who was in attendance to introduce the opportunity of a Low-Income Community Shared Solar (LICSS) Program as part of Kingston's Municipal Aggregation Program. This is to enhance designed to deliver tangible financial benefits to Kingston's most vulnerable residents while advancing the Town's sustainability goals.

Mr. Cappadona provided some information regarding this program.

Why LICSS Matters for Kingston

- Direct Impact on Residents: Qualifying low-income households in Kingston will see meaningful reductions on their electric bills—additional savings on top of the aggregation program.
- Supports Local Control: This program is a feature available only because Kingston chose municipal aggregation. It demonstrates how aggregation allows the Town to customize programs that address community needs.
- Advances Climate Leadership: LICSS leverages state solar incentive programs (SMART) to direct renewable energy benefits to those who need them most, aligning with Kingston's sustainability and equity objectives.
- No Additional Cost or Administrative Burden: Colonial Power Group will handle program administration and compliance, ensuring a seamless process for the Town.

How It Works

- Kingston partners through its aggregation program with solar developers who dedicate a portion of their projects and

associated SMART incentives to Kingston's low-income residents.

- Those benefits are passed through as additional savings on electric bills, improving affordability and energy equity in the community.
- An example of an average residential usage bill has been included that compares receiving your electricity from a third-party supplier, through the aggregation program and through the aggregation program for low-income customers.

Mr. Hickey stated that he was trying to promote the opportunity, for those residents who qualify for this program.

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

VOTE: I move the Board authorize the Town Administrator to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and solar developer to deliver benefits to low-income customers participating in Kingston's municipal aggregation program.

Discussion on Cable Franchise Renewal

Mr. Crone introduced Attorney William Solomon who was in attendance to discuss the details of entering cable franchise negotiations with Verizon. Mr. Crone noted that in the Board Materials is a License Expiration Notice from The Department of Telecommunications and Cable providing information on the renewal process, as well as the license renewal from Verizon. The anticipated cost to retain Attorney Solomon is no more than \$6,750.

Attorney Solomon handled Comcast 2018, and Verizon 2019 contracts for the Town of Kingston. There are two matters complete a Verizon renewal, then goal would be done by October.

There are limitations due to the other existing agreement and review the needs of the Town. Attorney Solomon will work closely with the town to vote on this in October.

The Board discussed the costs and revenue for the Town.

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

VOTE: I move the Board, as Cable Television License Issuing Authority, vote as follows:

To move Attorney William Solomon to represent the Town of Kingston in Cable Television Renewal negotiations with Verizon New England, Inc., for a term of five (5) years.

Consideration of One Day Liquor License from Hilltop Athletic Association

Mr. Crone discussed that Ken Moalli from the Hilltop Athletic Association has submitted a request for a One Day Liquor License for an annual softball charity tournament that will be taking place on August 2, 2025, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Opachinski Field Complex. The Recreation Commission has approved the use of the facility for this event.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the request from Hilltop Athletic Association for a One Day Liquor License for a softball charity tournament taking place on August 2, 2025, at the Opachinski Field Complex from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, contingent upon receipt of a valid alcohol serving certification.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Discussion and Possible Vote to Establish a School Zone on Second Brook Street and Signage for the Kingston Elementary School and Kingston Intermediate School Campus

Mr. Crone discussed that representatives from the School Department requested to meet and discuss the establishment of a School Zone for the Elementary and Intermediate Schools on Second Brook Street. Representatives from the School, Police, and Streets, Trees and Parks met on Second Brook Street to discuss the proposal.

Also discussed was that the engineering will be reviewed and recommend the sign locations is estimated at \$8,000 with sign costs of \$7,240. The Town Administrator has requested the School Department consider funding \$7,500 of the project. The Town funded the High/Middle School Zone at a cost of over \$50,000, depleting most of the discretionary funds available.

The Police Department supports establishing the School Zone. The request was reviewed by the Kingston School Committee meeting on Monday, July 7th. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the School Zone request to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

Ms. Emberg discussed that the Town of Kingston paid for the engineering for the regional school zone, Mr. Hickey spoke that he hopes that the school committee can find the money to contribute as well. Ms. Emberg would like a shared cost.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Administrator to contract an engineering firm to verify the location of a new school zone on Second Brook Street for the Elementary and Intermediate Schools as illustrated in the map included. Further, to authorize the purchase of the necessary School Zone signs Total costs to not exceed \$16,000.

Discussion on Appointing Rather Than Electing a Town Clerk

Mr. Crone discussed that this is not to appoint a new Town Clerk this evening. This is to see if the Board would like to move forward and bring this discussion to Town Meeting.

Mr. Hickey discussed that if the Board supports including a warrant article on the Fall Town Meeting warrant and the article is approved by voters, special legislation could be submitted and approved prior to the end of the Town Clerk's current term.

Ms. Emberg discussed that timing makes sense to be on the Fall Town Meeting warrant.

Motion by Mr. Alcombright, seconded by Ms. Bateman and a 4-1-0 vote, (Mr. Pike voted against)

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen supports the inclusion of a warrant article on the 2025 Fall Town Meeting warrant seeking to have the Town Clerk position be appointed by the Board of Selectmen rather than having the position be elected.

Approval of Open Session Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2025, open session meeting minutes

There was no discussion on the amendments in the minutes.

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

VOTE: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the open session meeting minutes of July 15, 2025, as amended.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hickey read from his report:

Financial Updates

- There are no financial updates this week.

Project Updates

- Streets, Trees, and Parks obtained a price to repave the sidewalks on Main Street the from the Main/Elm Street intersection to the intersection of Main and Summer Streets. The estimate provided was just over \$100,000, which is cost prohibitive. Streets, Trees, and Parks and the Planning Departments will be submitting a grant application to repair and repave the entire length of the Main Street sidewalks. Grant awards are anticipated in late 2025/early 2026. In the interim, Streets, Trees, and Parks will remove tree roots impacting the sidewalks and patch the sidewalk by mid-August.

Personnel Update

- Assistant Conservation Agent Julianna Denum has submitted her resignation, effective August 28th.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Evan Gagnon has been hired with a start date of August 5th.
- The employment advertisement for the Building Inspector has been published.

Miscellaneous Updates

- The annual Police National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12th, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm, the same evening as the next Selectmen's meeting. There are no scheduled public hearings if the Board would like to reschedule the August 12th meeting.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

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

VOTE: I move to adjourn to executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel – Town Administrator.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Tucker', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patricia Tucker

Assistant to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

Documents used at the meeting:

Agenda

Agenda Addendum

LICSS Program Information

Cable Francise

Dangerous Dog Information

One Day Liquor License

School zone

Town Administrator Report

