

TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES
April 14, 2009

Chairman Paul M. Gallagher opened the meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on April 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 200 at the Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston. Present were Vice Chairman Sandra D. MacFarlane, Mark S. Beaton, Jean Landis-Naumann, Dennis N. Randall and Interim Town Administrator John F. Healey

The Chairman announced that Harbormaster Frank Catani had submitted his resignation the Board should act swiftly with the boating season beginning to appoint an Interim Harbormaster. Mr. Beaton suggested promoting the Assistant Harbormaster in view of the hiring freeze, to serve as the Interim Harbormaster. Upon motion made by Ms. MacFarlane and seconded by Mr. Beaton, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was--

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Frank Catani as the Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable.

Upon motion made by Mr. Beaton and seconded by Ms. MacFarlane, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was--

VOTED: To appoint Dennis Carvalho as the Interim Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable.

Ms. MacFarlane acknowledged the letter from Senator Murray congratulating the Town on its award winning website.

The Chairman announced the Open Forum. Daniel Sapir came forward and discussed the documents on the Town website pertaining to the P. A. Landers Economic Opportunity. He stated that the comments from Departments, Board and Committees were on the website very briefly then taken down. He questioned why they were not available in an effort of transparency. Mr. Gallagher advised that he requested that they be removed because there was confusion about the concept and it was being treated as if it were a proposal and not just a concept. He further added that the content of some of the comments were not appropriate and could potentially cause legal issues. Mr. Gallagher suggested that such information should not be posted without a vote of the Board and thought the Board needed to develop a policy for posting to the website.

Mr. Randall stated that the public had been solicited for comments to the concept, responses were received which were universally negative and to not post them would be censorship. Ms. MacFarlane stated it was important to have a policy for posting and suggested that the Technology Advisory Committee recommend a policy to the Board. Upon motion made by Ms. MacFarlane and seconded by Mr. Gallagher, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was--

VOTED: To request the Technology Advisory Committee to recommend a policy for the Board to review for posting documents to the website.

Three Eagle Scouts were present with Troop Leader Dick Eldridge. Plaques were presented to Gregory

Hanson, and Joseph Ignagni and the Kingston's 100th Eagle Scout Benjamin Wierman. A plaque was also presented to Dick Eldridge recognizing his years of affiliation with the Eagle Scout program and Scouting in Kingston. It was noted that the 100th Eagle Scout was the 57th Eagle Scout that Mr. Eldridge brought forward from his Troop.

Treasurer John LaBrache was present to give the Board information on another insurance offering for single plan holders. He stated that the plan would set higher deductibles and would result in a lower policy rate for both the Town and the employee. Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was--

VOTED: To approve offering the Network Blue Rate Saver Plan to employees.

The Board reviewed the Town Administrator's report. Mr. Healey stated it would be his last report and he provided a summary of items he had worked on while the Interim Town Administrator. The Board thank Mr. Healey for the work he did as Interim Town Administrator.

Upon motion made by Ms. MacFarlane and seconded by Mr. Randall, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was--

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the public and executive session meeting of March 17, 2009.

Mr. Gallagher asked that the website policy be listed under Old Business.

Mr. Randall stated that there was a public solicitation for input on the P. A. Landers concept. and the public would have an expectation that the comments would become public records. Mr. Gallagher stated it was premature to request comments but the concept was put on the website as information only. Ms. MacFarlane stated that a policy would keep from putting pressure on the webmaster. Mr. Randall stated once the comments were put on the website by Mr. Healey, Mr. Gallagher did not have the authority to remove them. Mr. Gallagher stated it was never voted to put the comments on the website and he took a corrective action by removing them due to a potential legal issue.

Mr. Healey stated it was his mistake to put the comments on the website without checking with the Chairman and he apologized for the error.

Ms. MacFarlane stated all the information on the concept should be taken down. Mr. Gallagher agreed that until there was a formal proposal from P A. Landers, the concept information should be taken down. Mr. Beaton stated that it was P. A. Landers that wanted comments as to the level of interest from the "stakeholder". Mr. Randall stated that the responses were negative and the public has a right to see them. Mr. Beaton stated that Mr. Gallagher's concern was that some of the comments were slanderous and could cause legal issues for the Town. Mr. Gallagher reiterated that the information was inappropriate for the website because it created problems and misrepresentations.

Ms. MacFarlane advised that the Conservation Land Advisory Committee was continuing to work on the Maintenance and Forestry Plan.

Mr. Gallagher announced that the Senior Center Building Committee was expecting to have the necessary Conservation approvals within the next few weeks for the Senior Center site.

The Board reviewed the letter of interest requesting the Board consider issuing an RFP for the sale of the Maple Street Fire Station. Mr. Beaton suggested taking it under advisement. There was a discussion

regarding the use of the building for storage and a concern that the zoning of the property could result in a dense development of the property.

Upon motion made by Mrs. Landis-Naumann and seconded by Mr. Gallagher, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was--

VOTED: Not to issue and RFP for the sale of the Maple Street Fire Station.

Upon motion made by Mrs. Landis-Naumann and seconded by Mr. Gallagher, following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was--

VOTED: To close the Special Town Meeting Warrant on April 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., and further;

VOTED: To approve the National Multiple Sclerosis Cape Cod Getaway MS Bike Ride on June 27-28, 2009.

Upon motion made by Mrs. Landis-Naumann and seconded by Ms. MacFarlane following a discussion and a 5-0-0 vote, it was--

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy M. Howlett, Assistant to the
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen