

**From:** [JAMES KNOWLES](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Misuse of taxpayer funds  
**Date:** Friday, September 8, 2023 6:06:01 PM

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In the Aug 21 meeting, town councilors transferred over \$300,000 to social programs such as Mainspring, KCC teen space, the housing incentive fund. The Town Council should not be donating taxpayer money. Tax money should be used exclusively for essential services like education, police, fire, maintenance of roads, etc. It is the responsibility of the Town Council to ensure that every tax dollar collected is used wisely. Donating taxpayer money to nonessential programs is squandering the money of hardworking taxpayers.

The Town Council considers promoting affordable housing a top priority. The most direct way to achieve this goal is by keeping property taxes in check. A rise in property taxes correlates to a rise in rents and a decrease in housing affordability. Therefore, in this inflationary time the Town Council should try to save every penny so that the town budget will not increase. Stop giving away taxpayer money. All these nonessential projects will find funding through private donations. The \$3.5 million raised by Mainspring is proof that worthy projects will be funded without using taxpayer monies.

Filomena Knowles  
2 Estuary Dr., Kittery.

**From:** [Marquez, Vanessa](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Emery Field Renovations  
**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 11:35:25 PM

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In reference to the Emery Field renovations, what are the plans to replace the many trees that were removed along the fence line bordering the new pickle ball courts? The level of noise pollution the courts present is challenging and frustrating. The sound attenuating wind screens are not effective due to the courts being below street level. We were advised that many trees were removed due to pests, but none of the other trees on this fence line were removed except the ones directly between the courts and our home. The immature trees planted along Cole Street are no replacement for the natural barrier the old growth trees provided. The removal of these trees is a devastating loss to the beauty of Emery Field. We feel a personal, overwhelming loss of shade, privacy and peace. Has the town had the opportunity to explore replacing the trees that were removed with more mature and larger trees? We trusted that the planning and approval of two pickle ball courts installed directly abutting private property would include strategies for resolving these disappointments.

Thank you for your continued attention,  
Vanessa Marquez  
55 Woodlawn Ave.  
Kittery

