

KITTERY TOWN COUNCIL
January 9, 2023
6:00PM

1. Call to Order

Chair Spiller calls the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Introductory

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call Councilors present: Councilor Bragg, Councilor Dow, Councilor Clark on Zoom, Councilor Stevens, Vice Chair McGuire and Chair Spiller.
Councilors absent: Councilor Hamm (Military Leave)

5. Agenda Amendment and Adoption

Chair Spiller cast one vote to accept Agenda as amended.

6. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager reported on Council Representation on Boards, Commissions and Committees, the Freebie Barn, Grant Status and New Town Hall and Kittery Resource Recovery Facility.

Upcoming Events:

Town Hall Closed- Martin Luther King Jr. Day- Monday, January 16, 2023

2023 Fort Foster Season Passes Available Now

Dog License Renewal Deadline – January 31

Valentine's Dance – Saturday, February 11

Councilor Stevens stated that Council may want to change the ordinance to reflect keeping 3 Council Members on the DEI Committee.

Councilor Dow asked about the need for 3 members on this Committee in the future.

Chair Spiller suggests giving it a year to see how the Committee advances before changing an ordinance.

Councilor Dow asked the Town Manager about the coverage of the full time Firefighters.
Town Manager responded.

Vice Chair McGuire thanked the Town Manger and the Staff for the success on the grants that the Town has obtained.

Councilor Stevens inquired about the Community Outreach Liaison Program.
Town Manager responded.

Chair Spiller commented on a joint meeting between Eliot and Kittery about social services, where they discussed the Community Outreach Liaison Program and all its benefits to the Town.

Councilor Bragg inquired about obtaining a grant for a skate park or roller-skating rink for the youth of Kittery.

Chair Spiller stated that Council thanks the Public Works, Fire and the Police Departments for all their hard work on the December 23rd storm.

7. Acceptance of Previous Minutes - None

8. Interviews for the Board of Appeals and Planning Board.

a. (010123-01) The Kittery Town Council moves to interview the following candidates for appoint to the Planning Board for three-year terms to expire December 31, 2026. (2 Vacancies).

- Ethan Bensley
- Earldan Wells

Chair Spiller interviewed Ethan Bensley.

Chair Spiller interviewed Earldan Wells.

Councilor Dow asked both candidates their thoughts on growth in the Town of Kittery.

Ethan Bensley responded to the question.

Earldan Wells responded to the question.

Councilor Stevens asked Earldan Wells if there would be someone that fills her role on the Conservation Commission.

Earldan Wells responded.

Chair Spiller nominates Ethan Bensley for appointment to the Planning Board, seconded by Councilor Stevens.

Motion passes 6-0-0

Chair Spiller nominates Earldan Wells for appointment to the Planning Board, seconded by Councilor Bragg.

Motion passes 6-0-0

9. All items involving the town attorney, town engineers, town employees or other town consultants or requested offices.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

11. DISCUSSION

- a. Discussion by members of the public (three minutes per person)

Jeff Thomson, 25 Old Post Rd, Kittery, spoke about the conveyance of properties 42 & 44 Old Post Rd to Fair Tide and hopes that it be named Durgin Place. He spoke about the previous residents of those properties and why the properties should be named after them.

Chair Spiller read an email from Suzanne Johnson, 13 Cromwell St, Kittery, about the possible destruction of the Dineen property in Wallingford Square. She suggests renovation and preservation of the building instead of destruction.

- b. Response to public comment directed to a particular Councilor
- c. Chairperson's response to public comments

Chair Spiller encouraged Suzanne Johnson to communicate with the Planning Board on that matter as it is out of the Council's hands.

Chair Spiller stated that she does not believe that Council would have any objection to naming the property, however, they are private properties, the developers may have their own name and asked the Town Manager to take that under advisement.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Donations/gifts received for Council disposition.

(010123-02) The Kittery Town Council moves to accept donations from the following to be deposited into the George Smart Santa Fund, account #1372.

- Southern Maine Fish & Game Club - \$100.00
- Sandra Lutts - \$100.00
- Cyrus Clark - \$300.00
- Eugene and Celestyne Bragg - \$100.00
- Judith Spiller - \$100.00
- Colin McGuire - \$100.00

Moved to accept by Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Bragg.
Motion passes 6-0-0

- b. (010123-03) The Kittery Town Council moves to appoint a Councilor to interview William Peirce, along with the Chair of the Housing Committee for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2026.

Motion to appoint Vice Chair McGuire to interview William Pierce made by Chair Spiller,

seconded by Councilor Dow
Motion passes 6-0-0

- c. (010123-04) The Kittery Town Council moves to schedule a public hearing on January 23, 2023, on amendments to Title 10 - Badgers Island West Parking.

Town Manager gave an overview.

Moved by Councilor Dow, seconded by Vice Chair McGuire
All were in favor.

- d. (010123-05) The Kittery Town Council moves to discuss their 2023 Annual Goals.

Chair Spiller moves to have the discussion, seconded by Councilor Dow.

Councilor Dow stated that he thinks the goals are well stated.

Councilor Stevens asked about changing the language on Council Committee.

Chair Spiller asked about the status for funding the playing fields.
Town Manager responded.

Councilor Bragg suggested adding a committee to develop and establish a Skate Park and Roller-skate rink.

Councilor Stevens asked if it should be specific to a skate park or if it should be broader for options for youth in town.

Chair Spiller suggests adding a general goal to expand youth recreation opportunities and then underneath the heading of the goal to add in the skate park.

14. COUNCILOR ISSUES OR COMMENTS

Councilor Bragg encourages all Kittery residents to get involved with committees.

Councilor Dow thanked Jeff Thomson for the thoughtful gesture of naming the properties after the Durgin's.

Councilor Clark stated that he thinks the skate park could be a real refuge for children.

Councilor Stevens thanked Councilor Bragg for continuing to look out for options for our youth. She also thanked the Town Manager and staff for their hard work on the 2022 goals.

Vice Chair McGuire stated that he thinks Council has made some great progress on the goals last year and Council will continue to focus on them for the upcoming year.

15. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

Chair Spiller asked the Council to speak about their committees at the next Town Council meeting.

- a. Communications from the Chairperson
- b. Committee Reports

Chair Spiller discussed Climate Committees plan to develop a climate action plan and reaching out to community members for their input.

Chair Spiller stated that York River was designated as a scenic and wild river and informed Council that the committee will be coming to council to seek appointments for the Committee. They are looking for 2 members hopefully with technical expertise and are committed to protecting the river.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Stevens at 7:04 PM, seconded by Vice Chair McGuire. All were in favor.

Submitted by Jennifer Wheeler

Disclaimer: The following minutes constitute the author's understanding of the meeting. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, the minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of comments at the meeting, but a refer to the video of the meeting on the Town of Kittery website.