

KITTERY TOWN COUNCIL

June 12, 2023

6:00PM

1. Call to Order

Chair Spiller called 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, Councilor Hamm, Councilor Stevens, Vice Chair McGuire and Chair Spiller.

5. Agenda Amendment and Adoption

Chair Spiller made a change to item 13. b. by removing Cheryl Evans as an applicant.

6. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager reported on the Bike/Ped Master Plan Demonstration Projects, Congratulations to Alex Marshall and Andrew Ilsley on the Snow Plow Rodeo, Plantings around town, PFAS Waterline Installation, Legion Pond Invasives Removal and the Rice Public Library Strategic Plan Community Forum.

Upcoming Dates:

Understanding Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Kittery Survey Available Now

Town Hall Closed for Juneteenth – Monday, June 19, 2023

Town Meeting and School Budget Validation Referendum – Tuesday, June 13

Independence Day Celebration - Saturday, June 24

Freebie Barn Community Swap - Sunday, June 25

There is No Planet B: Climate Change in Kittery – Thursday, June 29

Senior Municipal Property Tax Credit Applications Due – July 1

7. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

- April 24, 2023
- May 8, 2023

All minutes were accepted as presented.

8. Interviews for the Board of Appeals and Planning Board- None

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

- a.(060123-01) The Kittery Town Council moves to receive a full assessment on the Town of Kittery Fire Department.

Chief O'Brien gave a presentation.

Chair Spiller thanked the Chief for his presentation as well as his service.

Council took a brief recess to address sound issues.

Chair Spiller asked Chief if he could come back in two weeks to discuss his report with a full Council as the sound issues were not resolved.

Councilor Bragg thanked the Chief and his staff for their work on the Dennett Road incident.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a.(060123-02) The Kittery Town Council moves to hold a public hearing on the Town Meeting Articles. **Public Hearing Notice posted on June 1, 2023.**

11. DISCUSSION

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

Larry Robillard, stated that he was there to support Chuck Moran in retaining the Clam Warden position.

Frank DeSarro, volunteer coordinator of the Kittery J1 Support group, gave an overview of the group and asked residents and businesses to offer their help and support to the program and to contact him if anyone would like to volunteer housing for the individuals within the program.

Jane, here on the J1 student program, discussed her living situation.

Kelly Philbrook, 8 Pepperrell Terr., stated that she was also in support of Chuck Moran as the Clam Warden.

Dan O'Reilly, 1 O'Reilly Lane, stated that he also supports Chuck Moran for Clam Warden.

Kim Lightcastle, 129 Brave Boat Harbor Rd, stated that she was in support of Chuck Moran as clam warden.

Chair Spiller read an email from Bob Guay in regards to the school budget and obtaining more details provided for next year's ballot. He also asked for further clarification on the articles on the ballot as well as the unencumbered surplus.

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

Chair Spiller stated that the Clam Warden is a Town position and is not within the Council's purview.

Chair Spiller thanked Mr. DeSarro for his work with the J1 and suggested that next year he contact Council and they can put out a town notice asking if people could offer a room.

Chair Spiller responded to Mr. Guays questions.

Town Manager responded to Mr. Guays questions about unencumbered surplus.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Donations/gifts received for Council disposition.
- b. (060123-03) The Kittery Town Council moves to approve an alternative surplus approach for the retired Harbormaster boat, in accordance with the Town Code §3.2.10.D.

Town Manager gave an overview and introduced Mr. McCooole, from the Piscataqua Youth Sailing Association.

Mr. McCooole gave a presentation on the association.

Councilor Stevens thanked Mr. McCooole for the presentation and thinks it is a great idea and pleased the Town boat can be used to support these kids.

Chair Spiller asked if there was a fee to participate in this program.
Mr. McCooole stated that there is no fee for the students.

Move forth the sale of the surplus boat by Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Stevens.
Motion passes 6-0-0

- c. (060123-04) The Kittery Town Council moves to accept the resignation of Denise Payne from the Parks Commission.

Move to accept the resignation with thanks by Councilor Hamm, seconded by Councilor Stevens.

Motion passes 6-0-0

d.(060123-05) The Kittery Town Council moves to appoint a Councilor to interview the following candidates, along with the Chair of the Parks Commission, to fulfill the openings of one full term member and two associate members, for a term to expire December 31, 2026.

- Susan Foster
- Cheryl (Sherry) Evans
- MaryAlice LaPoint

Move to appoint Vice Chair to interview by Councilor Hamm, seconded by Councilor Bragg.
Motion passes 6-0-0

14. COUNCILOR ISSUES OR COMMENTS

Councilor Bragg read a letter from Benson Briggs, a 3rd grader who participated in a field trip to the Town Hall back in May. In the letter Benson requested that Kittery bring back football within the school. Councilor Bragg stated that this request is not something that the Town Council or the Ad Hoc Committee could help with but encouraged him to bring his passion for football to his parents and school faculty and thanked him for his enthusiasm and well written letter.

Councilor Clark stated that Councilor Dow asked him to remind residents how important it is to get out and vote and urged everyone to go to the polls.

Councilor Clark then stated that as for himself, he is a big supporter of public safety. He believes that Chief O'Brien was stating that what the fire department really needs is a fully staffed department. Councilor Clark went on to state that we also need to be sure that our Police Department is fully staffed as well because we are nothing if our community is not safe.

Councilor Hamm reminded everyone about the Kittery Block Party happening this weekend and also asked that if any residents had the time, they were still in need of volunteers. He also discussed the personal aspect of renting properties to put a more humanized view on the issue.

Councilor Stevens stated that she appreciates people coming out to voice their support for Chuck Moran as clam warden but it is not something that Council has any influence over. She also discussed Juneteenth and the meaning behind it.

Vice Chair McGuire stated that there is a link to sign up and volunteer for the Block Party. He also stated that he echoed everything Councilor Dow said as well as Councilor Stevens.

Chair Spiller stated that the Memorial Day event was very moving and recognized the Traip Academy Band as well as Isabell Piche Andrews for doing a beautiful job at the event.

15. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

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

Councilor Stevens stated that the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee is meeting tomorrow, June 13. They are continuing their review on the comprehensive plan and the survey is out for residents to take, it can be found on the town website.

Chair Spiller stated that the Climate Action Committee is holding an event on June 29 at the Rice Library featuring a video by Cameron Wake, an internationally climatologist. She also mentioned that they will be working on strategies to meet the State and Town emission goals. A public event to prioritize these strategies will be held on September 23 at the KCC.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Hamm.
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.