

**TOWN OF KENNEBUNK
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

On Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at approximately 6:30 p.m., L. Blake Baldwin, Chair of the Select Board for the Town of Kennebunk, called to order the Regular Meeting of the Select Board. Present were Select Board members L. Blake Baldwin, Edward Karytko, Frank Paul, Wayne Berry, Shiloh Schulte, Peter Brewitt and William Ward, Jr.

Also present were Town Manager Michael Pardue, Finance Director Joel Downs, Town Clerk Merton Brown, Community Development Director Chris Osterrieder and Attorney Durwood Parkinson.

2. CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. December 22, 2020 Regular Meeting *Please refer to supporting material (PDF)*

Baldwin was having technical difficulties and so Berry conducted the meeting starting at this point.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 22, 2020.

MOVED: Karytko

SECONDED: Schulte

VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. The motion passed.

3. ITEMS TO BE SIGNED – none

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS – none

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Costin, from the public, spoke about at least one response he received back regarding at least one matter he raised about the Town Manager's Contract being unsatisfactory to him; he mentioned another response that he found unsatisfactory: one regarding Costin's comments surrounding a comment made about him at a previous Select Board Meeting. He said he didn't want that person's voice to be constrained. He also said he didn't want people's free speech to be constrained but a certain topic he didn't think needed to be specifically an agenda item.

Dan Sayre, from the public, read a suggestion he had written to Pardue and Baldwin. It was that the Town of Kennebunk participate in the National Memorial to remember and honor the lives lost to Covid-19. He noted a Washington, DC Memorial to be held on January 19th. Part of the message he read said cities and towns around the country are invited to join Washington, DC in illuminating buildings and ringing church bells at 5:30 p.m. on that same day in a national moment of unity and remembrance. He asked that the Town Hall be lighted at 5:30 p.m., January 19th, as part of this observance.

Baldwin then took over as the conductor of the meeting.

A motion was made to follow up on Dan's suggestion that we participate in this event to light Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. on the date specified in his email.

MOVED: Baldwin

SECONDED: Ward

VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. The motion passed.

Rachel Phipps, from the public, said public boards deliberate in public; she was saying this in reference to a statement Baldwin read in which it was purported to be from the Board as a whole. She found it disappointing. She also drew fault with the fact that for various topics the Select Board can talk longer than individual members of the public. Phipps asked for an agenda item about how to communicate with the public.

Gayle Spofford, from the public, said she was going to bring up a point of order because the Board made public comment into an agenda item and it's not on the agenda. She suggested that the Board respond to public comment—said they could address it through comments at the end of the meeting and/or at the end of the meeting say they would like to make it a future agenda item to give more time to a discussion rather than just give a monologue.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Accept the Following Donations:

- **For the Police Department:**

- \$100 from Ruth & Bobby Shrader in appreciation for services by the Police Department
- \$500 from an anonymous donor in appreciation for a call for service handled by the department. The donor would like the funds utilized by the department to be toward their efforts in fighting the opioid epidemic

A motion was made to accept the donations and send each donor a letter thanking them for their generous donation.

MOVED: Karytko

SECONDED: Brewitt

VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. The motion passed.

- **For Social Services:**

- \$5,000 from Shape Drive Medical Center, LLC for the fuel assistance fund
- \$1,000 for the fuel assistance fund, and \$500 for food assistance from Bette Pulley who made these donations in the name of her mother, Barbara Pulley formerly of Kennebunk, to assist seniors in Kennebunk.
- \$1,000 from the William J.J. Gordon Family Foundation for the fuel assistance fund
- \$750 from the Maine Community Foundation for the fuel assistance fund. This grant was made through a donor-advised fund at the Maine Community Foundation through donor-advisor Steve Passerman.
- \$500 from Debora Marathon of Marathon Real Estate for the fuel assistance fund
- \$400 from Hearth & Soul for the fuel assistance fund. This donation was given by Pat Hansen, owner of Hearth and Soul, who donates 10% of her proceeds from Small Business Saturday each year to the fuel assistance fund.

A motion was made to accept the donations and send each donor a letter thanking them for their generous donation.

MOVED: Karytko

SECONDED: Schulte

VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. The motion passed.

We want to acknowledge all of the individuals and businesses who contribute to the Town's Emergency Fuel Assistance fund. These acts of generosity are made by those in our community thinking of their neighbors and wanting to ensure that any Kennebunk resident in need of heating assistance, be it oil, propane, wood for the stove or electric heating assistance, knows that help

is out there. If anyone is in need of heating assistance this winter, we urge you to contact the Town's Social Services office at 985-2102 option 3. Our thanks to all for thinking of each other and helping to keep those who are vulnerable in our community warm during the heating season.

Karytko asked if at some point they can get an update as to how much money they have in there and how much money they are using for fuel assistance.

- b. **Kennebunk Recognized as the Safest Community in Maine** – According to Alarms.org, the official site of the National Council for Home Safety and Security, the Town of Kennebunk is listed as the safest community in Maine. The town's violent crime rate is just 0.52 per 1,000, and the property crime rate is less-than-a-quarter of the national rate. Kennebunk was followed by Gorham, Wells, Falmouth and Scarborough. To view Maine's town and city rankings, visit www.alarms.org/safest-cities-in-maine/.

Baldwin said congratulations to Police and Fire for keeping us safe. Karytko said he agrees; said when it comes budget time, he hopes the people in the community realize that what the Town does is garnering results; said he thinks that's the most important thing.

- c. **Hear an Update from the Town Manager regarding COVID-19 and the Town's Preparedness Plans**

Pardue spoke to this agenda item. He spoke about staff rotations and measures that are set in place to maintain service delivery in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19. Talked about a possible upcoming name change of the Community Reengagement Task Force.

7. TIME SENSITIVE BUSINESS & STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Appoint a Director to the RSU 21 School Board** – On January 5th, the Board held a Candidates' Night to Interview Applicants for the Interim RSU 21 Director Position. This appointment will fill the Kennebunk position previously held by Kendra Connor that expires on June 30, 2021. The following seven residents attended the virtual interview:

Josiah Currier	Richard Morin	Kortney Nedeau	Claudia Sayre
Peter Sentner	Gayle Asmussen Spofford	David Wayne	

Baldwin said that in the interim, since that interview process, Richard Morin has withdrawn his name from consideration. Baldwin also noted that he asked Attorney Durwood Parkinson (who moderated the interviews on January 5th) to join this evening to lead through the legal requirements for this vote for RSU 21 Director.

Parkinson then made some comments, going over what the procedures should be in this process this evening for this agenda item.

Various Board members voiced questions related to procedure.

Baldwin asked if anyone wants to make a motion to shorten the time for commentary, citing many participants and trying not to go through repetitive statements of support. The Board discussed such.

A motion was made to reduce the time for individual comments to 2 minutes.

MOVED: Ward

SECONDED: Karytko

VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. The motion passed.

David Wayne, candidate for Interim RSU 21 Director, said you've got an incredible array of people to choose from. He noted he was really impressed with everyone who spoke.

Rachel Phipps, from the public, spoke about the process. She was then answered by Baldwin.

Schulte brought up a comment on procedure. He said have a discussion about the candidates before making any motions so as to avoid an angle toward one person who one moves to nominate first before the others. He said he thinks it would be interesting to hear reasons for why one or more candidates would be preferred and then after that make motions.

Kelly Brown, Kennebunk resident, noted her support of Kortney Nedeau, saying she is the one standout candidate to her.

Rachel Phipps, from the public, said she was really impressed with Kortney Nedeau. She also thought Claudia Sayre was an amazing candidate.

The Board spoke.

Schulte said there were great candidates. Ward said the same thing. Paul also said all the candidates sounded great. He said Gayle Spofford had experience and he thought that would be valuable considering she could "hit the ground running". Brewitt agreed that the list of candidates is excellent. He said he would like the Board to consider, once the time comes, Josiah Currier; he comes to them at a very young age and with no strings attached. He noted what he thinks is passion within Currier. He said Currier is going to be his first choice at this point in time.

Karytko said he feels that in order to make the Board a little more balanced they need someone with more of a financial grasp on what the school is doing and how it relates to what we're doing in Town. He said he thinks Gayle has a pretty good handle on that.

Baldwin noted that saw as all good candidates in the mix here.

A motion was made to nominate Kortney Neadeau to the School Board.

MOVED: Schulte

Motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion was made to appoint Gayle Asmussen Spofford as the Director to the RSU 21 School Board representing Kennebunk until June 30, 2021.

MOVED: Karytko

SECONDED: Paul

A Board discussion about the above-noted candidate ensued.

Peter Sentner, candidate for Interim RSU 21 Director, spoke, saying Kortney Nedeau stood out to him.

Rachel Phipps, from the public, said she thinks it's very important to get some "fresh blood" on the School Board.

Dan Sayre, from the public, spoke in support of Claudia Sayre, his wife. He also spoke highly of Kortney Nedeau and Josiah Currier.

Gayle Spofford, candidate for Interim RSU 21 Director, spoke, saying if the Board chooses not to vote for her, she would strongly recommend that they look at Josiah Currier.

Brenda Robinson, from the public, said they've got quite a group of people. She noted a concern she has heard in Town: that we have a political dynasty. She said we have been looking to find some younger people. She said we've got to build the next generation.

Kelly Brown, from the public, said she agrees with the perspective of having a younger and fresh perspective when it comes to this. She said the District needs some forward thinking individuals.

Jason Woloszyn, from the public, said he thinks all the candidates are great candidates. But he also said he agrees that the younger direction is needed.

VOTE: 2 in favor, 4 opposed (Berry, Brewitt, Ward, Schulte), 1 abstention (Baldwin). The motion failed.

A motion was made to appoint Josiah Currier to the RSU 21 School Board for the remaining term until June 2021.

MOVED: Brewitt

The motion failed for a lack of a second.

A motion was made to nominate David Wayne.

MOVED: Ward

The motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion was made to nominate Peter Sentner for the 6-month term ending in June 2021.

MOVED: Berry

SECONDED: Schulte

Kortney Neadeau, candidate for Interim RSU 21 Director, said she agrees that the candidates were all strong across the board but she said it feels as though she is being pushed away. Neadeau made additional comments.

Brenda Robinson spoke again. She said her comment has to do with putting their actions where their mouths have been; she said this is a chance for diversity.

Peter Sentner withdrew his application.

Berry withdrew his nomination of Peter Sentner.

Brewitt said Nedeau was second in his choice of candidates. He said he was prepared to try to renominate Kortney but he thinks it is rather inappropriate for a candidate to criticize them like she did.

Schulte made comments too, saying the procedure they have is awkward, saying they had to wait for others to speak before they could respond—that kind of thing.

Ward said there's nothing wrong with Nedeau; he said there are six good candidates.

A matter regarding renominations and how to go about it was asked by Berry to be clarified by Durwood Parkinson, and Parkinson responded to the inquiry.

A motion was made that the Board reconsider the nomination for Josiah Currier.

MOVED: Brewitt

SECONDED: Baldwin

VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. The motion passed.

A motion was made to appoint Josiah Currier as Director to the RSU School Board representing Kennebunk until June 30, 2021.

MOVED: Brewitt
SECONDED: Schulte

Before the vote was taken, Karytko expressed concern, saying he wants to see who has the best shot at trying to shape or understand or give feedback to the Select Board on what's happening at the school that's driving these costs up so high.

Berry said he would hope that any candidate would be aware that collaboration with the Town is important to the Town and should take note of that.

Claudia Sayre, Interim RSU 21 Director candidate, spoke, supporting the two younger candidates, particularly Josiah Currier. She said in support of him is that his track in his studies at the high school—she doesn't think they have had anyone on the Board who was focused on those kids at school who aren't interested in going to college, who want an opportunity to immediately plug into a local job. She also said other considerations other than finances in this type of decision making need to be made.

Brenda Robinson spoke again, saying the School Board today is a different one from the past. She said money is important but not the only important thing in five and a half months that they have left (until the end of the Interim RSU 21 Director term); nobody's going to do very much in that short time, she said.

VOTE: 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Karytko). The motion passed.

- b. **Confirm the Town Manager's Appointment of the Interim Harbormaster** – James Black, Harbormaster for Kennebunk & Kennebunkport, tendered his resignation in late December. Cape Porpoise Harbormaster, Christopher Mayo, is currently aiding the two communities during this time of transition. The Town Managers of both communities are in agreement with this interim appointment; Kennebunkport is scheduled to vote to appoint Mr. Mayo at their meeting on January 14. Per the Town Charter, the Select Board confirms the Town Manager's appointment.

A motion was made to confirm the Town Manager's Nomination of Christopher Mayo as Interim Harbormaster (effective immediately) for a term expiring not later than June 30, 2021 (date all Annual Appointments expire).

MOVED: Karytko
SECONDED: Ward
VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. The motion passed.

8. OLD BUSINESS – none

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Hear a Brief Presentation from Representatives of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** – Members of Rachel Carson NWR will present a short overview of their Green Business Initiative, a voluntary community outreach project developed by Rachel Carson NWR. Their goal is to inspire at least fifty local businesses to pledge to at least one environmentally sustainable action that they can implement within one year.

They have provided mockups of signs they might share with businesses that participate in the initiative. *Please refer to supporting material (PDF)*

Karl Stromayer, Refuge Manager, spoke about this agenda item. He brought up what is happening at 199 Brown Street. He mentioned a couple updates before moving on to the main agenda item.

Jessalyn Benson, biotech at Rachel Carson NWR, said the 50th anniversary celebration is in honor of the renaming of the refuge in 1970 after the great Rachel Carson. She said it started in June and is a year-long celebration. She mentioned various events associated with the celebration such as an art contest open to all.

Rachel Stearns, saltmarsh ecologist at Rachel Carson NWR, discussed the project they are working on entitled, "Rachel Carson's Conservation Champions: Businesses for a Greener Future," a voluntary community conservation project. She also noted some things they look forward to with the project, such as increased awareness of environmental matters.

Brewitt asked a question about the length of business commitment. Stearns responded to him. She said once businesses do sign up, they would like them to decide on and implement their environmental action within a one-year timeframe.

Baldwin said he had the pleasure of meeting with Stromayer and Aurelia Skipworth, the Director of US Fish and Wildlife Service out of the Brown Street Property earlier this year. He said he is very excited about all of the opportunities that exist at the new facility at Brown Street. He said this is a real opportunity to boost their ecotourism in this Town and also for us to take further steps to be good stewards of our environment. He said they are looking forward to the opportunity to work with US Fish and Wildlife.

b. Discuss Any Other Business - none

10. SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

a. Subcommittee Reports

Berry updated the Board on the Social Services Subcommittee, which met today with staff to discuss requests that had been filed with the Town for funding for the coming fiscal year. He said the total was \$42,000, which is a bare increase over last year's appropriation for that.

b. Individual Select Board Member Comments

Berry: Said it is amazing the amount of donations from the community. He also recognized staff members who spend some time helping people out in the community. He listed some. He also thanked volunteers. Mentioned a man who is approaching his 99th birthday. Said Happy Birthday to him.

Schulte: Said he is quite pleased how this Board handled themselves during the Interim RSU 21 Director conversation. He said if there's anything they can do to make it more accessible for people, he thinks they should think about doing that.

Ward: Said we had a wonderful group of candidates for the Interim RSU 21 Director position.

Karytko: Mentioned that torn and tattered flags can be brought to the American Legion on Water Street where they will be disposed of properly. Mentioned that there is a Lions Club box by the Town Clerk's Office for glasses, hearing aids, cellphones, etc.; said they will be refurbished and reused. Karytko noted some comments from some people in the community about wondering if there is a way to shorten the Budget process. He wondered if the process could be shortened. Karytko asked if Public Comments might be moved. Brewitt responded to him.

Brewitt: Said he has been working on the bylaws. Mentioned the Interim RSU 21 Director discussion had tonight, saying in the end result it went really, really well. Wondered if they could talk about some initiative the Town could take to join in Rachel Carson's program.

Paul: Said he hopes when Covid-19 passes they'll get back to meeting with the School Board. He said he thinks it would at least help with some of the issues they seem to have with communicating with them. He also said he thinks they need to consider affordable housing in Kennebunk—not many people can afford the type of real estate that is selling around here, he said—so that Town workers can afford to live here.

Baldwin: Said he wants to find good ways for this Board to communicate with the public, saying it has not been going close to ideally.

11. TOWN MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pardue mentioned an upcoming virtual Select Board Outreach Session, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday schedules, and upcoming Budget Meeting dates.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION – none

13. ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 8:55 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn tonight's meeting.

MOVED: Karytko

SECONDED: Schulte

VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. The motion passed.



L. Blake Baldwin, Chair

~~Wayne Berry, Vice Chair~~

~~Shiloh Schulte, Secretary~~

Kennebunk Select Board

Date 2/1/21