

**TOWN OF KENNEBUNK**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.**  
**MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

On Tuesday, January 26, 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 and Peter Brewitt. Selectperson William Ward, Jr. joined the meeting during Article 6.

Also present was Town Manager Michael Pardue.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting *Please refer to supporting material (PDF)*

**A motion was made to accept the minutes from our Regular Meeting on January 12, 2021.**

**MOVED: Karytko**

**SECONDED: Schulte**

**VOTE: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ward). The motion passed.**

3. ITEMS TO BE SIGNED - none

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS - none

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Costin, Kennebunk resident, spoke, saying he hopes everyone can relate to the idea that it can be hard to imagine something that you've never experienced before. He noted the School District recent hires (an HR Director and a consultant). He said that consultant is Gabby Greckein, who lives in Kennebunkport. He was impressed by the level of expertise she expressed. He encouraged people to listen to the School District Board's meeting last night.

Luna Phipps-Costin, Kennebunk resident, spoke about an agenda item at the last Select Board meeting regarding Kennebunk being rated by a company as the safest community in Maine. She said the statistics do not necessarily reflect our police force; she said they often reflect racial and class segregation. She said crime rates don't reflect crime occurrence, they reflect crime reports and justice victimization. She spoke about shifting funds from police to other things such as mental health. She made further comment on this line of discussion.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. **Accept the Following Donations:**

- \$1,595 from the Harrington Family from the Holiday Trail of Lights event for the Fuel Assistance Fund
- \$60 from the Lindgren Family from the Holiday Trail of Lights event for the Kennebunk Community Garden
- \$315 from Spurling Fitness from the Holiday Trail of Lights event for the Parks & Recreation Department
- \$2,500 from the William J.J. Gordon Family Foundation to help pay for heaters at 19 Park Street for the COS food pantry

- For the Fire Rescue Department:
  - \$5,000 from the estate of Miss Charlotte Bisson. Miss Bisson was a long-time resident of Kennebunk who the Fire Rescue served for many years.
  - \$50 from Valerie & Dave Clark of Thompson, CT in memory of Dennis Smith
  - \$100 from Ruth Shrader of Kennebunk, for services provided to the family
  - \$200 from Hillary Potter of Kennebunk for services provided to the family

Baldwin said a long-time friend of Bisson's stopped by his shop this morning and wanted to reaffirm the meaningfulness of this gift from Charlotte Bisson. He said that person wanted to make sure he highlighted that this is an acknowledgement of an unappreciated resource to our Town and she wanted him to mention Karen Wheeler as somebody who time and time again went the extra mile to serve Charlotte over the last few years. He said "hats off" to the Kennebunk Fire Rescue and thank you to the estate of Charlotte Bisson.

NOTE: At approximately 6:49 p.m., Select Board Member William Ward, Jr. joined the meeting.

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

**MOVED: Karytko**

**SECONDED: Schulte**

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

b. **New Hires** – We are pleased to announce the following new employees:

- **Beau Gleason:** Beau started in his new role of full-time Firefighter/Paramedic on January 18<sup>th</sup>. He initially began his career with Kennebunk Fire Rescue in 2012 as a Per Diem. From there, he was a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic for the City of Portland, ME, and the South Metro Fire Rescue in Centennial, CO. Upon his return to Maine, he re-joined KFR as a Per Diem in October 2020 and has come full circle with his latest position. Beau is excited to make Kennebunk his "home base" and provide fire and rescue service to his community.
- **James Schlagheck:** Jim started as the new part-time Board Clerk with the Community Development Division on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The Board Clerk position is a new addition to support multiple binding boards, including the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board, Site Plan Review Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Jim brings his experience of serving on two board subcommittees for the non-profit American Friends Service Committee, through participation in meetings and recording the minutes. Before retirement, Jim was a professional in banking and finance as well as an author, and is eager to apply his experience to this new role.

Please join us in welcoming Beau and Jim to their new positions.

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

- Update on the efforts of the Workplace Reengagement Task Force
- Update on the efforts of the Community Reengagement Task Force
- COVID-19 Community Resources – For those in need of assistance at this time, please visit our website where we have posted information for food and fuel resources as well as other assistance. [www.kennebunkmaine.us/socialservices](http://www.kennebunkmaine.us/socialservices)

Pardue went over this agenda item. He said the Community Reengagement Task Force met yesterday and adopted the name of "COVID Task Force," recognizing that we are fully reengaged as a community after shutdown last March.

Karytko asked if there is anything happening in York County with regard to COVID-19. Pardue responded to him, noting an increase spread of the virus in York County. He noted a discussion about opening a mega center for vaccinations.

#### 7. TIME SENSITIVE BUSINESS & STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Discuss the Appointment of a Director to the RSU 21 School Board** – At its January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Select Board voted to appoint Josiah Currier to fill a vacancy on the RSU 21 School Board. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Currier submitted his resignation from this position. Contingent upon the RSU 21 Board accepting Mr. Currier’s resignation on Monday evening, the Select Board will discuss filling this vacancy. The candidate names that were under consideration at the time of the appointment of Mr. Currier are shown below. Each has reaffirmed their interest to serve on the RSU 21 School Board:

Kortney Nedeau	Claudia Sayre	Peter Sentner
Gayle Asmussen Spofford	David Wayne	

Note: the RSU 21 Board accepted the resignation of Josiah Currier.

**A motion was made to limit public discussion, per person, no repeats, to no more than 2 minutes so we can move through this in a reasonable manner.**

**MOVED:** Berry

**AMENDED:** Baldwin asked if they could remove the no repeats language from the motion, and Berry agreed to that.

**SECONDED:** Ward

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

Schulte spoke in support of Kortney Nedeau, saying he thinks she would be a strong force for good and for change where change is needed.

Paul said he thinks this process in nominating someone is “horrible”. He said if you nominate someone and they get the majority of the Board’s vote, the others don’t get a chance. He also said that the discussion the last time this nomination process occurred about whether the candidate would run for another term in June he doesn’t think is their responsibility; their responsibility is to pick someone to sit on the Board until June and then in June the public will decide who will take that place. He also said he still feels strongly that they need to put somebody in there that’s been there.

Karytko said he wants someone who can watch spending at RSU 21, noting that he thinks the School District has enough people to deal with education and all the academics that go along with it.

Ward said there is a fairly small amount that a School Board member could control relative to financial matters. He said they need their education to be the envy of the area.

Leslie Trentalange, from the public, said she was happy to hear Schulte speak up for Kortney Nedeau. She said she thinks Kortney is going in with an open mind. She said she thinks she would be “phenomenal” to be an option to fill that seat.

**A motion was made to appoint Kortney Neadeau as the Director to the RSU 21 School Board representing Kennebunk until June 30, 2021.**

**MOVED:** Schulte

**SECONDED:** Baldwin

**VOTE:** 1 in favor (Schulte), 6 opposed. The motion failed.

Before the motion was voted on, Ward wondered if Nedeau was employed with the School District, saying that would create a conflict of interest. It was then noted that she is not paid by the School District.

**A motion was made to nominate David Wayne.**

**MOVED: Ward**

**SECONDED: Brewitt**

Ward said David Wayne's got a lot of experience and is a man of good temperament.

Schulte noted the sentiment of wanting to see younger, fresher faces coming into these boards.

Karytko noted the importance of having someone with the ability to communicate "our" position to the School Board.

**VOTE: 3 in favor, 4 opposed (Berry, Schulte, Karytko, Baldwin). The motion failed.**

Rachel Phipps, from the public, wondered if Ward could specify what he means by good standing and good temperament. To that, Ward said he feels he (David Wayne) has a lot to offer.

**A motion was made to nominate Gayle Asmussen Spofford for the position of Director to the RSU 21 School Board until June 30, 2021.**

**MOVED: Karytko**

**SECONDED: Berry**

Schulte said this process does not work well for this situation.

Town Clerk Merton Brown made it clear that these are appointments, not nominations.

Berry said Kennebunk was underrepresented last night at that board meeting. He said he thinks they need to have someone in there who has at least some experience with what goes on in the School District from internal point of view.

Dan Sayre, from the public, spoke on behalf of candidate Claudia Sayre, his wife. He noted Claudia's experience as an attorney and experience in financial matters.

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

After the above motion was voted on, Karytko noted the difficulty he finds in making these appointments.

Baldwin thanked all nine original people who raised their hands to stand watch for the next 5 months; he said all of those people were imminently qualified.

Ward said they had nine excellent candidates and one position. He said it wasn't easy picking the one person.

Rachel Phipps, from the public, said she is looking forward to a robust School Board election process this June. She encouraged people to run.

Kortney Nedeau, from the public, thanked all for the opportunity to be considered for this position and congratulated Gayle on being selected. She said between last week's meeting and this week she has been copied on 14 emails to the Select Board on her behalf. She said she's spent every Monday night on the School Board meetings, including last night. She said she doesn't know that any of you were publicly on that meeting. She wondered how the Select Board knows how much she is representing them if they weren't watching. She said she supports the Select Board and wants to help their voice come to the schools and have the school's voice come to the community by the Select Board and bridge that gap.

Baldwin said there being six older men on the Board is on the people who didn't pull papers and run.

Peter Sentner, from the public, spoke, apologizing for the curveball he threw last time, and he explained his reasoning, saying the process was abysmal and confusing to be on the receiving end of. He also wondered if there was an unconscious bias against a young woman vying for this position.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Hear an Update on the Select Board Strategic Planning** – The Board held a Workshop on January 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss aspects of their strategic planning initiative. They will share details of their workshop discussion.

Baldwin explained why he is wearing a mask while alone at Town Hall, other than Michael Davis whose broadcasting the meeting; he said the rules are if you're in this building, you have to have a mask on.

Baldwin spoke about the strategic plan efforts made to-date. He made reference to a PowerPoint.

Karytko asked how the Comprehensive Plan fits into this and where we are with it. Pardue stated that the status of the Comp Plan remains the same as offered Karytko a few hours earlier. Pardue said there is a plan developing for how best to advance the Comp Plan toward a successful outcome.

Rachel Phipps, from the public, expressed surprise by what she saw as a lack of communication, lack of follow-up between the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Town.

John Costin, from the public, made comment on the Strategic Planning, saying he is wondering if there are some examples of municipalities who have used a process like this one—said he thinks it might go a long way toward helping some people see how this process connects to a final product. He said if something like that could be made available to the public, he thinks it would be helpful to some people in visioning this. To that request, Baldwin said there are numerous examples in the municipal world of this process. He made further comment.

Jim Trentalange, from the public, spoke, in part wondering about the status of the proposed skatepark. Town Engineer Christopher Osterrieder offered an update relative to the skatepark. He said the next step for them is to secure the services of a park builder. He said information is available on the Town's website at ([www.kennebunkmaine.us/skatepark](http://www.kennebunkmaine.us/skatepark)). He reminded that the Town is very vigilant in highlighting information regarding this project at said site and encouraged people to utilize this resource. More discussion surrounding this ensued.

Dan Sayre, from the public, wondered about any possible timeframe for completion and a deadline for specific outcomes and outputs from the process. To that, Baldwin said they don't exist. He mentioned that he would expect an outside person would give them the answers to what Sayre asked.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Discuss Any Other Business**

Berry brought up an emergency issue: he noted a problem with a front end loader at the Town Garage, which is critical for snow removal this time of year. Public Works Director Bryan Laverriere responded to Berry, explaining the situation with said front end loader. He said they do have another front end loader.

Discussion continued. Finance Director Joel Downs spoke to this issue as well. He said in the Select Board Operational Contingency account, there is \$105,843.83. He said in the Select Board Capitol Reserve there is \$183,565.71.

**A motion was made to transfer from the Select Board's Capitol Reserve Account an amount up to \$15,000 for the repair of the transmission on the Volvo loader.**

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

#### 10. SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

##### a. Subcommittee Reports

Berry updated the Board on the Finance Subcommittee, which met earlier this evening.

Schulte said the Transfer Station Task Force met this afternoon. He reported on it.

##### b. Individual Select Board Member Comments

**Berry:** None

**Schulte:** Spoke about the importance he puts in seeking out diversity in matters, as a Board for them to try to help create diversity. He also told people to step up and volunteer for various Boards, etc.

**Ward:** Recognized Downs and Pardue for all the work they have done on the Proposed Budget.

**Karytko:** Mentioned that the Lions Club has a box by the Town Clerk's Office for used hearing aids, eyeglasses, cell phones. Said that any torn and tattered flags can be brought to the American Legion on Water Street where they will be taken care of appropriately. Wondered about the workshop on the procedure for public comments, etc.; wondered if said workshop is in the works. Baldwin responded to him, saying it is coming up soon. Karytko also offered condolences to the Sharood family, saying that Dick Sharood had passed away recently.

**Brewitt:** None.

**Paul:** None.

**Baldwin:** Brought up that they changed some time ago the name of Board of Selectmen to Select Board, saying they did that to encourage gender participation in this community. He noted other things they have done in efforts to promote diversity. He also said if you want to change the look of the Board, raise your hand.

#### 11. TOWN MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Before Pardue made announcements, Town Engineer Christopher Osterrieder gave an update on the revetment project.

#### 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION – none

#### 13. ADJOURNMENT

**At approximately 8:30 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 2/9/21