At the Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown, County of Washington, and State of Rhode Island, held in and for said Town, County, and State this 26th day of June, 2023 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT WERE:	Gregory A. Mancini, President Katherine K. Anderson Lawrence C. Mandel Matthew B. McCoy Dr. Kimberly Ann Page
ALSO PRESENT:	A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager Jeannette Alyward, Town Clerk Susan A. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk Matthew F. Callaghan, Jr., Town Solicitor

An audio recording and video recording of this meeting was made to supplement the written record.

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown held on June 26, 2023 was called to order by President Mancini.

2. Notice of Meeting being posted

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-6(c), notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State's Website.

3. Salute to Flag

President Mancini led those in attendance in a salute to the flag.

President Mancini led those in attendance in a moment of silence in memory of Pam Dumas who recently passed away.

4. Public Comment

Brian O'Dell, 152 Salisbury Avenue, stated that the School Committee is here again to ask you to fund the 1.7 million dollars for the middle school project and unless you do, they will have to sacrifice other projects. He stated that the School Committee is responsible for this money, and this is not right. He feels that they should have asked for it in the budget. He then asked if we are still looking in the Quidnessett area.

Kathleen Guarino, 139 Summit View Lane, stated that she understands why neither the School Committee nor the Town Council want to pay for the 1.7 million dollars. She has confidence that we can figure it out because we need a new school. She also stated that the middle school has been in the works for the past three years and she thinks it's a little late in the game for people to start complaining. This should have been done at past meetings.

Steve Colucci, 215 Pinecrest Drive, stated that he has sent many e-mails regarding the noise from motorcycles and semi-tractor trailer trucks at Route 4 and West Allenton Road. He handed in a packet to the Council regarding his many concerns.

Pam Pinheiro, 710 Slocum Road, stated that she is here tonight about the school bond. She is against the Town paying the architect fee. She is also concerned by what Town Manager Mollis presented as the impact to the Town side at the last meeting. She further stated that she is greatly concerned by the wetland's implications to the site layout. She attended the master planning community sessions and so much of the information is turning out to be inaccurate. She asked if the bond could be changed or if it could be rescinded. She feels bad that the Safety complex and school are on the same question.

Mary Crawford, 61 Baker Way, stated that she loves this Town but feels like we are back in time like 20 years ago with the Wickford Elementary School time. She doesn't believe bond questions should be on a non-election year ballot as public turn out is very low at these elections. She also stated that having grades 5-8 is a horrific idea for a middle school and Quidnessett is not a good location. She stated that Public Safety is a need and recreation is important. She stated that the Town should not give money to the school with no plan in place.

Kara Martone, 73 Woodridge Drive, Saunderstown, stated that she has concerns about the proposed Middle School and that the Quidnessett site master plan has incorrect information, like wetlands, and no field. She strongly recommends halting the plans.

Ann Hourahan, 243 Orchard Woods Drive, stated that she has been an educator for many years, and she is not a fan of a 5-8 grade middle school. She likes the neighborhood elementary schools that we have, and they have produced wonderful results. She asked why we are having a vote tonight when the school was located in the wrong place with wetlands. We need to have a better location before we decide who is going to pay for it. She also stated that with the school being grouped with the safety complex on the ballot, all the information is about the school, and she hasn't heard much about the safety complex.

# I. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 5 through 26 with the exception of Agenda Item Number 11.

5. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2023 and the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2023 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

6. Abatement of Uncollectable Taxes

VOTED: That the following uncollectable taxes are hereby approved for abatement:

DECEASED	
2021 Motor Vehicles	\$ 3,378.06
2021 Personal Property	\$ 1,482.00
Total	\$ 4,860.06
UNCOLLECTABLE	
2011 Motor Vehicle	\$73,329.69
2011 Personal Property	\$ 8,602.30
Total	\$81,931.99
GRAND TOTAL	\$86,792.05

7. Receipt of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donation in the amount of \$25.00:

For:	Beechwood Senior Center To be used for the Mealsite	
From:	Anonymous	\$25.00

8. Acceptance of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude signage regarding marijuana use in public places as designated in Section 13-6 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, given by South County Prevention Coalition.

# 9. Receipt of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude ten (10) First Aid Kits (valued at \$219.90) given by the North Kingstown Prevention Coalition to be used by the Summer Camps.

# 10. Approval of Purchase

VOTED: To approve the purchase of two (2) Field Mowers for the Golf Course from A-OK Turf Equipment, Inc., 1357 Main Street, Coventry, RI 02816 (MPA 506 - Award #3779057), in the amount of \$140,000.00.

Funding is from FY2024 Budget - Golf Course - Vehicular Equipment Acct. #43321010-550401.

11. Award of Contract

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To award the bid for the IT Department for a Managed Services Provider Contract to Envision Technology Advisors, 999 Main Street, Suite 703, Pawtucket, RI 02860 (MPA 308 - Award #3389043), in the amount of \$113,220.00.

Funding is from FY2024 IT Maintenance Account 00105050-531007.

12. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Department of Public Works for a Contract for Maintenance and Repair Services to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems for all Town Buildings to Regan Heating and Air Conditioning, with options for years 2 and 3 contingent on available funding, to Regan Heating and Air Conditioning, 16 Hylestead Street, Providence, RI 02905, in the amount of \$48,962.00.

Funding is from HVAC System Maintenance 00110070-531104.

13. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Department of Water Supply for the annual supply of Liquid Caustic Soda to Univar Solutions USA, 200 Dean Sievers Place, Morrisville, PA 19067-3700, in the amount of \$3.473 per gallon.

Funding is from FY2024 Budget - Water Fund - Water Treatment/Water Supply Chemicals 44040020-540308.

14. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Department of Water Supply for the annual supply of Liquid Sodium Hypochlorite to Roberts Chemical Co., 330B Victor Road, Attleboro, MA 02703, in the amount of \$4.50 per gallon.

Funding is from FY2024 Budget - Water Fund - Water Treatment/Water Supply Chemicals 44040020-540308.

15. Exhibition License (1-10 vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with 1-10 vendors by Mike Mangasarian, dba Cranston Sports Card Show, 118 Harmon Avenue, Cranston 02910, to hold a Sports Card and Memorabilia Show at the Wickford Middle School, 250 Tower Hill Road, on Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday, July 16, 2023), subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a Show Promoter's Permit; receipt of a list of vendors at the Town Clerk's Office by July 14, 2023 (which shall include their name, address, phone number, Tax ID Number, type of merchandise, and date of birth); and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Building Official, and the Planning Department.

# 16. Fireworks Permit

VOTED: To approve the application for a Fireworks Permit by Quidnessett Country Club, 950 North Quidnessett Road, to have a Fireworks Display on the grounds of the Quidnessett Country Club on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, at 9:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date, compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department and the Police Department, and compliance with the State inspection of the vehicle transporting the fireworks.

# 17. Amendment to Fireworks Permit

VOTED: To amend the Town Council vote of June 12, 2023 approving a Fireworks Permit by the Plum Beach Club, 224 Plum Beach Road, Saunderstown, to have a Fireworks Display at the Plum Beach Club Dock on Friday, June 30, 2023, by adding a rain date of Sunday, July 16, 2023.

# 18. Holiday Sales License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2024 the following list of Holiday Sales License Renewals subject to taxes and water paid to date:

Business Name	DBA	Location of Business	Mailing Address (if different)	Phone	Hours
BASEBALL CARDS OF RI INC		6861 POST RD		885-7342	10:00 AM- 6:00 PM
BLUE DOOR STUDIO LLC		4 BROWN ST		667-2890	9:00 AM- 9:00 PM
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	VERIZON WIRELESS	1310 TEN ROD RD SPACE 1	2200 CABOT DR SUITE 400 LISLE IL 60532	630-857-2290	9:00 AM- 9:00 PM
CHANDRONNET, CHESTER	WICKFORD ANTIQUES ESTAE LIQUIDATORS	200 TEN ROD RD		787-6373	11:00 AM- 5:00 PPM
CHANDRONNET, CHESTER	WICKFORD ANTIQUES ESTAE LIQUIDATORS	35 W MAIN ST		787-6376	11:00 AM- 5:00 PPM
DOVER SADDLERY INC		1340B TEN RCD RD	525 GREAT RD, LITTLETON MA	295-2840	10:00 AM- 7:00 PM
KINGSTOWN BOWL INC	KINGSTOWN BOWL	6125 POST RD		884-4450	9:00AM - 1:00 AM
ADY SYCAMORE BRIDAL LLC		6 MAIN ST		295-1015	9:00 AM- 9:00 PM
MTDS INC	WICKFORD MINI MART	684 BOSTON NECK RD		295-2080	6:00 AM- 9:00 PM
PGARCIA LLC	SHAKING IT UP NUTRITION	7561 POST RD	8 EVERGREEN DR, EXETER	667-0048	6:30 AM- 4:30 PM
DUAKER LANE WINE & SPIRITS LLC	QUAKER LANE WINE & SPIRITS	4020 QUAKER LN		294-7765	9:00 AM- 9:00 PM
RHODE ISLAND CVS PHARMACY LLC	CVS PHARMACY #4544	4255 QUAKER LANE	1 CVS DRIVE MC 1160, WOONSOCKET	372-9101	8:00 AM- 9:00 PM
RHODE ISLAND CVS PHARMACY LLC	CVS PHARMACY #595	6495 ROST RD	1 CVS DRIVE MC 1160, WOONSOCKET	884-2303	8:00 AM- 9:00 PM
SEACOAST FITNESS LLC	PLANET FITNESS	56 FRENCHTOWN RD	2 HAMPSHIRE ST #302 FOXBORUGH MA 02035	884-2835	5:00 AM- 10:00 PM
SPEEDWAY LLC	SPEEDWAY #2823	1820 BOSTON NECK RD	PO BOX 139044 DALLAS TX	294-2563	6:00 AM- 11:00 PM
THE STOP & SHOP SUPERMARKET CO LLC	STOP & SHOP #737	1300 TEN ROD RD	1385 HANCOCK ST QUINCY MA 02169	268-3808	6:00 AM- 12:00 PM
THERAPY CLOTHING BOUTIQUE LLC		5 W MAINST	343B MAIN ST WAKEFIELD	884-3130	11:00 AM- 5:00 PPM
WALGREEN EASTERN CO INC	WALGREENS #19680	7691 POST RD	PO BOX 401 DEEFIELD IL 60015	847-527-4905	7:00 AM- 10:00 PM
WALMART STORES EAST LP	WALMART #2261	1031 TEN ROD RD	702 SW 8TH ST MS #0500 BENTONVILLE AZ 72716	294-0025	6:00 AM- 10:00 PM
	ssments have been paid to da	ate DCB	Collection Dept.		

Date (0/14/23

# 19. Holiday Sales License (transfer) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve the application for transfer of a Holiday Sales License from Consignment Goods Too, LLC, dba Re, 7511 Post Road, to Re Antiques and Interiors, LLC, 7511 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a copy of their Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit, and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall and the Building Official; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2024 the application for renewal of a Holiday Sales License by Re Antiques and Interiors, LLC, 7511 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

20. Holiday Sales License (transfer) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve the application for transfer of a Holiday Sales License from NK Four LLC, dba Great Harvest Bread Company, 6670 Post Road, to Kristen Murphy, dba Kristen's Kreations Bakery & Sandwiches, 6670 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a copy of their Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit, and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall and the Building Official; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2024 the application for renewal of a Holiday Sales License by Kristen Murphy, dba Kristen's Kreations Bakery & Sandwiches, 6670 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

# 21. Victualling License (transfer) (renewal)

VOTED: To approve the application for transfer of a Victualling License from NK Four LLC, dba Great Harvest Bread Company, 6670 Post Road, to Kristen Murphy, dba Kristen's Kreations Bakery & Sandwiches, 6670 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a copy of a certificate from the Rhode Island Department of Health; receipt of a copy of their RI Retail Sales Tax Permit; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Planning Department, the Water Department, and the Building Official; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2024 the renewal application for a Victualling License by Kristen Murphy, dba Kristen's Creations Bakery & Sandwiches, 6670 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

# 22. Laundry License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2024 the following list of Laundry License Renewals subject to taxes and water paid to date:

LIC #	NAME	DBA	ADDRESS	TOWN	STATE	ZIP	Rec'd Star
L-2	Wickford Shipyard, Inc	dba Wickford Shipyard Launderette	125 Steamboat Ave	NK	RI	02852	5/10/2023
L-3	North Kingstown Laundry, Inc		7421 Post Road	NK	RI	02852	05/08/23
	<i>,,,</i>		(A) 19				

All taxes/water assessments have been paid to date OOIS Collection Dept. Date SIII23

# 23. Peddler License (new)

VOTED: To approve the application for a Peddler License by Stuart Fishman, dba Ocean State Toys, 9 South Joseph Street, Westerly 02891, to sell novelty toys on the grounds of the North Kingstown Town Beach at the Town's Fireworks Show on Monday, July 3, 2023 (rain date Wednesday, July 5, 2023), subject to taxes and water paid to date and receipt of the following:

- 1. RI Retail Sales Tax Permit
- 2. Rhode Island Department of Health Certificate (if necessary)
- 3. Litter Tax Permit (if necessary)
- 4. Letter of consent from the property owner where vending (if stationary)
- 5. Motor Vehicle Registration (if necessary)

24. First Reading – Amendment to Section 2-1

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 2-1 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Competitive Bidding Required", (1)a and b, entitled, "Quotations" and (2), entitled, "Sealed Bidding", and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 17, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

25. First Reading – Amendment to Chapter 15, Article IV

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Chapter 15, Article IV of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Police Officers' Disability Pensions", and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 17, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

26. First Reading – Amendment to Section 21-362 and Section 21-363

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 21-362 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Zoning Map" and Section 21-363, entitled, "Assessor's Plats", and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 17, 2023 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption. (70 Pleasant Valley Road, Plat 129, Lot 3 and 84 Pleasant Valley Road, Plat 129, Lot 9)

# II. REPORTS

27. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

- In follow-up to our last meeting, and as the Council instructed, I reached out to Eve Clulow to request her attendance at an upcoming Council Meeting. She has advised me that she is meeting with her architect and restaurant consultants to see if she can lessen the scope of the project to accomplish significant cost savings while still hoping to accomplish a viable business plan. She will get back to me within the next couple of weeks to discuss her outcome and plan for her attendance at either our July or August Meeting.
- As a result of the Education Compact, we signed with Governor McKee a few weeks back, we are working on a comprehensive and impressive Learn365RI Grant. The first Grant Application, a standard \$50,000 Grant, is due this Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. This will be accompanied by a more comprehensive grant opportunity which could be upwards of \$350,000 and would also be due this Friday.

The first Grant Application will focus on voluntary after-school counseling session opportunities for all grades, with transportation, with a licensed mental health professional in partnership with our Recreation Department; 6-week tutoring, mental well-being workshops and exercises for Middle Schoolers at KidCove in North Kingstown in partnership with our Rec. Department; an incentive program to increase FAFSA completion rates; Chromebooks available through our Library for those students participating in the tutoring program; and a stipend for a Learn365RI part-time Grant Coordinator.

The latter larger Grant will include the possibility of a 5 day, full-day camp for up to 20 Middle Schoolers through a partnership with URI Graduate School of Oceanography Inner Space Center for a hands-on, activity oriented, after-school curriculum with lunch and transportation provided; 2 individual 60-minute counseling sessions for up to 10 students each 6-week period; February and April School Break programming for up to 24 elementary students at KidCove Academic Enrichment Center; expansion of the Recreation Department's Summer Squad reading program; and funding for a part-time Grant Coordinator, materials, and programming.

I want to thank everyone involved for their great work in putting this together as we look forward to a successful Grant Application.

• I want to thank our Parks & Fields Department on the many improvements and accomplishments achieved over these past few months, improvements & accomplishments that have been recognized by our various leagues, participants and parents. This new department, created two years ago, and with Dave Creta at the lead, has been an outstanding addition and has been complemented throughout the community.

Among the improvements to our fields, this new Department has installed a new batter's box, bases and new infield at Wilson Park Middle Field; renovated the Ryan Park Upper Field; placed a new covering with wood chips at Ryan Park, our Town Beach, Wickford El Playground and Wilson Park Playground; leveled the walkways at our Town Beach; leveled the Seashell Parking Lot at Wilson Park; and has maintained our Splashpad and assisted with multiple local events. Our thanks for their great work this Spring and over the past two years.

• I've had several meetings with the Library Director over the past two months and I'm happy to report that they are projecting a significant surplus due to numerous vacancies and it is projected that this Surplus could result in erasing the entire accumulated deficit of the Library Fund. This will be confirmed in our upcoming Audit.

- One final thank you to Mr. Tom Miozzi and the North Kingstown Senior Association for their generosity in allowing us to purchase a new, 15 passenger bus for the Senior Center which will eliminate the need for a CDL License to operate the bus. We had a photo-op earlier this evening to celebrate this purchase and this new bus will be in operation tomorrow, providing vital services to the Seniors of our community.
- An update on the Post Road & West Main Street Sidewalk Project --- we are in the process of negotiating and signing a Construction and Maintenance Agreement with DOT for this project and will be meeting with DOT this Tuesday. I'll continue to keep the Town Council up to date.
- Our Summer Camp started this morning. As in the past, this cost-efficient opportunity for families to send their children to a fun-filled daily camp run by our Recreation Department is sold out. As a result, Wilson and McGinn Parks will be busier over these next 8 weeks.

In addition, Recreation Director Chelsey Gibbs, who also serves as Chair of the Subcommittee for the RI Parks & Recreation Association Camp University hosted the Camp University at our Town Beach last week. It was a successful training event for the entire state as they educated staff and provided a great networking event for staff from 10 different communities. Due to its success, North Kingstown will be hosting the Training Event again next year.

- As you know, the State passed the Tangible Exemption Legislation last week. While the Act will exempt \$50,000 of tangible taxes for local businesses, the language within the legislation results in challenges for North Kingstown and other communities. We are attempting to address these challenges with the State, and I will keep you advised.
- An update for the Town Council and general public...our Planning Department have had preliminary meetings with the potential Lease Holder of the Tarbox Property on Post Road. At this point, it appears there are very preliminary plans for a Fast-Food Restaurant, Car Wash, Bank and potentially a fourth business. Again, these are preliminary and are subject to change, although any changes must conform to our local laws and Ordinances. Board and Commission approvals may be necessary. I will keep you up to date.

On a somewhat related note, I have reached out to Dollar Tree and Nicole & I are attempting to schedule a meeting with them in regard to their locating to Wickford Village, in an attempt to assist them with having the business cater to the needs of the character of the village.

- Tax Bills are scheduled to go out next week. The first quarterly payment is due July 31<sup>st</sup>. As always, you can pay in person, by mail or online. Please visit our website for up-to-date information and directions as to how to pay online.
- Finally, our annual Fireworks Display is this Monday night, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at our Town Beach. The festivities will start at 4pm with a live band on our Bandstand followed by the Lafayette Band at 7pm and right through the Fireworks display which will begin at sunset. There will be food trucks and other vendors throughout the beach campus. Also, there will be a shuttle from the North Kingstown High School to the Town Beach beginning at 4pm and lasting through the evening. We encourage visitors to take advantage of this shuttle opportunity as there is more than enough parking at our High School.

Councilor Mandel asked with regard to the Main Street and Post Road sidewalk project, if the Manager was able to ascertain if bicycles will be able to utilize these sidewalks. Mr. Mollis stated that we did have a conversation with RIDOT, and their policy is that bicycles are not supposed to utilize sidewalks. He does not believe that there is a law regarding that or that it is enforced. However, we do not have enough room for a "bike" lane, but we are looking into it.

\*Amended at the Regular Town Council Meeting on August 16, 2023

Clerk's note: Upon reviewing the minutes and a subsequent discussion with Mr. Mollis, Councilor Mandel requested that it be noted that Mr. Mollis's research indicated that bicycles (or any vehicle operated by human power) may travel on sidewalks unless prohibited by official traffic control devices.

In answer to Councilor Mandel's question regarding the noise issues on Route 4 and if the Police Department has looked into any type of noise monitoring system, Mr. Mollis stated we haven't had much progress due to manning issues at the Police Department. We have not been able to engage in the pilot program that we have been looking at. However, it is going to be a challenge to put a local police officer on a highway which runs through North Kingstown and attempt to have that officer enforce the noise we have been talking about. We do understand that this is an ongoing problem. As far as signage is concerned, it is a lot easier for a municipality to install a sign on a state road such as Phillips Street than it is on a major state highway such as Route 4. As far as cameras that measure noise and speed, we would not be able to install them without DOT permission.

Councilor Mandel stated that several people have raised concerns regarding modified vehicles and recreational vehicles and asked if the Town has looked into enforcement of those issues. Mr. Mollis stated that our noise ordinance addresses these issues. There is no question those vehicles exceed what is allowed in our ordinance. We have received numerous complaints from one neighborhood, and we have had some success in violating that individual. This situation is easier to enforce than those violations on Route 4. He further stated that he spoke with the Chief this morning and we will be addressing this with DOT again; however, that situation is challenging.

Councilor Mandel stated that he hopes we can keep working on this issue.

# 28. Report by the Director of Water Supply

Tim Cranston, Director of Water Supply stated that the Council has been provided with a Summary Report of the Satellite Leak Detection conducted by Asterra. The report details the results of their initial full scale satellite leak detection program for the North Kingstown Water Department. As you may be aware, past traditional leak detection efforts have been ineffective due to the fact that our water mains are largely made of non-metallic materials. The new technology utilized by Asterra, which keys in on actual leaking water in the soils adjacent to the water mains rather than "leak sound" transmission carried through the water mains to surface features like valves and fire hydrants, is a much more effective way to identify leaks.

All 181 miles of pipeline in the North Kingstown Water Department's infrastructure were scanned by satellite on three separate satellite flyovers and based on the combination of these three data sets, a number of specific points of interest were identified for physical inspection by Asterra's field teams. The field teams physically inspected and identified points of interest and located 18 confirmed leaks as a result. Of these 18 leaks, 14 were found to be associated with infrastructure under the responsibility of the Water Department, and 4 were identified as homeowner leaks. The Water Department has already repaired about 60% of the identified leaks and intends to have repairs to the remaining leaks accomplished within the next two months. The work has been done in house by Water Department staff. The four homeowners were notified, and the Department will work with them to expedite those repairs.

Asterra staff has quantified not only the actual lost volumes from the identified leaks, but also the lost revenues represented in that volume. The 1.8 million gallons of lost water per year equates to \$130,332.00 in potential lost revenue due to these non-surfacing water leaks. Based on the \$85,500.00 total cost for Asterra's services, this represents a payback period of return of investment of less than 8 months.

Mr. Cranston further stated that both he and the Town Manager feel that having this satellite inspection conducted on a yearly basis is a proactive tool to ensure that our infrastructure is maintained efficiently.

The Council thanked Mr. Cranston for his report.

#### 29. Presentation of Upgrades to the North Kingstown Golf Course

Dan McDermott, Superintendent of the Golf Course gave the following presentation:



# North Kingstown **Golf Course** Review 2022-2023

by Daniel McDermott Golf Course Superintendent North Kingstown Golf Course



# North Kingstown **Golf Course**

- Philosophy is to bring the top conditioning possible for our golfing public while being as environmentally friendly
  Yearly acquisitions of important pieces of equipment that help us maintain healthy top-
- quality turf
  Implementing practices such as aeration and topdressing to increase root depth on greens
  Increasing our fertility and plant protection programs to support healthy turf



# Upgrades to Golf Course and Maintenance Facility in 2022-2023

- sting cement flooring in Quonset building to elir
- ent at entrance to Quonset building
- sted structural braces and replace with new material in Qu
- ghout building
- Sealed entire roof with a silicon material
- Installation of Electric Charging Stations
- Cart Path Repair Trim and Painted Ball Shed at Bange
- Artificial Mats at the Range
- Green Expansions 13 & 14
- ned and Levelled the 8<sup>th</sup> Tee
- Tree Work 1st and 18th hole
- Sod Work on 9 Greenside Bunker & 17
- Restoration of Drainage Ditch Hole 4 & 6 & 16 Overgrown and limiting drainage flow
- Clearing the brush and trees around the irrigation pond



# Before and during construction



# **Charging Stations**

# Fixing Cart Paths





Replacing Trim and Painted Ball Shed at Range







Artificial Mats at Range









Restoration of Drainage Ditch Hole 4 & 6 & 16 Overgrown and limiting drainage flow Clearing the brush and trees around the irrigation pond



Using the Mini that was approved in FY23 and shared with the field manager from the Recreation Department has already been a benefit to the course







# Completed Renovation of 8<sup>th</sup> Tee

Added 4 feet to each side of previous Tee and gained 1200 square feet of new teeing area surface



Sod Work on 9 Greenside Bunker & 17







Tree Work 1<sup>st</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> hole

Green Expansions 13 & 14







Mr. Mollis stated that thanks to Mr. McDermott, his staff, Chelsey, and the Town Council's support the Golf Course is one of the busiest public golf courses in the state. He further stated that these improvements and equipment purchases are all accomplished within the enterprise fund and no tax dollars are used.

The Council thanked Mr. McDermott for his presentation.

# III. OLD BUSINESS

# 30. Leisure Services Advisory Committee - Appointment

President Mancini stated that he spoke with both applicants as well as the Chair of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee. Based on those conversations, he would like to recommend that Jeffrey Smith be reappointed.

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Jeffrey Smith, 146 Chadsey Road, to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to July 1, 2026; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That this appointment is made in accordance with Section 317 of the Town Charter as Mr. Smith has expertise and knowledge essential to this Committee and ongoing projects.

31. Fire Chief Update on Status of Proposed Public Safety Complex

Chief Kettelle stated that he doesn't have a lot to update at this point and time on the proposed public safety complex. However, the building committee has met several times and has plans to move forward with a website, video presentations of the building, as well as a plan to schedule tours for the residents in the coming months. He further stated that Channel 12 came to his office today and spent 90 minutes learning about the building, the project, and the current status. Captain MacCoy and himself were able to give the reporter a tour of the facility and we identified failing concrete, roof leaks throughout both sides of the building, and dangerous conditions. In the past recent months, we have identified deteriorating concrete in both of the apparatus wall where the fire engines are, and today we found failing concrete in the lower half of the building which had not been identified. Is this a telltale sign of what is coming in the future, yes, it is.

In regard to deferred maintenance, he has heard a few people in Town discuss the fact that we have failed to maintain the buildings, he takes acceptance to that. He has been on the Fire Department for 34 years, raised in North Kingstown for 53 years, and he has watched the improvements that have been made. The improvements come with a dollar value. The Public Works Department looks at the tax dollars afforded to them, the buildings they have to maintain, and looks at how to best utilize the dollars given to them. Over the past 15 or more years, a number of improvements have been made to the police/fire complex. Unfortunately, those improvements do not change failure of concrete which is due to age. They don't affect square footage and the lack of space that we have. Based on the forecast this week, he anticipates that we are going to have water leaks leading to mold issues. These issues will continue. To date, we haven't done a lot in terms of advertising or educating about these conditions, some of the reasons are that we don't have a budget for publicizing or educating to the public these issues. Our police officers and firefighters are taking their time off duty to help us put together a plan to educate our community as to the needs. You haven't seen a lot to date, but we do plan on ramping up informing the public in the near future. However again, we don't have a budget, but thanks to some concerned citizens and unions we do have some donations.

He further stated that he would like to say thank you to the residents in Town who through telephone calls, e-mails, and social media have expressed support for your Police Department and Fire Department for the upgrades and needs of this facility. He was asked by the reporter what is going to happen the day after the vote in the event it fails, the answer is simple. The Police Department and Fire Department will come back the next day and continue to work to serve this community by working in an old building, continue to put buckets under leaky roofs, continue to have the Public Works Department address the issues, and come back to the Council to get support to take another bite at the apple to reeducate the voters. He doesn't know what the voters will decide in November, and he won't blame the voters if they vote no. This is a lot of money, but the unfortunate part is that it will cost more if we delay this. To the 27,000 people of this Town and our elected officials, he is not proud coming before you and asking for \$55 million, but with everything the committee has seen it is going to cost more if we delay this.

Councilor Anderson asked if it is accurate that new fire apparatus will not fit in this building and will not be supported by the disintegrating concrete. Chief Kettelle stated that if we were to purchase new apparatus tomorrow designed for a community such as North Kingstown, the design would be a 31-34 foot long fire engine, that building is not big enough. As a result, the engine currently located in this building is 28' 7" long and you can't walk behind the truck as it is within 6" of the back wall. You cannot walk between the rescue and the engine. Councilor Anderson stated that this is not an issue of deferred maintenance, Chief Kettelle stated that is correct.

Councilor Anderson asked if it is accurate that there are no women's locker rooms. Chief Kettelle stated that is accurate in every fire station in town. The need for modernization is there throughout the town as well as the Police Department's space for women is very limited. Their current locker room is a closet that has been modified. Councilor Anderson stated that this is also not an issue of deferred maintenance, Chief Kettelle stated that is correct.

Councilor Anderson asked if the jail cells are dangerous and outdated. Chief Kettelle stated they do not meet the accreditation standards and are in an area identified as being outdated. Councilor Anderson stated that this is also not an issue of deferred maintenance, Chief Kettelle stated that is correct.

Councilor Mandel stated that having toured both the safety complex and Wickford Middle School he is happy to say that the work that has been done to make them still useful is heroic. He also rejects the notion that there has not been maintenance on these buildings. They are old buildings, beyond their useful life, and need to be replaced.

Councilor McCoy thanked the Chief for his report. He further stated that what a lot of people are not aware of is that the Fire Department's scope and mission increases every time we get a new type of business at the Quonset Business Park. Chief Kettelle stated that is an accurate statement. Councilor McCoy stated that the Quonset Business Park is growing and currently has 250 plus businesses very different in nature. It is going to continue to grow, and the Fire Department needs to continue to adapt to be able to provide the services at Quonset, and he thinks the department has done an excellent job in that regard. But the need for a new public safety building is tied in with the growth of Quonset and he thinks the residents need to know and understand that. Chief Kettelle thanked Councilor McCoy for pointing that out and stated that it is also because of the growth all over town. However, Quonset/Davisville does have a major impact as they are not traditional in the size, scope, and hazard. But the entire community, whether residential or business all have an impact on the fire protection division, which is in an inadequate space. Three years ago, we had paper applications and plans for development and renovations, now with new technology everything is digital and computerized, which is a great thing, but with that you need large monitors that can review those prints, you need room to do that, and hope that it doesn't rain on it. Councilor McCoy thanked Chief Kettelle for his thoughtful comments.

Councilor Page asked if the Chief has suggestions on what the Council should be doing to ensure the bond passes. Chief Kettelle stated that is a loaded question. He further stated that education is the key. As the residents contact the Council with questions, please encourage them to contact him directly. In the upcoming 2-4 weeks there will be a mechanism to call or e-mail to make an appointment to tour the facility. It is our goal to give tours to 4-6 residents at a time. This is going to be challenging, especially with the Police Department if there are interviews going on or they are processing an individual, as well as the engines and firefighters may be out on a call. At the end of the day, all he is asking is that the voters be educated and do their homework.

President Mancini thanked the Chief for attending tonight's meeting on his birthday.

# 32. Update on Status of the School Bond Project

President Mancini stated that we have a new School Committee that was elected last November, and they hit the ground running with this ambitious project. For several reasons, the biggest one outside of need is that the Town would be eligible for the \$33.6 million bonus that was expected to expire. President Mancini reviewed the following e-mail from Mario Carreno, Chief Operations Officer of the Rhode Island Department of Education regarding the timeline for the approval of the project and bonuses:



Email excerpt from: Mario Carreño, ALEP Chief Operations Officer Rhode Island Department of Education 255 Westminster Street Providence, RI 02903 www.ride.ri.gov/sba

Timeline sent to districts in March:

By June 15th-Obtain General Assembly approval for bond funded projects.

By September 15th - Submit a Stage II application to RIDE.

By December 19th - Obtain Council on Elementary and Secondary Approval

By December 30th - ensure all projects seeking temporary housing aid bonuses commence construction.

Revised schedule created by passage of the general assembly's budget on June 16, 2023:

By June 15th-Obtain General Assembly approval for bond funded projects.

By February 15, 2024 – Submit a Stage II application to RIDE.

By May 15, 2024 - Obtain Council on Elementary and Secondary Approval

By June 30, 2024 – ensure all projects seeking temporary housing aid bonuses commence construction. Eligibility will be determined based on the date of the executed construction contract. To achieve this, LEAs will likely need to issue a Request for Proposal no later than March 2024.

President Mancini stated that there are a lot of moving parts with this timeline and the project, but we can be eligible for these bonuses thru March of 2024. This is a good time for us to pause, collaborate with the School Committee, and have them hear our input. We have certainly heard from the citizens of our community. He believes we need to advocate for pausing, and he has some ideas of what can be done during this pause.

Dr. Earle, Chair of the School Committee stated that we are excited that the general assembly has adjusted these timelines which is beneficial to the school project. She further stated that Mr. Waterman, COO of the School Department is here tonight to provide some additional updates. Dr. Earle stated that since they were here last, we have had one building subcommittee meeting and no new information has been presented to the School Committee, but we were happy to come tonight and provide any updates that we have. She further stated that in regard to the pause, there is still a lot of work to be done. While the deadline is good for us to be able to have a successful project, we definitely need to continue with the planning and working through some of the challenges that we are facing. President Mancini stated that we couldn't agree more.

Mike Waterman stated the first update which is a big one is the ability for us to move from a September Stage 2 submission to a February Stage 2 submission. There is one other bullet point that was sent in an e-mail on June 19<sup>th</sup> regarding our November referendum date as far as dates to hit. President Mancini stated that the referendum date is a Council decision. Mr. Waterman stated that he understands that. He further stated that at the building subcommittee meeting, we reviewed site plans which showed some wetlands that were not anticipated on the western side of the property and a brook to the southern end of the property; however, there are expanded wetlands. We have tasked the architect and the team to go back and look at our options as we need to have adequate parking and field space because that is very important. We are asking for additional time for us to come up with some options as it makes sense for us to consider delaying the September Stage 2 submission to February.

President Mancini thanked Mr. Waterman and asked Councilor McCoy to comment on his observations from the last subcommittee meeting. Councilor McCoy stated that he attended the first building subcommittee meeting and the most recent meeting, as well as several School Committee Meetings where all this was discussed, and he has viewed the various briefings. He would say that his honest opinion at this point is that Quidnessett School is not a good fit for this project, which is not including all the issues that people have raised regarding traffic, noise or whatever. With the amount of usable space on this site, he doesn't think that shoehorning a 1,200-student school in that lot and shortchanging the number of athletic fields is a good idea because we are asking the voters to approve a \$167 million bond. He feels that we need to take a pause as President Mancini has indicated. He lives in this neighborhood on Potter Road, which isn't directly adjacent and at this point, he doesn't see that this is a good fit for this piece of land.

Councilor Mandel stated that he has heard a tremendous amount from constituents over the past several days and he is trying to be cognizant of the difference of the School Department's lane and the Town Council's lane. He thinks that academic decisions belong to the School Committee, and it is our job to be supportive as we have the same goals as we want the best for our community. With that said, we are not a rubber stamp. We need to exercise our judgement. He further stated that he watched the last School Committee Meeting and the last building subcommittee meeting. It is clear to him that both committees received information that they never expected to receive regarding the Quidnessett site alone, is grounds to stop and review where we are and where we go forward. He is sympathetic and supportive to President Mancini's and Councilor McCoy's opinions to take a pause as this is not a preferred site. He further stated that he would encourage the building subcommittee to go back and give further consideration if this is the best site, and if it is, it is important to come forth with the reason why it is. It appears to him that the overwhelming response and the new unforeseen information conflicts with what the experts had predicted a few years ago. We need to rethink where we are and if we are going to move forward, we need a new rational and explanation as to why this is the best site.

Dr. Earle stated that she very much appreciates the Council's thoughtfulness and having the opportunity to speak to the Council. She further stated that she would like to clarify a couple of points that have been brought up. The facility master plan is a document that is used to help set short term and long-term goals for the school district as well as guide capital investments. When that plan was done, which is a requirement that has to be done every five years, they identified this as a potential opportunity for investment. Now we are in the prefeasibility stage for this location. We knew there was a potential that this location might be challenging. We need to do this investigation work to view options and she has great faith in the staff, architect, and OPM to figure out if Quidnessett is the best viable option and if we should move forward with this site. She would like further clarification on what a pause means, and asked President Mancini if he could explain what he is thinking. President Mancini stated that he doesn't think there is a need to or time to do a schematic design for Quidnessett and thinks alternative sites and options should be looked at as well as potentially two schools. If we could get something by our August meeting, that would be great. We certainly appreciate what has been accomplished to this point but there are some questions about what was in the initial studies that everyone is relying on. He does believe that the School Committee has a great architect and OPM and he has a high degree of confidence of what they can figure out and suggested that they look at other options outside of Quidnessett. He further stated that he appreciates the School Committee doing their due diligence and that is why we are where we are at this point.

Dr. Earle stated that we want to be transparent in the process and we want the community to be assured that we are working through these issues publicly. She thinks with the timeline, that nothing is off the table at this point as to what we can do to give the community the information to pass the bond at the vote. President Mancini stated that he appreciates Dr. Earle coming tonight to address these issues prior to the School Committee hearing a report of the last building subcommittee meeting.

Dr. Earle stated that she strongly feels that we need to explore what can be done or if we need to consider other options and consider having a joint meeting with the building subcommittee, as well has have the Council and public in attendance.

President Mancini stated that he would like to have the School Committee provide options at the next Town Council Meeting in August.

Councilor McCoy stated that he has full faith and confidence in the elected members of the School Committee who are dedicated to providing the students of this Town with safe, habitable, and modern school facilities. He commended the School Committee Chair and her colleagues. With the issues at play here, he applauds the School Committee for looking at trying to save the taxpayers of this Town money. We have an estimate of \$167 million for this school. If RIDE has a program that would allow the Town to get reimbursed up to 55% and would benefit the taxpayers, he thinks that is a good thing, but that shouldn't be the driving factor to put the school in a place where it is not best suited. He thinks the majority of the feedback that he is hearing is from the people that have contacted him. The architects are doing a great job and he likes the plans that have been shown. He feels that whatever plan we come up with, they are the right people for the job. His only concern is where this is going to go. We only have so much town owned land and it must go in the boundaries of the town and maybe the option is not a single 1,200 student massive middle school. Maybe the answer is two smaller middle schools. He thinks that is something that is a course of action that needs to be looked at again. Dr. Earle stated that regarding Councilor Mandel's point of academic decisions on how we deliver curriculum, how we utilize teachers, and how we maximize opportunities for students, having a larger middle school is a huge culture change, but she thinks that what is important is to have equality in the middle schools. Also, making sure that we are hitting that 55%. One part of the 55% bonus piece is the concept of newer and fewer schools and the state's goal to condense schools to allow long term operations, long term maintenance, and to be more efficient fiscally for taxpayers. Also, what we heard from educators is that there is a lot of different designs and ways to ensure that students still have teams, a home base, with a feeling of a smaller environment within a larger environment. This is a priority of the School Department and the architects in the design of the building.

Councilor Page stated that she has sat on the building subcommittee for the last four years. She was unable to attend the last meeting, but she did watch the meeting. One of the things that struck her the most is that the building subcommittee was surprised by the information they got, and they didn't come to any sort of resolution. They asked a lot of questions and brought up the concerns that we have heard here at the Council level. They know what our community wants in terms of a school community that works with the community, the importance of adequate fields. She doesn't want people to think that the building subcommittee is driving forward and that they want a project that the community doesn't want. They are very in tune to the issues and concerned. It is good that we have until February for the Stage 2 submission. This doesn't mean we have to take that time, but that the School Committee has more time, pause, and investigate where we should go from here. Dr. Earle stated that we want to come up with the best plan possible and there isn't going to be a plan that will please everyone, but we want to minimize those concerns. Whenever this building happens, will be years before students are physically in the building. This will also address a lot of different challenges within the district when we talk about growth within the town and ensuring that we have capacity. Again, this project just doesn't address the middle schools but a long-term holistic solution for overall education needs at all levels. She assured that we are not going to push forward a project that doesn't make sense.

Councilor Anderson stated that she would echo that everyone on the School Committee, the School Department, and these subcommittees are working in good faith. As a taxpayer, she greatly appreciates the importance you all have placed in getting these bonuses and making this project as economic as possible. She further stated that she also shares the concern regarding the Quidnessett site. She wants to see other options as she thinks there are other contingencies and questions surrounding if this moves forward at this site, what happens to the Quidnessett students and Davisville Middle School. If DMS is not suitable for middle school students, how would it be suitable for elementary school students. She understands we are not there yet to answer those questions; however, the Council and the residents do need clarity in order to make informed decisions.

Dr. Earle stated that our plans are to have that information well in advance. The one thing to remember is that Dr. Duva is joining us on July 1, and we want to make sure our new leader is involved in those conversations including looking at all the schools as far as where students are going. Dr. Duva understands that this is a priority as well as Mr. Waterman understands what information we need to provide. One area we need collaboration on is presenting options for Wickford Middle School and what that site will look like.

President Mancini stated regarding Wickford Middle School he would have no problem with having a new building on that site and possibly an addition constructed at Davisville Middle School. He further stated that it has been said tonight that the district has a lot of challenges. The district has always had a lot of challenges and he can say from his experience he thinks government is best when it takes baby steps. He thinks to try to tackle all the districts challenges with this one project is problematic. Everyone understands we need to replace Wickford Middle School so we should concentrate and tackle that. He further stated that he would like the School Committee to speak with their consultants to look at other sites, having 2 new middle schools and overall other options and hopefully report back to the Council at our August meeting. Dr. Earle stated that the building subcommittee will be scheduling another meeting and report back to the School Committee as well as report back to the Council.

President Mancini thanked Dr. Earle, members of the School Committee, and Mr. Waterman for attending tonight.

33. School Committee Request - Funding of the Architect Fee for the proposed Middle School Project

President Mancini stated this slide of the School Department's fund balance was provided to the Council at the last meeting; however, was not shared with the public. He further stated he spoke with Dr. Earle earlier today and requested that they hold off on this request until their surplus is confirmed in a fiscal year as their new Finance Director suggested at a recent School Committee Meeting that there will be a \$2.1 million surplus, which is a preliminary number. President Mancini asked if Dr. Earle would like the Council to hold off on this issue at this point. Dr. Earle responded that it is the Council's preview, and we were coming to the Council with collaboration and transparency as to what support we may need.

President Mancini stated that surpluses are good, and we don't want to penalize any department for having a surplus. Having said that, even before hearing about the School Department's projected surplus, he had reservations regarding funding this request.

#### North Kingstown School Department General & CIP Balance Projection

#### As of June 9, 2023

FY2022 Audited Fund Balance - balance to start FY2023	\$ 6,935,907	
Move town-appropriated funds for Capital Projects to Fund 3201	\$ (900,000)	
FY2022 Non-spendable - Prepaids	\$ (9,635)	
FY2023 General Fund Re-appropriated Fund balance	\$ (500,000)	2nd of 3 \$500K re-appropriations
FY2023 General Fund Re-appropriated Fund balance	\$ (1,199,966)	Contract Rollover and Employee Retention
Move town-appropriated funds for Capital Projects to Fund 3201	\$ (500,000)	
Allocation of 2% FY 22 State Aid & Town Funding	\$ (1,343,445)	Per Policy - Held for emergency and unanticipated, unbudgeted needs
Reserve for Rowse Architects Stage II submission	\$ (200,600)	Approved by SC 1/11/2022
NKSD Capital Reserve FY 2021 (11/16/2021)	\$ (346,221)	
NKSD Capital Reserve FY 2023 (11/16/2021)	\$ (14,600)	
CTE (5/24/22)	\$ (50,000)	To keep CTE programs current for technology and other capital needs
Library/Media (5/24/22)	\$ (50,000)	Upgrade school libraries
Auditorium (5/24/22)	\$ (50,000)	HS auditorium future reserves
Fleet Upgrades/ Equipment (5/24/22)	\$ (150,000)	Annual; 1 bus a year to maintain fleet age
5 Year Capital Plan Needs (5/24/22)	\$ (500,000)	Annual plus longer term recurring items
Physical Plant (5/24/22)	\$ (52,584)	Future infrastructure needs or WMS ventilation project
Parking Lots/Sidewalks (5/24/22)	\$ (50,000)	Parking lot reconfiguration needs
Turf Replacement Fund (5/24/22)	\$ (850,000)	\$1,500,000 Total Anticipated (replacement in 10 years) - FY2023; accumulate to Year 4
Lighting Replacement Fund (5/24/22)	\$ (64,310)	Anticipated replacement in approximately 2025
Other Capital Needs (5/24/22)	\$ (25,800)	
Softball Field 2023/04	\$ (100,000)	
Restricted funds: Gate Receipts - Athletic Dept - as of 5/18/23	\$ (33,337)	
Restricted funds: Music Dept Fund Balance - as of 5/18/23	\$ (37,527)	
Restricted funds: Sports Camp Fund Balance - as of 5/18/23	\$ (29,839)	
rojected FY2023 Fund Balance after all above reserves	\$ (121,957)	Note: FY23 projection expected for 6/20 SC meeting - any surplus will b used to remove this overage. Otherwise, earmarked amounts as listed above which are not restricted will be adjusted to eliminate any deficit.
Y2024 General Fund Re-appropriated Fund balance	\$ (500,000)	3rd and final of 3 \$500K re-appropriations
und 3201 Balance	\$ 1,400,000	Note: FY23 CIP as of 11/16/21 contains \$58MM of planned required projects. This amount is expected to increase as project list is refreshed with updated cost estimates.

Joseph Pisaturo 6/9/23

Councilor McCoy stated that from his perspective, the issue is that in the statement of work in the current contract there are some deliverables such as studies and surveys specific to the Quidnessett site. At this point, if we think because of the wetland issue the Quidnessett site is not suitable, it doesn't seem cost effective to have the architect commission those studies and that money could best be used for another site or saved. Mr. Waterman stated that regarding the traffic study, environmental ESA Phase I, wetland land survey, and geotechnical study, three of these four studies have been done or are in progress. The only study that has not begun is the geotechnical study.

Councilor McCoy asked if the \$1.7 million request is for these studies. Mr. Waterman stated that it includes these studies as well as part of the overall project which includes the programing component of the project. Dr. Earle stated it is also much more than that but all the work that is required to file the Stage 2 submission, as well as provide drawings to the community. She further stated it is important to note, not in a bad way, that if we do select a different site the work that has been done at the Quidnessett site will also have to be done at any other potential site. President Mancini stated that he agrees with that statement.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to not act on this request at this time.

# IV. NEW BUSINESS

# 34. Resolution recognizing the Month of June as North Kingstown Pride Month

A motion was made by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously voted to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, in June of 1969, the Stonewall Uprising sparked the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States, and worldwide, and has since served as the anchor for recognizing internationally the month of June as Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island, which was founded on the principles of tolerance and freedom, has outlawed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation since 1995, and on the basis of gender identity or expression since 2001; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 both chambers of the Rhode Island General Assembly unanimously passed a bill banning conversion therapy on minors; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Parentage Act, which would provide a clear pathway to the protection of legal parentage for all children in RI, regardless of the way their families were formed, was signed into law effective January 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ youth are almost five times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth, and 68% of LGBTQIA+ youth say they hear negative messages from elected leaders; and

WHEREAS, more than 1 in 3 LGBTQIA+ adults and more than 3 in 5 trans adults identify instances of discrimination within the past year, with 1 in 2 of those impacted identifying negative psychological impacts related to this; and

WHEREAS, North Kingstown Public Schools have adopted the RI statewide bullying policy, which specifically covers incidents that may be reasonably perceived as being motivated by characteristics such as: gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression; and

WHEREAS, in May 2018, the North Kingstown School Committee adopted the Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming and Transitioning Students Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Council seeks to affirm that North Kingstown should recognize, value, and maintain an inclusive environment for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, their families, and families of all compositions, and should cultivate the town's reputation as a welcoming and safe place for members of the LGBTQIA+ community and their families; and

WHEREAS, expressions of community solidarity and celebration promote further efforts toward the full legal, social and cultural equality for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, within North Kingstown, statewide, and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That we, the North Kingstown Town Council, officially designate and joyously celebrate the month of June, annually, as North Kingstown Pride Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the North Kingstown Town Council encourages the entire community to continue to recognize and support activities that highlight the LGBTQIA+ community and the experiences of our LGBTQIA+ residents.

35. Appointment of two (2) Council Members to the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by President Mancini and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Councilor Mandel and Councilor McCoy to the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

- 36. Correspondence
- 6/12/23 Kalen Arreola NKSC Capitol Request
- 6/12/23 Megan Reilly SC "Packet"
- 6/13/23 Megan Reilly SC "Packet"
- 6/13/23 Holly Quinn SC Presentation
- 6/13/23 Michael Waterman Re: SC Presentation
- 6/13/23 Holly Quinn Re: SC Presentation
- 6/13/23 Tom Walek Concern over abandoned, condemned property
- 6/14/23 Alison Thorsen Middle School Project
- 6/14/23 Holly Quinn (2x) Re: SC Presentation
- 6/14/23 Michael Waterman Re: SC Presentation
- 6/15/23 Glenna Stolzberg Middle School Project
- 6/18/23 John Machata Ryan Park Plan
- 6/19/23 Michael Waterman New MS
- 6/19/23 Donna Hutchinson Future Tax Increases
- 6/22/23 Kathleen Guarino June Meeting, Groundwater Committee
- 6/23/23 Kara Martone New MS Project

6/26/23 - Heather Murphy - New MS Project
6/26/23 - Victoria Bennett – New MS Project
6/26/23 - Megan Reilly – 3/1/23 NKSC Building Subcommittee Meeting
6/26/23 - Peter Lussier – Middle School Project Concerns
6/26/23 - Robert Jones – NKSC Capitol Request
Councilor McCoy noted that this is as of 3:00 PM today.

# V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward Town Clerk