

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 20th day of November, 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
James M. Callaghan, 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 November 20, 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.

4. Public Comment

President Mancini congratulated Town Employees Haley and Kyle Wicker on the birth of their daughter on Halloween.

President Mancini recognized the North Kingstown High School for having a successful blood drive, the Middle School boys and girls soccer teams made it to the playoffs, Davisville Middle School Co-ed cross country won the state champions, the High School girls soccer team made it to the semifinals, the High School boys soccer team made it to the Division 1 State Championship game, the High School football team made it to the super bowl for the first time since 1993, Cheerleading finished third place overall in Division 1 competition, the High School Boys cross country finished seventh place, the Girls cross country finished third place, High School girls volleyball won the Division 1 state championship, unified Volleyball Division 3 champs, and the Girls field hockey won the Division 1 State Champions. President Mancini also congratulated Dan Liparini for his AARP community service award.

Mia Thompson, 270 Marlborough Street, East Greenwich, read the following statement:

“Hello, my name is Mia Thompson. I am an Art Educator at North Kingstown High School. I am here today because I am concerned about the verbiage I have heard that the Wickford Art Association, a nonprofit organization also known as the WAA, is being pressured to move the location of its own self-funded event, the Wickford Art Festival (an event they pay for and receive grants for) to appease for-profit businesses. It has been suggested that if the Wickford Art Festival does not return to its former location in town, that the alliance of the WAA with the local business community would be severed. I would hope that we all know this could not be farther from the truth. I think it is important for all of us to understand the intention of the festival first and foremost is to promote the arts and the artistic community, to pay for the event itself, and to leverage the income generated to fund scholarships for public school students of the arts. In addition to the scholarship opportunities, students are given space to display their work in art galleries. This brings in families and dignitaries from all over the state and has put Wickford on the map for many out-of-town residents.

The WAA also uses the festival funds to organize and endorse programs with the North Kingstown School Department at all levels; they provide artists in residences, Professional Learning opportunities for teachers, and gallery openings for students to celebrate National Youth Art Month. The WAA provides all of the outreach and PR for these events and in some cases helps to promote North Kingstown art programs to the Rhode Island Department of Education.

It is amazing, and I do not know of any other nonprofit in the state that is currently working so hard to promote quality art education programs for students, teachers, and departments alike. The WAA is a powerful community member, without whom some of these programs would not be possible. It is imperative that the WAA maintain a robust outcome during the festival in order to maintain these programs that help support our students.

We all have close ties with these merchants of Wickford Village. And your concerns about revenue on the whole are justified. However, for two days only, the decision to move the festival to the field is not only a decision based on safety, traffic, etc., but also with more space, more income potential exists for the WAA to expand programs, foster growth and development of community programs, and a more permanent arts support system among our schools.

I would strongly encourage those of you who are requesting the WAA move back into town please avoid the verbiage of the WAA not wanting to be a viable community member because they are choosing community outreach and expansion of community programs over business. I would encourage our community members and the Town Council to come together, without favoritism or prejudice, and support our students, our schools, and quality art education programs through the WAA for many years to come.

Thank you.”

Steve DiNobile, 369 West Allenton Road, read the following statement:

“Thank you for allowing me to speak. I begin by reading two mission statements that I find relevant to our discussion tonight.

The purpose of the Association shall be to educate, encourage, and inspire its membership, the local arts community and the general public and to promote fine arts in the community.

We envision a community where no one goes hungry.

Both of these mission statements are from two local nonprofit organizations that I have been involved with for many years. Both organizations devote their time and money by providing essential needs, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and community involvement. Community involvement is what makes North Kingstown stand out as a great place to live. It's what allows nonprofit organizations to sustain their mission. Nonprofit organizations are small businesses. They depend on community support and good business practice. However, business decisions often require change to succeed. The Wickford Art Festival has gained nationwide recognition during the last sixty years. Most of those years we hosted the art festival in Wickford Village. We did not choose to move from the village, but because of Covid, we needed to adapt to keep the festival operational. We applied and were granted a permit from the town to use Wilson Park because it was our only choice at the time. We soon realized that the Wilson Park location became a very successful business model for hosting the festival. Attendance increased because of the ease of being in the park. Parking is readily available. The use of the field made it easier for the artists, volunteers, and the patrons regardless of age or disability. Myself, my adult daughters, my grandchildren, and many of my neighbors and friends have all been involved in the festival. They all enjoyed the festival atmosphere and took pride in providing a community service to the Town. The association wants to continue providing the art festival in our community. We want to continue to share the festival experience with everyone within and outside the community. We want to include our local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and church groups to share and invest in this endeavor. We cannot afford to do this on our own. We cannot afford to return to the past in order to maintain a tradition, yet we were asked to do so without compensation. I don't think anyone in this room wants to see the festival leave North Kingstown. Without a permit, we will be forced to do so. I ask that you grant the Wickford Art Association its festival permit at Wilson Park for this year and for many years to come.

I have been asked to read a short statement from another associate of the Wickford Art Association, as he is unable to approach the podium.

Tradition

New England, in contrast with younger regions of America, celebrates traditions, they keep us constant. For the most part, this is a good thing, to be celebrated.

However, occasionally we are forced to innovate, and traditions get challenged.

The Wickford Art Festival was organized as a small art show in the village sixty years ago. Over time it outgrew the village, but because of traditions, no one attempted to innovate. Covid forced us to all innovate, leading to the festival moving to Wilson Park.

We have discovered, in the three years in the park, that the festival is a much better experience for the patrons, the artists, the volunteers, and the safety organizations that support the event.

While we respect traditions, occasionally innovation forces us to adapt.

There were an estimated 20 million horses in the United States in 1915. By 1959, there were just 4.5 million.

Thank you.”

Guy Cassaday, 221 Juniper Drive, read the following statement:

“My background is product design. I’m also an artist, a member of the WAA, and also serve on the WAA board. WAA is a great organization with many dedicated volunteers, all from very different backgrounds that contribute their talents to WAA’s continued success. You will hear from others this evening that will expound further WAA’s contribution to the community at large.

Without volunteers, we wouldn’t exist today. For example, one of my contributions as a volunteer to WAA was supervising the repairs on our building, interfacing with contractors and choosing the contemporary color scheme that compliments the building’s architecture and showcases the new murals that are proudly displayed on its north facing wall created by students and members.

I have been involved in the Wickford Art Festival for 10 years. Several years as an artist in the show and volunteering. You may have seen me at one point or another measuring the Town in 2019 for the revised 2020 layout. The 2020 festival of course was canceled due to COVID, moving to the park in 2021 to comply with CDC guidelines.

On a side note, for many years we heard about complaints made by merchants that people were blocking their store, making it difficult for patrons to shop their store...other comments from several homeowners on Main Street referring to the festival as “it’s like having locusts descending on us again. Making it difficult to travel to and from our homes.”

The Park was a whole new ball game for us. Laying out a grid pattern for artist booths on a grass field was a monumental feat, learning as we go.

As it turned out, Wilson Park was a major success for the festival and discovered the Park easier to manage as the entire show was contained to a smaller footprint, safer for patrons to walk and linger over art. The North Kingstown Police, Fire, and Rescue Departments have been very supportive of our move, deeming the location safer and easier to manage as well.

We have met with the Merchants Association and an excerpt from the meeting on October 18th (Paragraph 5) was: Some members and/or potential members don’t know how much money it costs to put on the free community events that we hold. The costs for third quarter 2023 initiatives includes Festival of Lights, social media and holiday print advertising, and future projects that are in the process for early 2024, include a new website, digital map and rack cards that are being designed for distribution throughout the state. Some members are saying “why should I join if I get the same benefits anyway”. This is from other merchants.

In closing, for 60 years the merchants have benefited from the Wickford Art Festival bringing people into our community and stores in town. The Wickford Art Association supports our community and wants to be inclusive.

Thank you.”

Richard Welch, 8 Arrow Lane, stated that he wanted to thank Town Manager Ralph Mollis and the North Kingstown Police Department for their timely manner in helping with the squatter incident on Post Road. He also asked what the next step is with the bond questions and suggested that maybe we should have an open separate meeting with just that one item so people can discuss and ask questions on how to go forward.

Bill Pennoyer, 180 Lewis Farm Road, East Greenwich, stated that he wanted to thank the Fire Department for the window decals on the trucks representing Block Island and also wanted to let everyone know that Pearl Harbor Day is coming up.

Kathleen Guarino, 139 Summit View Lane, read the following statement:

“I am speaking about the discharge of the Groundwater Committee which is on the agenda tonight. First, I must state my strong objection to the Groundwater Committee being discharged.

Next, on July 17, 2023, the Town Council directed staff to seek input from the impacted boards, i.e., the Groundwater Committee and the Conservation Commission. This never happened. I would suggest that meeting solely with Ahren Cohen does not satisfy that directive. The individuals who serve on these two boards have never been included in the discussion. Any relevant issues which may have existed between board members and town staff have never been brought forth and discussed with the members. Furthermore, the members of the Groundwater Committee and the Conservation Commission were not informed that this issue was to be on the agenda this evening. The report from town staff which is in your packet tonight contains allegations which are not accurate. The Groundwater Committee and the Conservation Commission have a right to know what is being reported to you via town staff. This memo should have been discussed with the board members before being brought to the Town Council.

Next, I would contend that the Groundwater Committee is a “watch dog” in that it is our job to protect North Kingstown’s groundwater. The Groundwater Committee was not in conflict with the Water Department. We share the exact same goals. That does not mean that we cannot discuss any concerns we might have with town staff. On many occasions we asked town staff for explanations and clarification on various issues. That should be perfectly appropriate. In no way did the town staff have to defend themselves. In my view, we always had a cooperative and cordial relationship.

I have heard it said on several occasions that the Groundwater Committee is merely advisory. The message seems to be that as we cannot make policy our recommendations can be easily ignored. If that is so, all our work is for nothing. I resent that attitude. Just because we are advisory, there is no excuse for our work to be ignored.

I am recommending that we table/continue tonight’s discussion until there has been an in person combined meeting with the Groundwater Committee members, the Conservation Commission members, and relevant town staff. I further recommend that tonight’s memo from town staff to the Town Council be shared with all stakeholders prior to our combined meeting. If we are to have any success in the future, we have to discuss all of this openly and honestly. Transparency is of the utmost importance.

Thank you.”

Jan McAleer, 830 Ten Rod Road, read the following statement:

“I am a current member of the Conservation Commission but these views I am expressing are entirely my own.

I believe that groundwater, because of its importance and its complexity, is best handled by a dedicated Groundwater Committee. It should not be added to a commission that already has a full workload and a wide range of environmental charges. So, I support retaining or regrouping the Groundwater Committee.

During the July Town Council Meeting, an option in regard to merging groundwater with the Conservation Commission was to increase membership, adding 2 new members and structuring in a subcommittee to help with the expanded duties and provide additional expertise. However, as I understand it, the makeup of municipal commissions is governed by RI state ordinances. Which specify 7 members. I don't know if there are possible exceptions to this or other work-arounds. If not, I'm back to recommending a separate and dedicated Groundwater Committee.

Thank you."

Rickey Thompson, 194 Plain Road, stated that with regard to the future bond referendum questions, at the recent School Committee Meeting, there was talk about surveys being distributed to see what people want and don't want. He thinks that it is a good idea, and he has always supported the schools, the police, and the firefighters. He feels the way we went about the bonds was wrong. He agrees with Mr. Welch about having a meeting with the public to find out what people want. We need to run the Town like a business and do things the right way.

Judy Salvadore, 345 Gilbert Stuart Road, Saunderstown, read the following statement:

"Good Evening Council Members,

My name is Judy Salvadore and I'm a 30-year resident and taxpayer of North Kingstown. I was the festival director of Wickford Art Association's 52nd, 53rd and 57th Wickford Art Festivals, former Gallery Director (2016-2020), I'm a Juried Artist Member, and volunteer. I am speaking as a resident, and not as WAA.

Wickford Art Association was founded in 1962 – before many North Kingstown businesses. WAA has been a good non-profit partner to the community while promoting its mission of inspiring, educating, and encouraging fine art to its members and the public through art classes, art exhibits, community events and of course, my beloved Wickford Art Festival.

The Wickford Art Festival is WAA's gift to the community, there is no admission fee to enter and browse nearly 200 booths of juried fine art. While festival director, I believed it wasn't about quantity of artists but all about quality of artists: our mission is to provide the best quality of juried artists. Art patrons and the art curious can meet artists, many of which are professionals, in a well-designed, relaxed, accessible and safe environment at Wilson Park. Wickford Art Association pays the expenses and works with the town and local non-profits to produce a juried fine art festival that has been ranked as high as the #7 fine art festival in the nation! That's serious "creative credentials" for our organization, as well as North Kingstown and Rhode Island. Artists from all over the country and world come to exhibit in our festival. We have hosted artists from China, Israel, Canada, Africa and the United Kingdom, to name a few, along with artists from all over the United States.

WAA also encourages high school students considering a career in art through our Scholarship Program which provides cash awards to senior art students heading to an art college. Those students are also offered free booth space in the festival and learn how to run a business, market and sell their art, mingle with other professional artists and the public. As long as these students remain in college, they have a place to exhibit at our festival to continue to refine and build their creative visions. WAA is investing in our student art community.

As the director for 3 festivals, and all 3 took place on the streets in Wickford, I am acutely aware of the potential safety hazards of a street festival. Every year in our discussions, the then NKPD festival liaison Steve St. Onge would urge a move to Wilson Park, mostly for safety issues. With an event spread out throughout the village, it was difficult to manage issues that would crop up, such as illegal parking, illegal booths, or health episodes such as falling on a sidewalk, getting cut or having trouble breathing. In 2015, an artist's booth was hit by a truck on Brown Street, destroying artwork, damaging the booth, and shaking up the artist and patrons inside the booth.

The North Kingstown Fire Department reduced Elam Street to a single row of artist booths because a fire truck couldn't safely access Elam, Franklin, or Spink Streets with booths on both sides. On our own decision, WAA stopped putting booths on Spink Street due to the very limited access. Booths were set up on both sides of Main Street, down to Fowler Street, creating a tight passageway, especially for large vehicles. Every year, I prayed there wouldn't be a fire somewhere on that peninsula as access was difficult during the festival and those houses are all wooden structures. In emergency situations, the park seems much more accessible.

I love being a member of my North Kingstown community and have many friends here. But I don't understand why a few for-profit businesses are dictating to the Town Council how a non-profit organization should conduct its fundraiser! WAA, its partners and hundred-plus volunteers has just two days to get its sole fundraiser right for hundreds of artists and tens of thousands of art patrons. Village merchants have 365 days to do their business as they please. WAA should be allowed to choose the location best suited to its overall success. Our artists are much more successful in the park than on the streets – the sales data proves that point. The success of the festival and its artists amounts to the success of the community as a whole.

Thank you.”

Cate Brown, 22 Charlene Court, read the following statement:

“I'm a lifelong resident and exhibiting artist at the Art Festival since 2015.

I've exhibited when it was both in town and at Wilson Park, and I encourage the Town Council to permit the art festival to return to the park.

As an artist, when the show was first moved, I would ask friends and patrons their thoughts, and I can tell you the overwhelming majority of responses were positive.

The park democratized the map, it made it easier for patrons to give their thoughts, and I can tell you the overwhelming majority of responses were positive.

The park democratized the map, it made it easier for patrons to find who they were looking for, as well as discover new artists. The only people I ever heard lament the move were artists who had prime spots on Brown Street that they held onto for years – even decades. I myself was on Elam for several years, and then got a spot on Main Street. During my time on Elam, I even heard patrons saying things like “Oh, these are all the same artists, this is the same exact thing every year”.

But with the move to the park, the map was able to expand and accommodate more artists, which keeps it fresh and incentivizes patrons to return.

I also had patrons say they loved the park because it allowed them to do both the art show and downtown Wickford. They could walk downtown and go shopping after the art festival without being forced along the sidewalk, when in previous years they had skipped stores and restaurants because the sidewalk was too crowded to get in.

The park location also allows the opportunity for more food trucks, live music, or family events, which would make it an even bigger draw to bring people in for the full day to eat, play and shop. I think a lot of people also forget the artists themselves directly bring revenue to town. If artists aren't local, they need places to stay overnight or eat meals.

Perhaps the biggest draw is there's simply more space. As an artist, it's easier to set up and operate when you have elbow room.

There is less liability when you don't have to worry about a car hitting your booth every two seconds. For patrons it's simply easier to walk around. There's more access for family strollers, plus wheelchair access. They're more likely to stay longer and spend more money when they can easily browse.

I have exhibited at so many different locations, with so many different set ups, and I find Wilson Park open, inviting, an upgrade and expansion from downtown, and also has the space to expand even further. Not to mention direct parking onsite.

So, in my opinion, the best and only solution in order to grow and continue to support as many artists as we do, is to remain at the park. And I truly encourage you to do that.

Thank you.”

Lee Domaszowec, 334 School Street, stated that he has been trying to educate himself on complex issues and he wants these projects to succeed. He understands the time and effort that went into these projects and wants to thank everyone. He said that going forward he would like to emphasize the critical importance of the investment in these projects and strategic planning.

Kara Martone, 73 Woodridge Drive, Saunderstown, read the following statement:

“Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I did send you all an email shortly after the vote earlier this month so I will not go through the same points, but after watching the Building Subcommittee meeting on the 14th, I wanted to bring up a point that was mentioned in my email as well as at that meeting.

The current middle school proposal was projected to cost \$130 million (of the \$167 million school bond). The videos shown at the subcommittee meetings and posted on social media – while they looked amazing – also looked to be quite excessive. It could have been new construction for a college campus. I have asked this question a few times and it was posed by a member of the Building Subcommittee as well – why was there no discussion of scaling back a little on the building itself? We know there is an ever-growing list of capital projects that the remainder of the bond was intended to partially cover. I am not the only person who thought “why aren’t we being more conservative with our school proposal?” I submitted this question to the FAQs on the School Committee website and the answer was “building a new 144,000 square foot middle school would not be feasible for \$98 million, without sacrificing essential educational needs.”

When I look at that rendition with the grand entryway, the rooftop outdoor learning space, the extra common learning spaces, floor to ceiling windows to name a few items that stood out to me – there appears to be no expense spared. Understanding the impact of these bonds on our individual tax dollars, I do not think this approach is fiscally responsible and I don’t think I am the only taxpayer who felt that way. Whatever the plan turns out to be going forward, I am hoping there may be some discussion about this tonight.

Thank you.”

President Mancini read the following letter from Gerry Leonard into the record:

“I am writing this letter as a thank you and as a commendation to the rescue team that responded to our home at approximately 6:00 a.m. on October 10th. The crews of Engine 3 and Rescue 3 arrived approximately 5 minutes after I placed a 911 call. Their promptness and follow up actions saved my wife’s life.

Their professionalism upon entering our home and subsequent actions enroute to the hospital truly saved my wife. The hospital crisis team was waiting for her upon arrival. The coordination between the hospital and the rescue team was above reproach.

A sincere thank you to Zach Hawes and John Bussman of Rescue 3 and to Lt. Christian Teixeira and John Choquette of Engine 3 for a job well done. It is people like yourselves that make the Town of NK proud.

Would you please forward this letter to the above-mentioned members of the responding rescue team with our sincere gratitude.”

President Mancini requested that these firefighters be invited to the next Council Meeting and be presented with citations.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 5 through 20 with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 13 and 14.

5. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2023 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

6. Tax Abatement List #874

VOTED: To approve Tax Abatement List #874 submitted by Deb Garneau, Tax Assessor, in the amount of \$1,587.45; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That overpayments, if any, resulting from these abatements are hereby approved for refund by the Tax Collector.

7. Sewer Assessment Abatement #005

VOTED: To approve Sewer Assessment Abatement List #005, submitted by Adam White, Director of Public Works, due to a change of use, as follows:

John K. & Joyce A. Lauth
 80 Newtown Avenue
 North Kingstown, RI 02852
 Plat 118/Lot 012
 Account #WV11801200
 Principle Balance Abatement \$10,000.00

8. Receipt of Donations

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$5,415.00:

For: Beechwood Senior Center	
From: Bruce and Jill Mulford	\$1,000.00
Anonymous	15.00

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

For: Holiday Giving Program	
From: St. Paul's Episcopal Church	\$1,000.00
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gallichio	500.00
Mary Lou Mallowney	400.00
William and Tamara Sharp	300.00
Margaret Ciocca	250.00
Raymond and Helen Gorman	250.00
Stephen and Holly Morin	250.00
Sean and Tanja Carroll	250.00
Paul Thompson	225.00
Bruce and Jill Mulford	200.00
Brian and Jacqueline LeBlanc	150.00
Nancy Gauthier	100.00
William and Cathy Streker	100.00
Barbara Frueh	100.00
The Casey Family	100.00
Jerry and Marie Cobleigh	100.00
Van and Marie Radoccia	50.00
Richard and Nancy Meader	50.00

9. Receipt of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the donation of \$1,500.00 given by NK Flag Football to be used by the Recreation Department to offset the cost of purchasing overseed for the McGinn Football Field.

10. Authorization to apply to the National Park Service FY2023 Historic Preservation Fund

VOTED: To authorize the Director of Planning and Development to apply to the National Park Service FY2023 Historic Preservation Fund - Save America's Treasures Program for a grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 to be used towards the renovation and restoration of the Old Town House.

11. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Samara Matson resigning from the Arts Council.

12. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Department of Public Works for North Kingstown Fire Station #5 Generator and ATS Replacement to E.W. Audet and Sons, Inc., 169 Bay Street, Providence, RI 02905, in the amount of \$74,150.00; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To authorize a 15% Construction Contingency of \$11,120.00 to be managed by the Department of Public Works to cover any unforeseen conditions related to the project.

Funding for this project is from FY2024 Restricted Capital Reserve Account 30010070-531101.

13. Award of Bid

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To award the bid for the Water Department for a Fire Hydrant Replacement Project to Key Corporation, 170 Fiore Drive, Wakefield, RI 02879, in the amount of \$89,000.00.

Funding is from FY2024 Budget - Hydrants Account 44040091 540514.

14. Approval of Sole Source Purchase

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Sole Source Purchase for the Water Department for a Ford 550 Dump Truck from Tasca Ford, 250 Webster Square Road, Berlin, CT 06037 (MPA #559), in the amount of \$84,070.80.

Funding is from the Water Department's fund balance and transferred into Vehicular Equipment Account 44040050-550401.

15. Exhibition License (21-30 vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with 21-30 vendors by Joseph Yoffa, 40 Hamilton Avenue, Jamestown 02835, to hold an open studio at the Shady Lea Mill, 215 Shady Lea Road, on Saturday, December 2, 2023 and Sunday, December 3, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 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 December 1, 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. Holiday Sales License (new)

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2024 the application for a Holiday Sales License by Metro Mattress Corp., dba Metro Mattress, 84 Gate Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a RI Retail Sales Tax Permit, and approval from the Building Official and the Fire Marshall.

17. Victualling, Dance, and Amusement License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2024 the following list of Victualling, Dance, and Amusement License Renewals, subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Building Official, and the Water Department:

VABDJ LICENSE RENEWALS
November 20, 2023

NK #	NAME	DBA	BUSINESS LOCATION	PHONE	SEATS	HOURS	LIC. HELD
58	ALLIE'S DONUTS INC		3661 QUAKER LN	295-8036	N/A	6:00 AM- 2:00 PM	V
191	ALMA LLC	ALMA JUICE BAR & MARKET	2 MAIN ST	294-4750	12	9:00 AM- 9:00 PM	V
77	ARAMARK INC		165 DILLABUR AVE	268-2249	225	5:00 AM- 2:00 PM	V
79	BBA DONUTS INC	DUNKIN DONUTS	6923 POST RD	290-8718	22	4:00 AM- 10:00 PM	V-EXT
65	BREAKFAST NOOK INC	BREAKFAST NOOK	6130 POST RD	884-6108	44	7:00 AM- 2:00PM	V
142	CAPITAL VENTURES CORP	AMAZING.NET	6774 POST RD	885-0209	N/A	10:00 AM- 9:00 PM	A (12)
95	COLBEA ENTERPRISES LLC	SEASONS CORNER MARKET	7025 POST RD	884-9434	N/A	24 HRS	V-EXT
44	COLWEN MANAGEMENT INC/RRH HOTEL INC	TOWNE PLACE SUITES	55 GATE RD	667-7500	42	24 HRS	V-EXT
203	DANIA FOOD MART LTD	DANIA FOOD MART	7000 POST RD	523-4622	N/A	6:00 AM- 12:00 AM	V
140	DAVES FRESH MARKETPLACE QUONSET	DAVES FRESH MARKETPLACE	105 GATE RD	295-0019	N/A	7:00 AM- 9:00 PM	V
176	DAVES FRESH MARKETPLACE WICKFORD	DAVES FRESH MARKETPLACE	125 TOWER HILL RD	268-3991	N/A	7:00 AM- 9:00 PM	V
11	DOLLAR TREE STORES INC	DOLLAR TREE #01724	6649 POST RD	336-1306	N/A	8:00 AM- 9:00 PM	V
120	DYNAMIC DANCE ACADEMY INC		7414, 7416 & 7418 POST RD	667-7076	N/A	VARIES MON-SAT	D
74	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN WICKFORD		34-44 MAIN ST	294-4595	200	10:00 AM- 1:00 PM	V
124	IDANCE ACADEMY		640 TEN ROD RD	294-6098	N/A	2:00 PM- 9:00 PM	D
260	JAMU INC	MICKY'S PIZZA	60 BROWN ST	294-0044	N/A	4:30 PM- 9:00 PM	V
128	JULES INSIDE SCOOP LLC	THE INSIDE SCOOP	30 TEN ROD RD	294-0091	PICNIC TABLES	SEASONAL	V
38	KINGSTOWN BOWL INC	KINGSTOWN BOWL	6125 POST RD	884-4450	100	9:00 AM- 1:00 AM	V
201	KUPA ENTERPRISES LLC	MAE'S PLACE	8230 POST RD	667-7272	21	7:00 AM- 2:00PM	V
43	KURMANJI LLC	RHODY SLICE	7415 POST RD	295-2121	50	PENDING	V
69	MJ DONUTS INC	DUNKIN DONUTS	6166 POST RD	290-8718	22	5:00 AM- 7:00 PM	V-EXT
123	NANCY D MCAULIFFE	RI BALLET ARTS ACADEMY	7728 POST RD	261-7943	N/A	9:00 AM- 8:30 PM	D
59	NEW ENGLAND AUTHENTIC EATS LLC	D'ANGELO	6857 POST RD	885-4528	38	10:30 AM- 8:30 PM	V
85	NEWPORT CREAMERY LLC	NEWPORT CREAMERY #14	7679 POST RD	294-2087	50	7:00 AM- 11:00 PM	V
105	NK DONUTS INC	DUNKIN DONUTS	1241 TEN ROD RD	290-8718	12	4:00 AM- 9:00 PM	V-EXT
56	NORTH KINGSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH		450 BOSTON NECK RD	294-9293	100	VARIES	V
197	OCEAN STATE JOBBERS	OCEAN STATE JOB LOT	375 COMMERCE PARK RD	295-2672	200	7:00 AM- 1:00 PM	V
203	PGARCIA LLC	SHAKING IT UP NUTRITION	7661 POST RD	667-0048	22	6:30 AM- 3:00 PM	V
137	PIZZA PROS INC	DOMINOS PIZZA	5951 POST RD	884-8546	N/A	10:30 AM- 1:00 AM	V
100	ROME POINT CAFE INC	ROME POINT CAFE	820 BOSTON NECK RD	294-2122	50	6:00 AM- 5:00 PM	V
267	SAUGY INC	SAUGY EXPRESS	15 BEACH ST	640-1879	N/A	VARIES	V
96	SLOCUM GRANGE #36		96 SLOCUM RD	783-0860	80	VARIES	V
91	SPEEDWAY LLC	SPEEDWAY #2823	1820 BOSTON NECK RD	294-2563	N/A	6:00 AM- 10:00 PM	V

ALL TAXES/WATER ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN PAID TO DATE 11/3/23 COLLECTION DEPT.

VABDJ LICENSE RENEWALS
November 20, 2023

64	ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH		55 MAIN ST	294-4357	121	9:00 AM- 4:30 PM	V
195	STEPHEN PALAZZO	CAGNEY FOOD SERVICE	1610 DAVISVILLE RD	663-8032	N/A	9:00 AM- 8:00 PM	V
165	STOP & SHOP SUPERMARKET CO LLC	STOP & SHOP #737	1300 TEN ROD RD	268-9845	N/A	7:00 AM- 10:00 PM	V
80	STOP & SHOP SUPERMARKET CO LLC	STOP & SHOP #716	90 FRENCHTOWN RD	884-9400	N/A	7:00 AM- 10:00 PM	V
62	STICKNEY HOLDINGS INC	SHELL FOOD MART	10 TEN ROD RD	294-2616	N/A	24 HRS	V-EXT
171	STARBUCKS CORPORATION	STARBUCKS COFFEE #14269	1370 TEN ROD RD	295-5236	20	6:00 AM-11:00 PM	V
268	THE CHOC SHOP LLC	THE CHOCOLATE SHOPPE	7 W MAIN ST	789-4435	N/A	11:00 AM- 5:00 PM	V
194	TEN ROD FOODS LLC	WENDY'S	1320 TEN ROD RD	667-6144	50	6:30 AM- 12:00 AM	V
266	T'S VAULT LLC	T'S VAULT SMOOTHIE & JUICE BAR	78 GATE RD	601-9148	50	7:30 AM- 7:00 PM	V
136	WALMART STORES EAST LP	WALMART #2261	1031 TEN ROD RD	294-0025	N/A	6:00 AM- 11:00 PM	V & A (3)

18. Victualling License (new)

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2024 the application for a Victualling License by Press LLC, 30 West Main Street, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a certificate from the Rhode Island Department of Health; receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy; receipt of a copy of their Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Police Department, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

19. New Year’s Eve Policy for Alcoholic Beverage Licenseholders

VOTED: To adopt a New Year’s Eve Policy for the operation of establishments holding Class B-Full, Class B-Limited, and Class D-Full Alcoholic Beverage Licenses as follows:

- a. Permission is granted to serve food until 2:00 a.m., January 1, 2024.
- b. All sales of liquor will cease at 1:00 a.m., January 1, 2024, with no stockpiling of drinks prior to the hour of 1:00 a.m.
- c. Establishments holding Dance Licenses will be allowed dancing until 2:00 a.m., January 1, 2024.

20. First Bond Reduction

VOTED: To approve the request by Camp Ave. Properties LLC, for a first bond reduction on Tide Mill Landings North, from \$658,178.77 to \$118,607.17, in the amount of \$539,571.60.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

21. Alcoholic Beverage, Victualling, Dance, Entertainment, Billiard, Amusement, and Jukebox License Renewals

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the following list of Alcoholic Beverage, Victualling and other License Renewals, expiring on December 1, 2024, subject to taxes, water, and any other assessments paid to date; compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department and the Building Official; and receipt of a Certificate of Good Standing by November 30, 2023:

LIC #	Class	BUSINESS NAME	DBA	BUS LOC	HOURS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	SEATS	INSIDE SUMMER	OUTSIDE SUMMER	V	A	B	D	J	E
1	A	NORTH KINGSTOWN WINE & SPIRITS INC	WICKFORD PACKAGE STORE	41 W MAIN ST	9:00 AM- 9:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	A	QUAKER LANE WINE AND SPIRITS LLC	QUAKER LANE WINE AND SPIRITS	4020 QUAKER LN	9:00 AM- 9:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	B	CRYSTAL SWAN INC	SEVEN MOONS RESTAURANT	6900 POST RD	11:00 AM- 10:30 PM	NK	R	02852	200	200	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
23	B	KINGS CROSSING INC	KINGS CROSSING GOLF CLUB	855 OLD BAPTIST RD	6:00 AM- 11:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	140	140	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
49	B	LADI LLC	FRANKIE'S BAR & GRILL	1051 TEN ROD RD	12:00 PM- 9:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	125	111	14	1	0	0	0	0	0
51	B	PLUM POINT INC	PLUM BISTRO BISTRO	1814 BOSTON NECK RD	4:00 PM- 11:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	75			1	0	0	0	0	1
12	B	PROVIDENCE COAL-FIRED PIZZA NK LLC	PROVIDENCE COAL-FIRED PIZZA	6105 POST RD	11:30 AM- 10:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	165	128	37	1	0	0	0	0	0
17	B	TATE'S INC	TATE'S ITALIAN KITCHEN	64 BROWN ST	4:30 PM- 8:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	49	29	20	1	0	0	0	0	0
77	B	THIRSTY BEAVER NK EG LLC	THIRSTY BEAVER PUB & GRUB	80 FRENCHTOWN RD	11:30 AM- 1:30 PM	NK	RI	02852	109	109	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
85	BL	THE FARLEY GROUP LLC	LINK GOLF	6657 POST RD	10:00 AM- 10:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	18	18	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
39	BL	FILIPPOU'S PIZZA NORTH KINGSTOWN LLC	FILIPPOU'S PIZZA	670 TEN ROD RD	11:00 AM- 10:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	20	20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
75	C	SWEET MARIE'S LLC	SWEET MARIE'S TEA COTTAGE	25 W MAIN ST	9:00 AM- 4:00 PM	NK	R	02852	30	30	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
78	C	WICKFORD WINE COMPANY LLC	GOOSENECK VINEYARDS	1340 TOWER HILL RD	12:00 PM- 5:00 PM	NK	RI	02852	PENDING	PENDING	PENDING	1	0	0	0	0	1

ALL TAXES/WATER ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN PAID TO DATE 10/23/23 COLLECTION DEPT.

III. REPORTS

22. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

Revolution Offshore Wind Project

- We continue with our bi-weekly meetings with Revolution Wind regarding their Offshore Wind Farm Project. Their excavation work and offshore vessel activity will continue this week with isolated traffic detours within Quonset Business Park. There will not be any work this Thursday or Friday due to the holiday.

Trenching and conduit installation is planned to take place the following week with isolated traffic detours within Quonset Business Park.

Their outreach to the general public has been very successful.

Members of the Town Council and I joined Governor McKee, Quonset Development Corporation Director Steve King and others last week in a tour of and celebration of the construction progress rapidly taking place with this project. This project is expected to directly and indirectly create thousands of jobs, including over 100 new local union construction jobs as well as enough electricity to power more than 350,000 homes in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

I will continue to keep the Town Council up to date and residents can contact Revolution Wind at 251-2207 or at info@revolution-wind.com if they have any questions.

RI Department of Transportation

- The traffic signal which we requested at the intersection at Hamilton Elementary School has been activated. We've received some concerns on the timing at this signal and have reached out to RIDOT for a review and hopeful correction.
- We continue to follow up on our successful meeting with RIDOT regarding our concerns with the timing of the traffic signals along Route 4. As I had mentioned, they are hoping to provide various long-term options to address this concern. We have a follow-up meeting scheduled with them for Monday, November 27th and I hope to have something to report to the Town Council and the community sometime soon.
- We've been advised by the State Traffic Commission that they have approved our request for a crosswalk on Boston Neck Road in the vicinity of our Town Hall here at 80 Boston Neck Road and our Veterans Memorial Park across the street. They will be working with us to determine the exact location. Because this will require ADA-compliant ramps and rumble strips, they expect this to fit into the programming they are currently working on for 2025. However, we are hoping to assist in moving this up earlier. We have meetings scheduled with them after the first of the year and are talking internally about some preliminary steps we can take to bring attention to this area.

Finances

- An update to the status of our costs and reimbursements relative to this Spring's Cyber Attack. We've submitted \$623,585 in expenses to date. While our deductible is \$50,000, due to our membership within the RI Interlocal Trust, they cover everything except for \$2,500 of our deductible. As a result, we've received \$47,500 from The Trust and \$94,970 to date from our Insurance Company. We continue to aggressively pursue the remainder of our Claim and I will keep the Town Council up to date.
- As you know, with the Town Council's approval and direction, we've participated in a Class Action Lawsuit relating to the roles certain companies may have played in the PFAS issues nationally. It appears this has the strong possibility of providing a significant financial settlement to our Water Department. It is expected that this has the potential to cover the entire cost of Well #6 as well as future costs. We have meetings scheduled with the law firm we've retained. Our Solicitor James Callaghan has played an active role in this process and will be participating in these meetings. We'll be sure to bring this to the Town Council once it's ready for settlement.
- I want to let the Town Council know that we've officially withdrawn our Multipurpose Community Facility Projects Grant Application with the State in regard to funding for our proposed Rec Center. This was a necessary action as we are not eligible to receive the \$1,769,926 Grant due to Bond Question failing along with the project having had to be completed by October 2025. We also have Appropriation requests with our Federal Delegation for this project. I will be following up with them as I expect these appropriations are still applicable for a potential future project.

- I plan on providing an update to our ARPA Funding Plan after the first of the year. This will be an important discussion as these funds will need to be contracted and in agreement prior to December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026 in order for us to avoid having to return these funds. We have exciting plans appropriated from ARPA and expect to have excess funds for discussion.

Department Information

- After almost 18 months we've received the delivery of our new Engine 5 and it is now in service.
- I have been encouraging participation in a new Program put forward by the RI Interlocal Trust called Tactical Athlete Program. This program is an injury prevention program designed specifically for police and fire department personnel as it provides a functional fitness approach towards the demands of the job. It is voluntary, confidential, and helpful. We are encouraging and expect participation from our departments and are hoping to be a Pilot Community for a similar program for Public Works Personnel.
- The Tidal Gage which the Town Council approved for Wickford Harbor has been put in place. This unit will measure tide height via a sonar style beam. This Gage will monitor tide heights, water temperature, and the impact of freshwater discharged to the saltwater environment. The next step will be the design and installation of educational signage along with our Water and Planning Departments working with local schools on this information.
- Our Recreation Department has some exciting events planned for the next couple of months. Among the many events and programs that can be found on our Recreation Department's website is our Polar Plunge at our Town Beach at 12:30 on New Years Day along with our Babysitter Training Program, Wellness Circuit Camp Space and Stars, and How to Build Your Own Video Game Workshop during February vacation. Please visit our website for numerous programs available for all ages.
- I joined Recreation Director Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs and Parks Director Dave Creta on a two-hour tour of our parks and fields last week to review the various improvements made over these past few years, particularly during this past year, under this new department. Improvements to our fields, paths, and roads within Ryan Park; improvements to the fields and conditions at Lischio and Feurer; improvements to the fields at McGinn Park; all of the facilities & fields at Wilson Park; the attention at our Town Beach walkways, common area and beach; leveling and improvements at our Seashell Parking Lot; and maintenance of our Splashpad and Playground facilities; are just some of the improvements that have taken place. This has resulted in numerous compliments from residents, visitors, and the various leagues that utilize these facilities. My thanks to both Chelsey and Dave and the members of this group for their efforts and dedication.

Miscellaneous

- I attended the meeting of the Special Legislative Commission on Short-Term Rentals at the State House last week. I was invited to provide commentary as to how we are addressing this issue in North Kingstown. All the speakers, including me, emphasized that each community is different and faces unique challenges and therefore the Commission should not be entertaining any one size fits all remedies. There was a concern about the accuracy of statewide and private data and that registries such as the one we've enacted should be helpful. There were concerns regarding zoning as these rentals are popping up within single family neighborhoods and any actions should not pre-empt local zoning laws. The next meeting will be in December, and I will be attending.
- I continue to participate as a member of the Interim Board of Directors of the Elm Grove Cemetery. We had our initial meeting two weeks ago and our second meeting earlier this evening prior to the Town Council Meeting. There have already been improvements to the Cemetery with a draft plan of maintenance and review of finances. I expect the

attorney or representative of the Board to appear before a future meeting of the Town Council.

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

BOOK 110 PAGE

- The next meeting of our School Department Building Subcommittee will take place on Monday, November 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the School Department Administration Building.
- The volunteers and staff at our North Kingstown Food Pantry are busy preparing for our Thanksgiving Holiday. They've seen a 36% rise from last year to this year in families receiving assistance. Anyone who needs assistance or if you're aware of someone who could use their services should contact the Pantry at 885-FOOD. The deadline for applying for Christmas Dinner is December 1st. Our thanks to everyone involved and our own Council Person Kim Page for her leadership and dedication at our Food Pantry.
- And our Senior Center is also busy preparing for the holiday season with their Holiday Giving Program in full swing. Currently 75 families are being assisted, with over 160 children as part of these 75 families. They have already exceeded the number of individuals from last year. Our thanks to everyone involved including the many who contribute to this program.
- With our next Council Meeting being December 11th, I want to make note of our Parades Committee's Special Ceremony to mark Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Thursday, December 7th. This remembrance event will take place in our Municipal Parking Lot adjacent to Wickford Harbor and will begin at 1pm sharp rain or shine. All residents are invited to attend.
- And as we all prepare for Thanksgiving this Thursday, I want to remind everyone that the Wickford Holiday Celebration begins the following week. Festivities will kick off with the Town's Tree Lighting at Updike Park on Thursday, November 30th at 6pm. That will be followed by the various holiday celebrations to take place that weekend. Be sure to check our website and Social Media Platforms for updates and information.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

23. Exhibition License (61 or more vendors) (not to exceed 250 vendors)
(continued from October 30, 2023)

Councilor Mandel stated that he has followed with great interest the discussion of where the Art Festival should be held in 2024. It is clear that the Art Association has a strong preference for holding the event at Wilson Park and he respects the discussions and presentations as to why this is the best site for the festival. He also has continued to have discussions with village business leaders, the First Baptist Church in Wickford who uses this event as their primary fundraiser, as well as many residents who have indicated that they prefer the site in the village in the way it adds to the community. He further stated that he knows the local merchants met with the Art Association and offered to help with fundraising, finding volunteers as well as addressing safety concerns, all of which were rejected by the Art Association. He feels like he does with his children, he doesn't agree with what the Art Association is doing; however, he defends their right to do it. He thinks that the decision to continue to hold the festival at Wilson Park is not in the best interest of the community, the village or North Kingstown, but may be in the best interest of the Art Association. He further stated that he cannot vote for this; however, he will not oppose this application.

Councilor Page stated that she has also had discussions with the Art Association and her perspective has been different. She feels they have tried to work out their differences. There would be some difficulty in where the Art Association wants to raise funds to provide shuttles, however it is not up to her to answer that question. This is their Festival and traditionally when we look at these types of licenses we don't weigh in as to what our preferences are, but we approve of these events. She will approve this application as she doesn't have any reason not to. This is a great event, and she wants to support not only the Art Association, but we need to support ways to bring those attending the festival into the village.

Councilor McCoy stated that 2024 is the Town’s 350th Anniversary and the Wickford Art Festival is a noteworthy event in any given year and has been for the last 60 years. One of the reasons he was in favor of having the Art Association talk to the merchants was for the 350th Anniversary as he would like to see us make a larger, grander, more pronounced effort in celebrating the 350th Anniversary, promoting tourism, and promoting community. It is his understanding that these discussions have taken place, so he is in favor of promoting and approving this event. He would ask all the parties involved to work together, as we have an opportunity this coming year to celebrate the good things about our town and this is one of them. The merchants and economic activity in our town are good things and working together is all he was asking anyone to do. He would hope that we can make this a bigger and better event.

Councilor Anderson stated that Councilor McCoy said it beautifully about the spirit of cooperation and coming together. We are coming upon our 350th and as we come out of COVID and related economic downturn it is important to work together for our future and keep our community vibrant. She further stated that coming into tonight’s meeting she was somewhat skeptical having heard testimony at the last meeting about how the move negatively impacted our local businesses, there was some compelling testimony tonight about keeping this at Wilson Park. As we weigh these issues, it is not our job to dictate where these events take place, she will be interested in looking at data next year on how we can drive the visitors back to the village. She encouraged everyone to work together as this should not be a divisive issue.

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and by a roll call vote it was

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with 61 or more vendors, not to exceed 250 vendors, by the Wickford Art Association, 36 Beach Street, to hold the Wickford Art Festival on Saturday, July 13, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on the grounds of Wilson Park, Roosevelt Avenue, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a list of vendors at the Town Clerk’s Office by July 12, 2023 (which shall include their name, address, phone number, Tax ID Number, type of merchandise, and date of birth); receipt of a copy of their Show Promoters Permit; and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

Councilor Anderson	-	Yes
Councilor McCoy	-	Yes
Councilor Mandel	-	Abstain
Councilor Page	-	Yes
President Mancini	-	Abstain

24. Discussion/Possible Action – Next steps for consolidation of the Groundwater Committee and Conservation Commission (tabled from July 17, 2023)

President Mancini stated that staff previously provided us with a report and asked if the Manager or staff had anything to add.

Mr. Mollis stated that Director of Planning and Development Nicole LaFontaine and her staff have put in a lot of work on this issue, and she is available tonight to address any questions. He further stated that he wants the Council and the public to know that the work that has been done on this issue was done with nothing but good intentions. He thanked Ahren Cohen for his insight and advice in putting this together. We feel this is the best move forward as it addresses a lot of the concerns that have taken place over the years. Some of the testimony we have heard are the very reasons why we feel it is important to combine these two committees. When we talk about the complexities and challenges facing the Water Department, he would like to stress that those issues are what the Water Department does within their scope and authority. They are the experts. The Groundwater Committee has fulfilled their role with excellence and now their role is education, and they did not want to pivot to that. The Water Department is one of the most important resources in North Kingstown as is Public Safety and we do not have a Public Safety Committee. We have excellent chiefs, directors, and staff and they are to run those departments and we look to these committees to advise us. There is not any member of these committees that would be shut out of Public Comment at a Council Meeting, when they think we are doing something wrong or have constructive comments. Anyone that has ever emailed these departments as well as him always gets an immediate response or a phone call.

He further stated that his response is it doesn't take away any of the residents' concerns. We feel what we are presenting is a great compromise as we are encouraging that members of the Groundwater Committee be considered to sit on the Conservation Commission and be part of a subcommittee. Again, the directive from the Council was to look at all of our boards and commissions. This was done and as a result of that exercise, this is what we are proposing.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to move forward with a First Reading of an amendment to the ordinance for the Conservation Commission.

25. Discussion/Possible Action relative to next steps on Bond Project(s)

President Mancini recused himself from the discussion as he has previously done on this topic.

Councilor Page stated that at the building subcommittee meeting last week, Dr. Duva stated that in regards to the school bond, he wanted to conduct a survey to determine why people didn't vote for the bond or why they did. He will be putting together a survey and there was discussion about how that survey would be distributed to everyone in the town and not just the parents of the students. He will be working with the Manager to get this survey out to everyone. The hope is that we will get more data on how to proceed. The biggest thing the subcommittee discussed was the timing, as of now the deadline to obtain those incentive bonuses is June 30, 2024, and how we can move forward to meet that deadline. Perhaps the best way to move forward, rather than just counting on the survey, is to formally request the Legislature to pass legislation extending that deadline from June 2024 to December 2024 which would give us more time to determine the next best steps.

After a brief discussion, a motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and was

VOTED: To request that the North Kingstown Legislative Delegation submit legislation to extend the "RIDE Reimbursement Bonus Incentives" for school construction expiring on June 30, 2024, to a new expiration date of December 31, 2024.

President Mancini recused himself from the discussion and the vote.

V. NEW BUSINESS

26. Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2022-12-2027, RIDEM Water Quality Certification Number WQC 23-037, and RIDEM Dredge Permit Number DP 23-196

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: That no substantive objection be filed to Coastal Resources Management Council Application Number 2022-12-027, RI Department of Environmental Management Water Quality Certification Number WQC 23-037, and RI Department of Environmental Management Dredge Permit Number DP 23-196 to allow the Quonset Development Corporation to perform maintenance and improvement dredging at Allen Harbor, Plat 193, Lot 23 and Plat 195, Lot 1.

27. Alcoholic Beverage License Limits for 2023-2024

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To set the Alcoholic Beverage License Limits for 2023-2024 as follows:

Class A – 4
 Class B – 27
 Class BL – 11
 Class C – 2
 Class D – 1

28. Adoption of an Amendment to the Debt Policy and Management/Fiscal Practices

VOTED: To adopt the Debt Policy and Management/Fiscal Practices, as amended, as follows:

DEBT POLICY
&
MANAGEMENT/FISCAL PRACTICES

A. Purpose

1. To ensure the quality of decision-making while considering the debt affordability to the taxpayer;
2. To provide justification for the structure of debt issuance so as to not exceed acceptable levels of indebtedness;
3. To demonstrate a commitment to long-term financial planning to meet infrastructure needs through a planned program of future financing, which is evident through the Town's Capital Improvement Program; and
4. To illustrate to rating agencies and capital markets that the Town is well managed and attentive to maintaining a favorable debt position.

B. General Principles

1. Under the governance and guidance of Rhode Island State Law (R.I.G.L. 45-12) – “Indebtedness of Towns and Cities”, the Town may issue debt as it pertains to the requirements of charter and under the state mandated debt limitations.
2. In order to maintain and enhance its existing credit ratings, the Town will monitor its debt management process. Prudent debt management can have a positive impact on these ratings if the Town demonstrates adherence to the policy over time.
3. The Town may periodically enter into debt obligations to finance the costs of construction or to improve and expand infrastructure and other assets to maintain and improve its quality of life. In order to meet its obligation of due diligence and prudent financial management to its residents, the Town shall strive that debt obligations are issued in such a fashion so as to obtain the best long-term financial advantage and investment terms. The Town may also refinance existing debt in order to reduce future debt service. (The Town shall determine the costs of incurring a sufficient amount of debt funding to complete the proposed project(s) when determining the amount of debt to issue. Debt is a mechanism to equalize the costs of improvement to present and future residents.) The decision to issue debt should fall within the following criteria:
 - a. The asset's life cycle shall exceed the term of the debt issue.
 - b. Life expectancy shall be considered when determining the issuance of debt to finance capital projects. The current operating budgets shall serve as the financing source for capital requirements that are recurring, relatively low-cost or are short-lived improvements.
 - c. The Town will not issue debt long term obligations or utilize debt proceeds to finance the current operations of the government.
 - d. The Town will seek to minimize the burden on its residents and businesses to repay debt, which thereby enhances its ability to attract and retain those same residents and businesses.

C. Capital Improvement Program

1. Town Staff, in cooperation with the assistance of the Asset Management Commission (AMC) will prepare a yearly Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The AMC is a nine-member advisory committee.
2. The AMC is to annually review all capital improvement and asset protection requests for both town and school facilities, assign priorities to the projects, recommend funding levels and assemble a comprehensive capital improvement program to be submitted to the Town Council for their review and consideration. The Plan is a multi-year, prioritized listing of long-term capital projects.
3. The Capital Improvement Plan shall be submitted by the AMC to the Town Council and approved yearly as part of the budget process.

D. Capital Reserve Funds

1. A Capital Reserve Fund provides a leveling effect in departmental budgets. The annual appropriation for future purchases, repairs and improvements on a timely basis eliminates the need for peaks and valleys in the budget and offers a more stabilized method of budgeting, which helps in maintaining infrastructure improvements. Eliminating the opportunity to set money aside for the future will expedite deterioration of the Town's assets and infrastructure.
2. The Capital Reserve Fund considers the following when determining the criteria for qualification of the fund:
 - a. An asset shall have a minimum dollar value of \$20,000 for any single bid item, construction project or vehicle.
 - b. The Town Council shall make funding for Capital Reserve items by separate resolution if required.

E. Debt Issuance Ratios/Limits

1. The Town shall establish the following limits while considering the issuance of debt:
 - a. The Town shall not exceed its statutory debt limits except as set forth below in 2(c).
 - b. The Town's legal debt limit as set forth by RIGL 45-12-2 is limited to three (3%) percent of total assessed value.
 - c. Nevertheless, the Town direct debt burden should be maintained at less than two (2%) percent of full assessed valuation.
 - d. The Town's annual debt service payments should never exceed a maximum of ten percent (10%) of the general fund budget, *unless approved by a resolution of the Town Council.
2. The useful life of the asset or infrastructure improvement shall be considered when determining the repayment schedules:
 - a. Twenty (20) years for most public improvement debt issued through a general obligation bond.
 - b. Twenty (20) to Twenty-Five (25) years for the issuance of debt for the large construction of a new school which is supported by State Housing Aid.
 - c. The Town may from time to time seek permission from the state legislature, by special legislation, to incur indebtedness outside the statutory limitation established by RIGL 45-12-2. Any such special legislation adopted by the legislature is subject to a referendum by the voters of the Town.
 - d. Overall, all general obligation debt shall be structured to retire at least fifty (50%) percent of the Town's indebtedness over the first half of the term of the debt.

F. Budget Savings and Consolidation

1. It is the position of the Town Council that opportunities should continually be explored to generate budget cost savings. It is understood that the recurring and on-going practices and efforts of department heads to initiate cost savings and control measures are not intended to be captured by this policy. As savings are achieved, whether through contract negotiations, competitive bidding, consolidation, or any such programmatic fiscal initiatives, it is imperative that each elected body adheres to sound short-term and long-term fiscal management practices.

It shall be the policy of the Town Council that such savings, when realized, shall not be used for recurring operational expenses and purposes. Such savings, when identified, shall be designated in one of four manners:

- a. directed into a reserve account to finance one-time activities that enhance the quality of life of the Town and/or enhancement of the school system,
- b. for the immediate expense of a one-time capital or a one-time operating project of more than \$50,000,
- c. or to offset or minimize a proposed increase in taxes or fees, or
- d. directed to the Town's Fund Balance.

G. Recommended Alternative Plan

The Town Manager reserves the right to recommend to the Town Council an alternative plan for financing of proposed capital projects if the alternative plan is in the best interest of the Town of North Kingstown.

This policy shall take effect upon passage and all Policies or parts of Policies inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

29. Reaffirm/Adopt Fund Balance Policy

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reaffirm the Fund Balance Policy for the Town of North Kingstown as follows:

Fund Balance Policy

Purpose

The Town Council recognizes that the maintenance of fund balance is essential to the preservation of the financial integrity of the Town of North Kingstown. This policy ensures that the Community maintains adequate fund balances and reserves in order to:

- Provide sufficient cash flows for daily financial needs
- Secure and maintain investment grade bond ratings
- Provide funds for unforeseen expenditures

Definitions

Fund balance is a measurement of available financial resources and is the difference between total assets and total liabilities in each fund. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) distinguishes fund balance classified based on the relative strength of the constraints that control the purposes for which specified amounts can be spent. Beginning with the most restrictive constraints, fund balance amounts are reported in the following categories:

- **Nonspendable:** Amounts that are not in a spendable form (e.g., inventory) or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact (e.g., permanent fund principal).
- **Restricted:** Amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by external parties either constitutionally or through enabling legislation (e.g., grants or donations).
- **Committed:** Amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Town Council. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by referring to the formal action that imposed the constraint originally.
- **Assigned:** Amounts intended to be used by the government for specific purposes. Intent can be expressed by the Town Council by a designee to whom the governing body delegates the authority (e.g., Town Manager).
- **Unassigned:** Amounts not contained in other classifications and is the residual classification of the general fund only. Unassigned amounts are available for any legal purpose.

Policy

The responsibility for designating funds to specific classifications shall be as follows:

Committed Fund Balance: The Town Council is the Town's legislative branch and formal action that is required to be taken to establish, modify, or rescind a fund balance commitment is a resolution approved by the Council.

Assigned Fund Balance: The Town Council has authorized the Town Manager and the Town Finance Director as officials authorized to assign fund balance to a specific purpose as approved by this fund balance policy.

Minimum Fund Balances

Unassigned: It is the goal of the Town Council to achieve and maintain a general fund unassigned fund balance of 10% with an acceptable range of not less than 8% and not more of 15% at fiscal year-end. If the unassigned fund balance at fiscal year-end falls below the minimum range (8%), the Town Manager shall develop a restoration plan to achieve and maintain the minimum fund balance within 5 years. Should unassigned fund balance of the general fund ever exceed the maximum (15%) range, the Town Manager, with Town Council approval, will consider such fund balance surpluses for one-time expenditures that are non-recurring in nature and which will not require additional expense outlays for maintenance, additional staffing or other recurring expenditures.

Unrestricted: It is the goal of the Town Council to achieve and maintain a general fund unrestricted balance of 17% with an acceptable range of not less than 10% and not more of 25% at fiscal year-end. If the unrestricted fund balance at fiscal year-end falls below the minimal range (10%), the Town Manager shall develop a restoration plan to achieve and maintain the minimum fund balance within 5 years. Should unrestricted fund balance of the general fund ever exceed the maximum (25%) range, the Town Manager, with Town Council approval, will consider such fund balance surpluses for one-time expenditures that are non-recurring in nature and which will not require additional expense outlays for maintenance, additional staffing or other recurring expenditures.

The difference between Unassigned and Unrestricted Fund Balance: Unassigned Fund Balance is currently unallocated funds and are under control by the legislative body (Town Council). Unrestricted Fund Balance is comprised of the Committed, Assigned and Unassigned Fund Balances. It is termed Unrestricted as the use of these funds is under the control of the legislative body (Town Council) who may reclassify them as they deem appropriate.

This policy shall take effect upon passage and all Policies or parts of Policies inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

30. Modify Process to Sell Town Property

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTE: To authorize the Town Solicitor to retain a Real Estate Broker to market 71 Summit View Lane (Plat 116/Lot 158) and Devils Foot Road (Plat 149/Lot 306); and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To authorize the Town Solicitor to negotiate a broker's fee not to exceed six percent (6%) of the sales price.

31. Assessment Board of Review – Appointment

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of one (1) member to the Assessment Board of Review as there were no applicants.

32. Audit Committee – Appointments

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Sarilee Norton, 58 West Cove Drive, At-Large Representative, to the Audit Committee to March 1, 2027.

Clerk's note: The appointment of the School Committee Representative to the Audit Committee will be done once the School Committee forwards 3 candidates to the Council.

33. Economic Development Advisory Board – Appointments

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the following two (2) members to the Economic Development Advisory Board to December 1, 2026:

Palmer Beebe, 74 Steamboat Avenue
Kerrie Lanoie, 76 West Log Bridge Road, West Greenwich 02817

and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To appoint Besty de Leiris, 64 Ocean Avenue, to a Full Member from First Alternate, to the Economic Development Advisory Board to December 1, 2026; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To appoint Kenneth Spicer, 116 Steamboat Avenue, as First Alternate from Second Alternate, to the Economic Development Advisory Board to December 1, 2024.

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of one (1) Second Alternate to the Economic Development Advisory Board to December 1, 2026.

34. Historic District Commission – Appointments

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the following three (3) members to the Historic District Commission to December 31, 2026:

Steven Borowick, 205 Juniper Drive
Wayne Trissler, 24 Gardiner Avenue
David Kaloupek, 330 School Street, First Alternate

35. Information Technology Advisory Committee - Appointment

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of one (1) Alternate At-Large Member to the Information Technology Advisory Committee as there were no applicants.

36. Planning Commission - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Richard Lipsitz, 90 Lake Drive, to the Planning Commission to July 1, 2026 to fill the unexpired term of Eric Wishart.

37. Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades Committee - Appointments

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Brian Votolato, 62 Glenwood Drive, to the Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades Committee to March 1, 2024, to fill the unexpired term of Randy Wietman.

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of one (1) member to the Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades Committee to March 1, 2024, to fill the unexpired term of William King.

38. Wickford Advisory Committee - Appointments

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the following two (2) members to Wickford Advisory Committee to October 1, 2026:

Robert Zimmer, 71 Main Street, Wickford Village Resident
Donald Nixon, 89 West Main Street, Wickford Village Business Owner

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of one (1) Wickford Village Resident to the Wickford Advisory Committee to October 1, 2026.

39. Wickford Village Design Guidelines Committee - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Palmer Beebe, 74 Steamboat Avenue, Business Property Owner, to the Wickford Village Design Guidelines Committee to December 31, 2026.

40. Reappointment to the Quonset Development Corporation Board of Directors

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Town Council Member Matthew B. McCoy, 381 Potter Road, to the Quonset Development Corporation Board of Directors to December 31, 2026 or to run concurrent with his term of office, whichever occurs first.

Councilor McCoy abstained from the vote.

41. Correspondence

11/02/2023 – Donna Hutchinson – Groundwater Protection

11/03/2023 – Amanda Petteruti – Cell Phone Tower Proposal

11/06/2023 – Dianne Izzo – Policy About Town Use Properties

11/07/2023 – Sarah Leonard – Progress

11/08/2023 – Kathleen Guarino – Letter to the Children of Gaza

11/08/2023 – Sarah Leonard – Re: Progress

11/09/2023 – Kara Martone – Bond – Next Steps

11/09/2023 – John Pitocco – Wickford Art Festival

11/10/2023 – Larisa Martino – Wickford Art Festival

11/15/2023 – Peter Lussier – Middle School Project

11/15/2023 – Ken Lawrence – Wickford Art Festival

11/16/2023 – Beth Hill Ross – Read Only Access to NKSD Financials

11/16/2023 – Edward J. Renahan, Jr. - Read Only Access to NKSD Financials

11/16/2023 – Rob Martone - Read Only Access to NKSD Financials

11/16/2023 – Megan Reilly - Read Only Access to NKSD Financials

11/16/2023 – Karen Salvatore - Read Only Access to NKSD Financials

11/16/2023 – Carol Sabourin - Read Only Access to NKSD Financials

11/16/2023 – Krystle Simas - Read Only Access to NKSD Financials

11/16/2023 – Catherine Kaiser – Wickford Art Festival

11/16/2023 – Nadine Swanson - Read Only Access to NKSD Financials

11/17/2023 – Dean Novasad – Graffiti

11/17/2023 – Anthony Tarro – Resident at 640 Fletcher Road [Proposed Cell Phone Tower]

11/18/2023 – Donna Hutchinson – Septic Subsidies

11/18/2023 – Frank Chrupcala – Traffic Light at Boston Neck Road

11/18/2023 – Donna Hutchinson - Groundwater Committee

11/18/2023 – Aileen Garrigues – Wickford Art Festival

11/19/2023 – Ainsley Daly – Wickford Art Festival

11/19/2023 – Jan McAleer – Groundwater Committee

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk