

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 24th day of June, 2024 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 6:30 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 June 24, 2024 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. Executive Session

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (5) – Real Estate (Potential Acquisition of Real Property for Public Purpose – Ownership/Development – 55 Brown Street).

MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:07 P.M.

4. 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 Linda Sherman who was killed in a tragic accident.

**I. PUBLIC HEARING**

5. Good Energy Draft Community Aggregation Plan for North Kingstown

President Mancini opened the Public Hearing.

Dawn Euer and Rachel Ferdinand of Good Energy gave the following presentation:



# North Kingstown Community Electricity

Municipal Aggregation Plan Public Hearing  
Monday June 24, 2024

Supported by Good Energy



## Electricity Supply Choice



**Supply Services**  
North Kingstown selects an electricity supplier that sources the electricity needed for our community

**Delivery Services**  
Rhode Island Energy delivers the electricity from North Kingstown's supplier

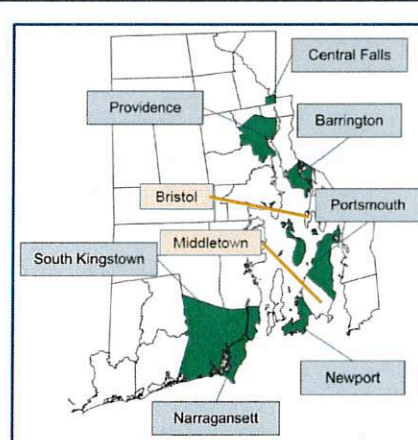
**Your Bill**  
No change in service quality. Only the price in "Supplier Services" section of your bill changes.

Supported by Good Energy



## Community Electricity in RI

- First 7 programs in RI launched May 2023 (*blue on map*)
- Managed by Good Energy
- Rates have been lower than RI energy while including 5% additional renewable energy
- Savings of \$8.2 million and over 26 million pound of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided



Supported by Good Energy



## North Kingstown Public Review Process

- On April 29th North Kingstown Town Council voted to open a public comment period for the drafted North Kingstown Community Electricity Plan
- The plan was available to the public in person at the Planning Department (100 Fairway Dr), and online on the via the Planning Department's page on the Town website
- Today's public hearing was also advertised in the June 6th and June 13th editions of the Independent

Supported by Good Energy



## What Comes Next

1. Today's public hearing
2. Council may approve the plan
3. Plan submitted to Public Utilities Commission for approval
4. Once approved, North Kingstown has the option to seek proposals for an electricity supply contract
5. If the Town receives a good proposal that is in line with the goals of the program, the program can begin

Supported by Good Energy



## Plan Details



Supported by Good Energy






## Goals of North Kingstown Community Electricity

- Using bulk purchase power for more competitive rates and the best terms and conditions for the community
- Use and support clean energy
- Expand consumer choice for electricity supply options

Supported by Good Energy



## Program Rollout

At program launch, North Kingstown Community Electricity will replace Rhode Island Energy as the Town’s **new default electricity supply**.

- North Kingstown residents on R.I. Energy Last Resort Service will be eligible for automatic enrollment
- North Kingstown residents on third party supply can choose to opt in
- All residents can choose not to participate by opting out

RI Energy will continue to handle billing and maintenance (e.g. power outages). This does not affect solar, net metering or any low-income discount rates.

Supported by Good Energy

North Kingstown CEA Product	Goal of Product	Renewable Energy
<b>Default</b>		
North Kingstown Standard	Provide savings <u>and</u> include additional renewable energy	+10%
<b>Optional</b>		
North Kingstown Basic	Maximize potential savings	Meets State minimum (e.g. 23%)
North Kingstown 100	Significant additional renewable energy at <u>higher</u> price premium	100%

Supported by Good Energy



President Mancini opened the floor for public comment.

Rickey Thompson, 194 Plain Road, stated that he wanted to ask a few questions. He asked why is there the option to opt out and not opt in, has the cost been constantly lower and is there a way to track the results of the savings? Can you opt out anytime without penalties?

Kathleen Guarino, 139 Summit View Lane, asked if there is a way for the Town to opt out down the road.

George Brennan, 70 Boone Street, stated that there is no bigger entity to negotiate a lower rate than RI Energy, no one is immune to getting a lower price all the time. He is not in favor of the project.

Joseph Teixeira, 200 Delano Drive, asked what energy resources are you tapping into, solar, petroleum, and/or natural gas? He asked what the current kilowatt difference is between RI Energy and Good Energy in the State of Rhode Island.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

President Mancini stated that he spoke with the City of Providence and their savings is approximately 5% and they have reported that they have had no issues or complaints from their constituents. He further stated that he believes this will help us obtain our renewable energy goals as by 2030 we are supposed to be 100 percent renewable energy.

Councilor Page stated that she is excited about this because she wants us to move closer to more renewable energy as it is important for our Town. We can't make that leap all at once but by doing this we are a step closer to obtaining that goal. She further stated that her sister works for the Pennsylvania Utilities Commission and spoke with those who are familiar with this company. She heard nothing negative about Good Energy.

Councilor McCoy stated that we had a note from a constituent who asked about the standing of Good Energy in Rhode Island being registered as a foreign company based in Delaware. He asked if Good Energy is in good standing with Rhode Island. Ms. Euer stated that they are registered as a foreign partnership. However, it came to their attention that they missed a filing due to a regulation change, and they immediately filed the appropriate reports. They are now in good standing, and it should be available on their website shortly.

Councilor Anderson stated that she feels the savings is negligible to the average household; however, a savings is a savings, nonetheless. She further stated that the point of increasing our renewable energy is extremely important and increasingly it is disingenuous for large institutions and governments to tell individuals to go green is on them when really, we need to be taking bigger steps as a municipality.

Councilor Mandel asked if it would be possible to get a copy of the history of the savings in Illinois as it would be interesting to see over a ten-year period how they did. He further stated that he is sympathetic to Mr. Brennan's point, and he looks at this through the lens of "follow the money". Somebody needs to make a profit to be successful for Good Energy or the suppliers. It is his understanding that Rhode Island Energy doesn't make a profit as they are not allowed to make a profit. He doesn't understand how this is a savings in the big picture to the taxpayer. Ms. Euer stated that the way Good Energy and the supplier would profit is by collecting .0001 per kilowatt hour. She further stated that Rhode Island Energy is not allowed to make a profit on supply costs; however, they do make up for it in other ways, via distribution and other supply services, etc.

Councilor McCoy asked if Rhode Island Energy, Good Energy and all these companies are subject to the same Rhode Island and Federal laws pertaining to this industry. Ms. Euer stated yes, reporting requirements are regulated by the PUC. Councilor McCoy asked if Good Energy could procure energy for a certain price, under certain terms, at any time. Ms. Euer stated yes. Councilor McCoy asked if Rhode Island Energy can only buy energy at certain times. Ms. Euer stated that is correct.

Councilor Anderson stated that she would also like to be provided with the history from Illinois. Ms. Euer stated that they would be happy to provide that as well as all the states they are operating in. Councilor Anderson asked how confident we are with what the residents will see for a savings. Ms. Euer stated that they are very comfortable, and the town will be able to log into a portal to track those savings. Also, they will come back to the Council and do a presentation to show how things are going.

President Mancini asked if Councilor Mandel and Councilor Anderson would like to see the information from Illinois before we authorize the Manager to enter into a final community choice aggregation plan. Councilor Anderson replied she would like to see as much information as possible. Councilor Mandel stated that agrees with Councilor Anderson.

President Mancini recommended that the Council authorizes the Town Manager to finalize the draft community aggregation plan for presentation to the Council and during that time they can provide us with additional information, once we approve it, we would send it to the PUC.

Councilor Page made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to finalize the draft community aggregation plan for presentation to the Council and to provide additional information and data from other states, Councilor Anderson seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To continue to the Town Council Meeting of July 15, 2024 the authorization for the Town Manager in concert with the Town's consultant Good Energy LLC to finalize the draft community choice aggregation plan so Good Energy can provide the requested information by the Council.

#### 6. Public Comment

Mary Worobec, 25 North Road, stated that she is excited to hear about the mitigation plans and what we have accomplished and the cost and financing of the project. She also asked if RI Energy will be responsible for maintaining the lines.

Joseph Teixeira, 200 Delano Drive, asked if there will be a presentation on Agenda Item 21 (Ordinance authorizing the Town to Finance Public Safety Projects - new Police and Fire Stations)

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 7 through 21 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 8, 11, 13, 20, and 21.

7. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 29, 2024 and the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2024 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

8. Abatement of Uncollectable Taxes

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

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

UNCOLLECTABLE (10 years and older):

2012 Motor Vehicle	\$69,076.85
2012 Personal Property	<u>\$14,507.94</u>
	\$83,584.79

9. Receipt of Donations

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$40.00:

For: Beechwood Senior Center To be used for the Mealsite	
From: Anonymous	\$25.00
For: Beechwood Senior Center	
From: Anonymous	\$15.00

10. Acceptance of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the donation of a Message Center Sign given by the North Kingstown Pickleball Community to be installed at the Pickleball Courts Field in Wilson Park.

11. Approval of Purchase

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the purchase for the Public Works Department for 300 96-gallon recycling carts from Cascade Engineering, 5175 36th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512-2085, through the Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative - #041521-CEI, in the amount of \$19,192.00 (including freight).

Funding for this purchase is from FY2024 Budget – Transfer Station/Operating Equipment – Account #16210060-530702.

12. Approval of Purchase

VOTED: To approve the purchase for the Department of Public Works for two (2) Ford F250 - 4WD pickup trucks equipped with plows and safety lighting packages from Tasca Automotive Group, 250 Webster Square Road, Berlin, CT 06037 (MPA Contract #559), in the amount of \$115,190.00.

Funding from ARPA - Highway/Public Works Equipment/Vehicle Account 17810020-550411.

## 13. Award of Sole Source Contract

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To award a sole source contract for the engineering, construction, oversight and administrative services for the Water Department for the replacement of Well Nos. 3, 7, and 8 to Wright-Pierce, 10 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903, in the amount of \$385,710.00.

Funding is from the Water Department - Capital Outlay - Well Rehabilitation - Acct. #44040090-551001.

## 14. Holiday Sales License (renewal)

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2025 the renewal application for a Holiday Sales License by Seacoast Fitness, LLC, dba Planet Fitness, 56 Frenchtown Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a copy of their RI Retail Sales Tax Permit, and approval from the Building Official and the Fire Marshall.

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

VOTED: To approve the application for transfer of a Holiday Sales License from Dania Food Mart LLC, 7000 Post Road, to Madni Food Mart LLC, 7000 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Planning Department, the Building Official, the Water Department, and the Fire Marshall; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2025 the renewal application for a Holiday Sales License by Madni Food Mart LLC, 7000 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Planning Department, the Building Official, the Water Department, and the Fire Marshall.

## 16. Victualling License (transfer)

VOTED: To approve the application to December 1, 2024 for transfer of a Victualling License from Dania Food Mart LLC, 7000 Post Road, to Madni Food Mart LLC, 7000 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a certificate from the Rhode Island Department of Health; and compliance with the recommendations of the Planning Department, the Building Official, the Water Department, and the Fire Marshall.

## 17. Peddler License (new)

VOTED: To approve to February 1, 2025 the application for a Peddler License by Stuart Fishman, dba Ocean State Novelty, 9 South Joseph Street, Westerly 02891, 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)

## 18. Joint Pole Relocation

VOTED: To grant the petition by Rhode Island Energy and Verizon New England Inc. for one (1) joint pole relocation on Brookside Drive.

## 19. 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 15, 2024 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.



20. First Reading – Amendment to Section 11-37

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 11-37 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, “No Parking or Limited Parking”, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 15, 2024 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

21. First Reading – Uncodified Ordinance

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Uncodified Ordinance authorizing the Town of North Kingstown to finance public safety projects including a new police station and a new fire station and to issue not more than \$60,000,000 bonds and notes therefor, and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 15, 2024 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

**III. REPORTS**

22. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

**Manager’s Report  
June 24, 2024**

Presented by: A. Ralph Mollis,  
Town Manager

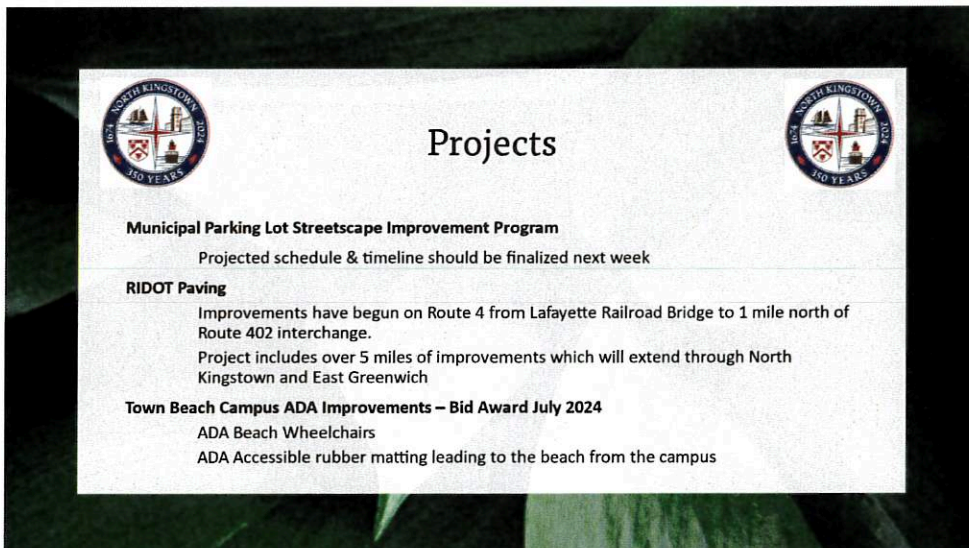




- A brief update on our regular meetings with Revolution Wind regarding their Offshore Wind Farm Project. They continue with the Pipe Pile Driving aspect of their project. They are 70% complete and have made significant headway. They continue with their duct bank installation also. They are still working with us and Quonset Business Park on their extended hours request. And they continue with their aggressive outreach as they have met with individual residents as well as residential groups and associations. They report to us each week on all calls or concerns they receive and how they were resolved.

Anyone who has questions or concerns should please call Revolution Wind at 401-251-2207 or email them at [info@revolution-wind.com](mailto:info@revolution-wind.com).

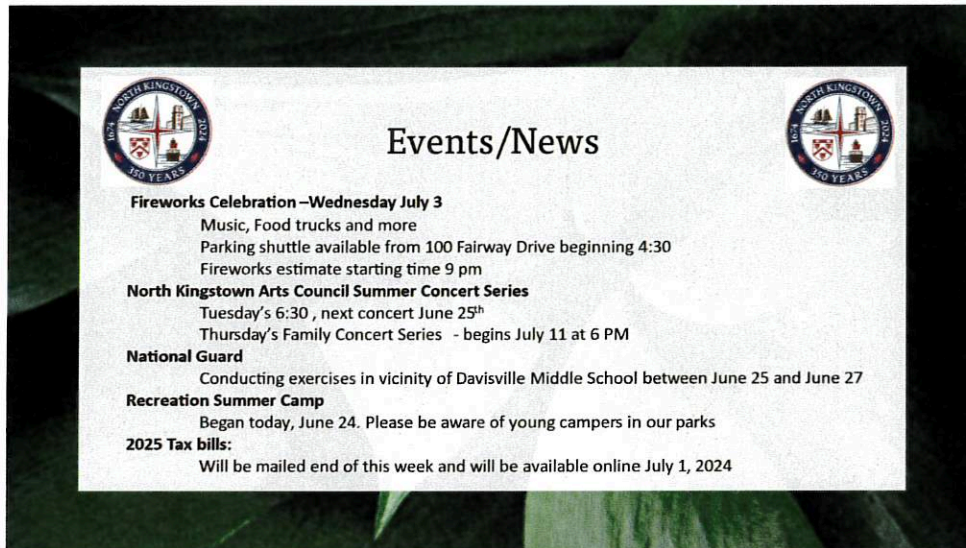
- The Water Department's Rain Barrel Program continues to receive interest from residents. As of last week, over 45 residents have taken advantage of this program and the Water Department, and Wickford Lumber, have received positive feedback on the program. As I've mentioned in the past, this program will have numerous benefits in decreasing stormwater pollution, decreasing demand, and preserving our water resources.



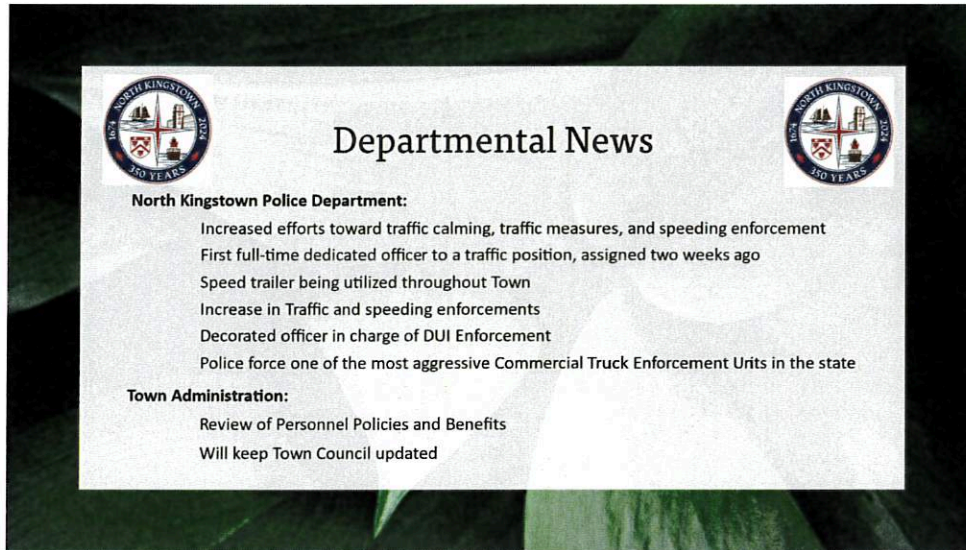
- The extensive Municipal Parking Lot Streetscape Improvement Program will be kicking off soon. Planning Director Nicole LaFontaine, Deputy Public Works Director Aly Sparks, members of their staff and I will be meeting with Beta Engineering and N.E. Building & Bridge Company tomorrow for a briefing on the project, it's preliminary schedule, timeline and other facets of this important project. I will be sure to keep the Town Council and the public updated.



- The R.I. Department of Transportation has notified us of the kickoff of their pavement improvements to Route 4 from Lafayette Railroad Bridge to approximately 1 mile north of the Route 403 interchange. The project extends over 5 miles, through North Kingstown and East Greenwich, and will include paving, repairing drainage structures, constructing Stormwater Treatment Units, replacement of steel-beam guardrails, new pavement markings and new rumble strips. The project is expected to be completed by the end of November of this year.
- We hope to be before the Town Council at your July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting on the awarding of ADA Improvements to our Town Beach. We are hoping to purchase two Beach Wheelchairs and the installation of beach accessible rubber matting from the beach campus onto the beach. I know this is a priority of the Town Council and I wanted you to be aware that this is being aggressively pursued and hope to have some of these improvements in place for portions of this summer beach season.



- The Town will be hosting our annual Fireworks Celebration at our Town Beach a week from Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will have shuttles running from 100 Fairway Drive beginning at 4:30. Entertainment begins at 4:30 with live music under the bandshell and with our fireworks display beginning sometime around 9pm. There will be food trucks and other novelties along the beach campus. Anyone wishing to park on site will need a beach parking pass if arriving before 5pm.
- The Summer Concert Series on our Beach Campus has started. Our thanks to the North Kingstown Arts Council and our Recreation Department for working together to put on this concert series. Each Tuesday evening until August 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30, you can enjoy a concert with Food Trucks available as well. Shuttles are available each evening from 100 Fairway Drive. Our Thursday Family Concert Series begins July 11<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 7pm.
- The National Guard has notified us that there will be an increase in Guard activity between June 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> as they are conducting scheduled training exercises in the vicinity of Davisville Middle School. We have posted information regarding this exercise on our Social Media Platforms.
- Our Recreation Department's popular Summer Camp started today. Please be aware of the increase in young children at our parks when you're visiting this summer.
- Tax bills will be sent out at the end of this week. We are proud to mention, once again, that the tax bills will show no tax increase this upcoming Fiscal Year. Our thanks to all involved in their hard work for making this goal happen.



- I've received numerous inquiries over the past month or so on our Police Department's plans for traffic calming and speed enforcement. I want to commend Chief Urban and his Command Staff as I know this was one of the Chief's priorities when taking the helm as Chief.

Two weeks ago, we assigned our first full-time dedicated officer to a traffic position. This officer is now able to concentrate their efforts on speed enforcement, traffic calming, determining where the issues are via data, steps to take once the data is compiled, etc.

We continue to aggressively use our speed trailer in various areas throughout town. Traffic and speeding enforcement steps and actions are significantly up over prior years. We have an officer, Don Barrington, who has become one of Rhode Island's go to individuals for DUI Enforcement steps.

We have one of the most aggressive Commercial Enforcement Units, or Truck Divisions, in Rhode Island keeping our streets safe.

And these are just some of the initial steps as, which I mentioned earlier, this is one of Chief Urban's priorities.

I know this is a priority of this Town Council and I wanted to bring you up to date on some of our recent steps over this past month or so.

- I'm also aware of another interest of this Town Council and that pertaining to some of the requests we've received regarding my Administration's plans to meet or exceed the standards in the area of inclusivity within our Human Resource Policies and Benefits. I want to assure the Town Council, and the public, that we have been and will continue to be attentive and successful in this area. At the same time, I – and we --- will be discussing this issue with my peers in other communities to see what steps they have taken and if they've teamed up with any outside entities that have assisted them in similar endeavors. I will also be reviewing this with my Personnel Team, Labor Attorney and Solicitor for additional input and insight. I am confident that we are, and will continue to be, a very inclusive team of employees and department heads with policies in place which aggressively prohibit any discrimination or exclusions in benefit coverage and will – in the end – hire the most qualified individual without any preference or discrimination based on anything but qualifications for each position, and will continue to provide an enjoyable and comfortable workplace for anyone wishing to work for our team. I will plan to keep the Council up to date on this initiative and hope to have information to report within the next 3 – 6 months inclusive of updates.

In answer to Councilor Mandel's question on how much can be spent without Council approval, Mr. Mollis stated approximately \$10,000. Councilor Mandel stated that he feels that this is a priority and would like to see the beach wheelchairs and mat in place as soon as possible.

Councilor Anderson stated that she appreciates the Manager's attention and commitment to diversity in the hiring practices of the Town.

Councilor McCoy stated that the Council has received several e-mails regarding speeding in various areas of town and is pleased to hear that the Police Department is being proactive.

The Council thanked the Manager for his report.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **23. Arts Council - Appointments**

There were no applicants.

Councilor Mandel stated that there have been two vacancies on this committee for quite some time and suggested that the Council reduce the membership. Ms. Alyward stated that she would prepare a resolution for the Council's consideration at the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, and we will not readvertise these vacancies until the Council decides on a number of members.

##### **24. Asset Management Commission - Appointments**

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following two (2) members to the Asset Management Commission to July 1, 2027:

Dianne Izzo, 62 Poplar Avenue, At-Large Representative, reappointed  
Joseph Gentile, 106 Roger Williams Drive, At-Large Representative

##### **25. Building Code Board of Appeals - Appointments**

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Max Reynolds, 179 Vista Circle, to the Building Code Board of Appeals to July 1, 2029.

##### **26. Economic Development Advisory Committee - Appointments**

There were no applicants.

Councilor Mandel stated that these Alternate positions have also been vacant for quite some time and recommended eliminating them. Ms. Alyward stated that she will prepare an amendment to the ordinance to eliminate the Alternate positions and bring it back to the Council on July 15<sup>th</sup> for a First Reading.

##### **27. Leisure Services Advisory Committee - Appointments**

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint the following two (2) members to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to July 1, 2027:

John Pyne, 315 Butternut Drive  
Richard Lipsitz, 90 Lake Drive



28. Planning Commission – Appointment

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Steven Borowick, 205 Juniper Drive, to the Planning Commission to July 1, 2030.

29. Probate Judge - Appointment

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Brian Fielding, 307 Orchard Woods Drive, Saunderstown 02874, as Probate Judge to July 1, 2025.

30. Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee - Appointments

There were no applicants.

31. Veteran’s Liaison – Appointment

There were no applicants. The Council directed the Clerk to readvertise the vacancy of a Veteran’s Liaison.

32. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Presentation

Director of Planning and Development Nicole LaFontaine stated that we have our consultant from GZA GeoEnvironmental here tonight who has been working with us on the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The scope of the update includes updating the town’s existing plan as per FEMA and RIEMA standards; characterizing the natural hazards; inventory of assets; risk assessment; updating mitigation strategies and actions; plan maintenance; public outreach; producing a draft plan; soliciting RIEMA’s comments; and undergoing revisions to produce a final plan in the future. She further stated that this is the second of two public outreach meetings; the first was held with the Planning Commission in late May. She further stated that Mike Gardner our GZA Consultant is here tonight to review and discuss the current status of their work towards our plan update and provide an overview of the plan, process, results of the risk assessment, preliminary results from the community survey, and the proposed approach for mitigation actions and next steps. The final plan will come back to the Council for a formal adoption.

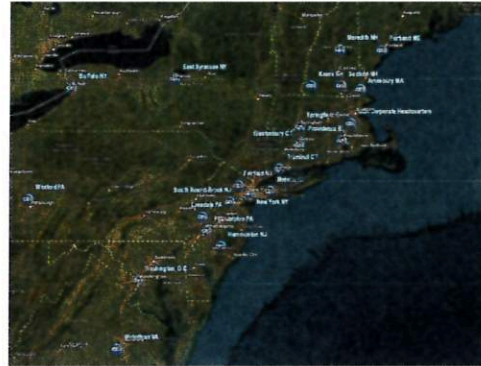
Michael Gardner, GZA Consultant gave the following presentation:



# Project Hazard Mitigation Planning Consultant

## About GZA

32 offices, 7000 Engineers, Scientists, Planners, and Technical Specialists providing expert, risk-informed and pragmatic advice and solutions in the following Core Service areas:



## Today's Meeting **Public Meeting #2: June 24, 2024**

- V' Project Overview & Background
- V' Hazards Characterization Overview
- V' Risk Assessment Results Overview
- V' Mitigation Actions Approach
- V' Review and Discuss 2024 Mitigation Actions
- V' Discuss Next Steps



Flooding in Wickford during December 18/2023 storm (image ref. RI MyCoast)

## HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING BACKGROUND

*What is it? Why is it being done?*

### **BENEFITS OF HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING**

- Act now, before a disaster, to reduce losses
- Increase public safety and prevent loss of life and injury
- Reduce damage to existing and future development
- Prevent harm to economic, cultural, and environmental assets
- Reduce downtime, speed up recovery, and lower response costs
- Meet other community objectives such as: capital improvements, infrastructure protection, and open space preservation



Figure credit: FEMA



Figure credit: FEMA



## Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



### Goals:

- Update Town assets
- Document progress made per the 2019 Plan Update
- Characterize and assess natural hazard and climate-related hazard risks
- Provide public education and outreach during the planning process
- Revise and develop strategies and actions to mitigate the hazard risks
- Adopt plan update

## Planning Process

### Planning Process:

#### 2. Assess Risk:

- Community Demographics/Social Vulnerability
- **Asset Inventory**
- Natural Hazards Characterization
- Risk Assessment

#### 3. Mitigation Strategy and Actions

#### 1. Plan Adoption and Maintenance

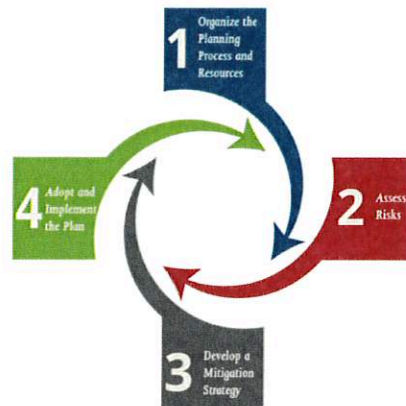


Figure credit FEMA/Jenny Burmeister Aug 21, 2017

## Planning Tasks:

- Document progress made per the 2019 Plan Update
- Update City asset inventory
- Characterize the natural hazards and climate-change effects updates
- Assess current and future hazard vulnerability
- Document hazard mitigation progress made by the City
  - Provide public education and outreach during the planning process
  - Revise and develop strategies and actions to mitigate the hazard risks
  - Coordinate with RIEMA & FEMA Plan Reviews
  - Adopt the Plan Update

## Working Group Team Members

### Local Planning Team

Ralph Mollis – Town Manager

Nicole LaFontaine - Director of Planning and Development

Becky Lamond - Supervising Planner

Elle Moore - Planning Technician

Donald Peck - Building Department

Scott Kettelle - Fire Department

John Urban - Police Department

Marie Marcotte - Director

Mark Zamperini - Lakeside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

### Local Planning Team

Adam White - Public Works Director

Aly Sparks - Deputy Public Works

Meg Kerr - Planning Commission

Eli Mulligan - Administrative Captain

Scott Lessard - Fire Department

Rita Lavoie - Quonset Development Corporation

John Linacre - Fire Department

Matthew Souza - Building Official

Robert Corrente – School Facilities Director

Joel Rocha - Storm Water Specialist

Jim Broccoli - Harbormaster



## Public Outreach

### Public Meeting:

- 1st Public Meeting - May 21
- 2nd Public Meeting - June 24
- Public survey
  - QR Code:



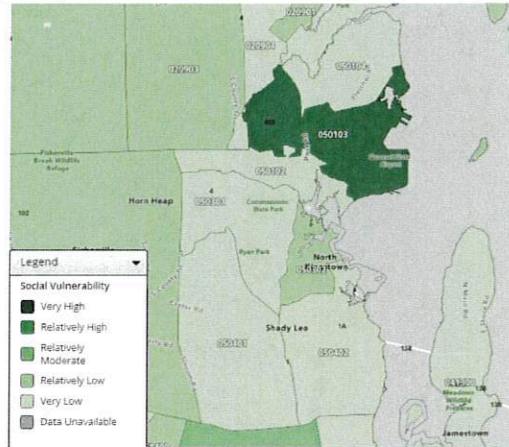
## Community Profile Overview

- Population: +/- 27,732 people
- Population change since 2000: 1,246 (+4.7%)
- Land Area: about 43.6 square miles
- Water Area: about 14.8 square miles
- Population Density: about 642.4 people per square mile
- Households: 11,341
- Median household income: \$116,053 (compared to State average of \$81,370)



### Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

- SVI Index Themes
  - Socioeconomic
  - Household Composition/Disability
  - Minority/Language
  - Housing/Transportation



### Natural Hazards Overview

- Severe Weather Hazards
  - Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
  - Nor'easters
  - Riverine Flooding
  - Intense Rainfall and Hail
  - Heavy Snowfall and Ice Storms
- Climate Related Hazards
  - Extreme Temperatures
  - Drought
  - Wildfire
- Geologic Hazards
  - Earthquake



<b>Severe Weather Hazards:</b>	
Severe Wind:	Hurricanes/Tropical Storms
	Thunderstorms
	Tornadoes
Lightning	
Intense Rainfall	
Hail	
Flood:	Riverine/Overbank Flooding
	Dam Failure/Beaver Dams
	Poor Drainage Flooding
Severe Winter Weather:	Snowfall
	Ice Storms
<b>Climate-Related Hazards:</b>	
Extreme Temperature:	Extreme Heat
	Extreme Cold
Drought	
Wildfire	
<b>Geologic Hazards:</b>	
Earthquake	

### Natural Hazard Rankings Approach

- FEMA National Risk Index
  - Expected Annual Loss
  - Social Vulnerability
  - Community Resilience

$$\text{Risk} = \frac{\text{Expected Annual Loss} \times \text{Social Vulnerability}}{\text{Community Resilience}}$$



## Natural Hazard Rankings Approach

### Expected Annual Loss :

The EAL represents the average economic loss in dollars resulting from a certain natural hazard each year.

The EAL for each hazard is calculated as the product of exposure, annualized frequency, and historic loss ratio.

- Exposure represents the value of buildings, population, or agriculture potentially exposed to a natural hazard occurrence.
- Annualized frequency represents the expected frequency or probability of a natural hazard occurrence per year.
- Historic loss ratio represents the estimated percentage of the exposed building value, population, or agriculture value expected to be lost due to a natural hazard occurrence .



## Natural Hazard Rankings Criteria

### Social Vulnerability:

- Social vulnerability is the susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards.
- The score is a relative score and indicates the relative level of a community's social vulnerability compared to other communities at the same level.

### Community Resilience:

- Community resilience is the ability of a community to prepare for a natural disaster, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions.
- The score is a relative score and represents the community's relative level compared to other communities at the same level.



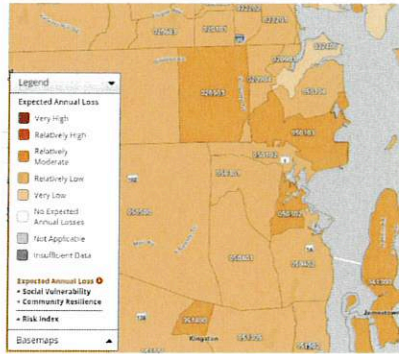
## 2024 Natural Hazards



	Hazard Index	Hazard Rating
<b>Severe Weather Hazards:</b>		
Strong Wind	24.5	Very Low
Tornadoes	27.3	Relatively Low
<b>Rank 2</b> Hurricanes/Tropical Storms	<u>74.7</u>	Relatively Moderate
Lightning	44.6	Relatively Low
Hail	24.8	Very Low
<b>Rank 1</b> Coastal Flooding	<u>87.4</u>	Relatively Moderate
<b>Rank 3</b> Riverine Flooding	<u>71.4</u>	Relatively Moderate
Severe Winter Weather	32.9	Very Low
Ice Storms	64.6	Relatively Moderate
<b>Climate-Related Hazards:</b>		
Heat Wave/ Extreme Heat	18.3	Relatively Low
Cold Wave/ Extreme Cold	44.6	Relatively Low
Drought	35.1	Relatively Low
Wildfire	59.6	Very Low
<b>Geologic Hazards:</b>		
Earthquake	29.5	Very Low
Landslides	37.7	Relatively Moderate



### Natural Hazards



Hazard Type	Period of Record	Average Annualized Frequency (event/year)
Coastal Flooding	Various	2.6
Cold Wave	2005-2021 (16 years)	0.1
Drought	2000-2021 (22 years)	2.2
Earthquake	2021 dataset	0.0
Hail	1986-2021 (34 years)	1.7
Heat Wave	2005-2021 (16 years)	0.6
Hurricane	East 1851-2021 (171 years) / West 1949-2021 (73 years)	0.2
Ice Storm	1946-2014 (67 years)	1.2
Landslide	2010-2021 (12 years)	0.0
Lightning	1991-2012 (22 years)	12.0
Riverine Flooding	1996-2019 (24 years)	0.8
Strong Wind	1986-2021 (34 years)	1.1
Tornado	1950-2021 (72 years)	0.0
Tsunami	1800-2021 (222 years)	#N/A
Volcanic Activity	---	#N/A
Wildfire	2021 dataset	Less than 0.001% chance per year
Winter Weather	2005-2021 (16 years)	3.9

### 2024 Natural Hazards – National Risk Index (NRI)

Population: 27,732

Population change since 2000: 1,246 (+4.7%)

Expected Annual Loss (EAL): \$3,487,613

- Quonset: \$907,293
- Wickford: \$668,940
- Lafayette: \$422,399
- Slocum: \$401,059
- Saunderstown: \$388,361
- Quidnessett: \$357,819
- Davisville: \$341,742



### Mitigation Actions Approach

- 1) Identified and integrated ongoing and yet to be completed actions from 2019 HMP Update
  - 37 Actions - 2019 HMP Update
- 2) Focused development of new actions on top ranked hazards
- 3) Proposed Estimated Timeline for Implementation
  4. Prepared Planning Level Estimated Project Costs
    1. Identifying Responsible Department(s) for City
    2. Identifying Potential Funding Sources



## Plan Update Mitigation and Resilience Actions

21 new (2024) mitigation actions:

- 10 Multiple Hazards Actions
  - 4 High Priority Actions
- 7 Flood-Related Hazards Actions
  - 5 High Priority Actions
- 3 Climate Related Hazards: Drought, Wildfire & Extreme Temperatures
  - 1 High Priority Action
- 1 Severe Winter Weather Hazard
  - 1 High Priority Action

2024 MITIGATION ACTIONS							
Benefits	Costs	Timeline	Estimated Project Costs	Priority	Responsible Agencies	Sources	
<b>MULTIPLE HAZARDS</b>							
Possible Actions to Add:							
High	Low	2024 to 2029	Low	High	North Kingstown Planning Commission (PC) and Land Use Department (LUD)	TBD	
High	Low	2024 to 2026	Low to Medium	High	OSBBS/BOF, All Departments FEN W&B, All Departments	FEHA, USACE, NOAA, HUD, EPA, RDOT, NK CIP	
High	Low	Annually	Low	High	Building Official, TBD	Potential Funding TBD	
High	Low to Medium	Annually	Low to Medium	High	TBD	TBD	
Medium	Medium	2024 to 2029	Medium to High	Medium	Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, TBD	DEMHS, FEHA, TBD	
Med	Low	2024 to 2029	Low	Medium	BUS, OEM	DEMHS FEHA CIP	
Med	Low	2024-2027	Low	Medium	TBD	TBD	

Multiple Hazards

Multiple Hazards

NEW, 2024 MITIGATION ACTIONS							
Benefits	Costs	Timeline	Estimated	Priority	Responsible	Potential Funding	
High	Medium	TBD	Low to Medium	Medium	TBD	HUD, FEHA, TBD	
Medium	Medium	TBD	Low to Medium	Medium	TBD	HUD, FEHA, TBD	
High	Low	Annually	Low	Medium	TBD	TBD	

### Flood Hazards

FLOOD HAZARDS							
Action	Possible Actions to Add:						
	High	Medium to High	Ongoing	Low	High	TBD	FEMA, TBD
Action 11: Participate in reviews of regulatory floodplain maps updates and revisions.	High	Medium to High	Annually	Medium to High	High	TBD, RI DOT	FHWA, RI DDT, TBD
Action 12: <b>Read Evaluation:</b> Evaluate roads at least annually to develop plans for improvement or elevation for emergency access and evacuation. <b>Develop conceptual plans and prioritization</b> for pursuing engineering, design, and construction funding of <b>identified roadways.</b>	High	Medium	Annually	Medium to High	High	TBD, RI DOT	FHWA, RI DDT, TBD
Action 13: <b>Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA).</b> Repetitive loss (RL) structures can be demolished and rebuilt or elevated to higher standards than minimum FEMA requirements. It is recommended to perform a formal RLAA to identify the impact to Town's NFIP insurance rate due to repetitive loss. The results from the RLAA will help further support Town and property owner resilience and mitigation activities, including acquiring, relocating and/or flood mitigation of RL properties. Encourage Repetitive Loss Property Owners to <b>pursue flood mitigation funding</b> for actions such as elevation or acquisition of structures where appropriate on a voluntary basis.	Medium	Low	Ongoing	Low to Medium	High	TBD	TBD
Action 14: Continue to participate in <b>National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)</b> (or other) training offered by the State and/or FEMA that addresses flood hazard planning and management.	High	Low	Ongoing	Low	High	TBD	FEMA, RIEMA, TBD
Action 15: <b>STORMWATER. Analyze the existing stormwater infrastructure</b> to identify the need for additional catch basins/pump stations/additional tide gates/green infrastructure.	High	Medium	2024-2029	Medium	High	TBD	EPA, RI DEM, TBD
Action 16: Incorporate the procedures for tracking <b>high water marks</b> following a flood into emergency response plans.	Medium	Low	Ongoing	Low	Medium	TBD	FEMA, Silver Jackets (USACE), TBD
Action 17: Employ living <b>shoreline solutions</b> for select areas including low wave energy environments such as tidal marsh borders and river mouths.	High	Medium	2024-2029	Medium to High	Medium	TBD, Beach Associations	FEMA HMGP, TBD



### Climate Related Hazards: Drought, Wildfire, & Extreme Heat

NEW, 2024 MITIGATION ACTIONS	Benefits	Costs	Timeline	Estimated Project Costs	Priority	Responsible Agencies	Potential Funding Sources
<b>CLIMATE RELATED HAZARDS: DROUGHT, WILDFIRE, &amp; EXTREME HEAT</b>							
Possible Actions to Add:							
Action 18: <b>Firefighting Infrastructure Analysis:</b> Evaluate existing firefighting infrastructure to identify needs for improvement to cover gaps in availability.	High	Low	2024-2029	Low	High	Fire Department, TBD	FEMA, EMPG, HMGP, TBD
Action 19: <b>Wildfire Education:</b> Conduct public education and outreach to the public on potential wildfire hazards caused by campfires & open air burning.	High	Low to Medium	Annually	Low	Medium	Fire Department, TBD	FEMA, EMPG, HMGP, TBD
Action 20: <b>Protect Vulnerable Populations</b> by: 1) Organize outreach to vulnerable populations to educate citizens on the dangers of extreme heat & cold, and the steps they can take to protect themselves when extreme temperatures occur.	High	Medium	2024-2029	Medium	Medium	TBD	FEMA, RI DEM, TBD



### Severe Winter Weather Hazards

NEW, 2024 MITIGATION ACTIONS	Benefits	Costs	Timeline	Estimated Project Costs	Priority	Responsible Agencies	Potential Funding Sources
<b>SEVERE WINTER WEATHER HAZARDS</b>							
Action 21: Maintain adequate supply of sand, salt, and other <b>road treatment materials.</b>	High	Low	Annually	Low	High	TBD	TBD





## Next Steps

1. Finish Mitigation Strategies & Actions Update
  1. Advisory Committee Meeting to Review Actions
3. Prepare Draft Plan
  4. Submit Plan Update to RIEMA/FEMA for review
  5. Revise Plan Update, if necessary
  1. Plan approval and local adoption



Old Saybrook Public Meeting (GZA)

**APPROVED**  
by FEMA



Councilor McCoy thanked Mr. Gardner for the presentation and asked if he is correct that this plan has 21 new actions. Mr. Gardner stated that is correct. Councilor McCoy stated that he is in favor of having a plan. He asked what resources are available to implement this plan and do we have any indication what financial resources are needed to pay for the consultants to implement the action steps. Mr. Gardner stated that typically the mitigation goals do have a cost associated with them but not a specific value but more for planning purposes. Through the plan there should be steps laid out to help the Town to apply for grant funding. Ms. LaFontaine stated that we still need to pare down and evaluate the priorities and what can be done in-house versus with consultants. In answer to Councilor McCoy's question if there will be any funding for this in the department funding in FY2026, Mr. Mollis stated possibly yes, after we see what will be done in-house, what grant funding is available or could be applied for. In answer to Councilor McCoy's question if other municipalities are funding their plans or relying on state and federal grants, Mr. Gardner stated it depends on what the mitigation action is. He further stated that typically these mitigation actions are goals or planning purposes and there is no penalty if those goals are not met.

Councilor Mandel asked how long the public survey is open for. Mr. Gardner stated that there is no current end date for the survey. Ms. LaFontaine stated that we extended the survey and will most likely close it in a few weeks; however, they are finding that responses submitted recently are typical of what has already been submitted.

President Mancini stated that there was a lot of information provided. He asked if this could be broken down over a few meetings when this comes back to the Council.

The Council thanked Ms. LaFontaine and Mr. Gardner for their presentation.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson 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, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government, the Rhode Island Governor, and Legislature have all declared June as Pride Month.

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.

#### 34. Correspondence

The following is a summary of -emails received by the North Kingstown Town Council from constituents since the Council's last regular meeting on 06/10/2024:

06/10/2024 – Melissa Kapalka – Pride Flag

06/10/2024 – Peter Lussier – Flags at Town Hall

06/10/2024 – Anne Cunic – Quidnessett Country Club – Request for Water Type Designation Change

06/10/2024 – Kara Martone – Town Council Agenda 06/10/24 Item Numbers 28/29

06/10/2024 – Robert Jones – Town Council Agenda

06/10/2024 – Patty Rogers – Letter Supporting Pride Flag in North Kingstown

06/10/24 – Debra Lukacsko – Support to Raise Pride Flag

06/10/2024 & 06/14/2024 – Lee Domaszowec – Items for Discussion and Vote 06/24/2024

06/10/2024 & 06/17/2024 – TANK Organization – 06/10/24 Meeting

06/12/2024 – Sarilee Norton – 06/10/24 North Kingstown Town Council Meeting and Flag Policy

06/16/2024 – Jennifer Rowland – Tom Briody

06/17/2024 – Breathe Providence Project – Introduction

06/18/2024 (3x) – Peg Manning – Speeding on North Quidnessett Road & Fletcher Road

06/20/2024 (2x) – Kara Martone – Machinist CTE Program

06/21/2024 (2x) – Donna Hutchinson – Enforcement of Speeding Laws

06/21/2024 (2x) – Anna Burke – Beechwood Scheduling

06/22/2024 – Dianne Izzo – Good Energy

06/22/2024 – Grace Duffy – Student Interview About Pride Flag

06/23/2024 – David Wrenn – 06/24/24 Meeting – 55 Brown Street

06/23/24 & 06/24/2024 – Sarilee Norton – Pride Flag Follow Up

06/24/2024 – Ellen Waxman – Executive Session Agenda Item 3a – 55 Brown Street

06/24/2024 – Ed Cooney – Asset Management Commission

06/24/2024 – Dawn Euer – Good Energy - North Kingstown RI SOS status/filings

Note: Information listed above is current as of 4:00 PM, Monday, June 24, 2024.

Councilor Mandel stated that he held Office Hours on June 11<sup>th</sup> and Kathleen Guarino came in to discuss the flag request; Frank and Ruth Crump discussed their concerns on Bitmar Asphalt plant; and Ellen Waxman discussed 55 Brown Street.

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn back into Executive Session.

The Council recessed the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

The Council reconvened the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

President Mancini disclosed the Council voted in Executive Session by a unanimous vote to defer the decision to have the Town Solicitor send a notice of intent to repurchase 55 Brown Street until further direction of the Town Council.

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward  
Town Clerk