

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 23rd day of September, 2024 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 (arrived at 7:29 p.m.)

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 September 23, 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. Salute to Flag

President Mancini led those in attendance in a salute to the flag and a moment of silence in memory of Charles Bauer and Kathleen Devine who recently passed away.

4. Public Comment

President Mancini stated that he would like to thank the North Kingstown Fire Department and Police Department for a nice, professional job they did on the 911 Ceremony. He also mentioned the Town may be looking for volunteers to work at the polls on election day. He heard there was a controversial planning meeting regarding solar panels and that the Planning Department will be submitting a letter to the Council to ask the general assembly to put up sound barriers.

Bill Pennoyer, 108 Lewis Farm Road, East Greenwich, gave the Council a flyer from the Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades Committee. He asked the Council to rename the Academy Cove to Anchor Park. He also asked if the Town could purchase more Town flags as we are running low.

Jennifer Lima, 4 Hickory Drive East, President of TANK, wants to commend the Town and the 350th Anniversary Committee for the family day that was held earlier this month. It was an excellent day. She stated that last year she stood before you about the myth of how Columbus founded America and instead, we should be honoring Indigenous People Day. She asked the Town to reach out to the Tomahawk Museum and get the history. She stated that the executive director of the museum was the first speaker in the yearlong speaker series the town had and there is also a proclamation on the docket tonight. She thanked the Town for taking these first steps. She asked us to consider one change to the proclamation before voting on it tonight. She would like it to acknowledge not only the past but the present.

Brett Mallery, 731 Annaquatucket Road, stated that he wanted to bring back what happened last year on the history of the school bond. He stated that 30% of the money is wasteful spending and we don't need A/C in the schools. He is encouraging people who can vote to send it back to the drawing board one more time. He stated that he supports a new school but not wasteful spending. We could spend the money on better ways in the town.

Michelle Girasole, 635 Annaquatucket Road, stated that she wanted to create support for the Town to develop a Land Acknowledgment statement and follow it up with action. She also wanted to thank the 350th Anniversary Committee for their wonderful events this year, especially family day. She also thanked Matt McCoy for his leadership.

Curtis Fisher, 104 Phillips Street, thanked the Town for putting up the signage by the playground on Phillips Street. He asked the Council to do something about the paving on Phillips Street. The road is a disaster.

I. SPECIAL BUSINESS

5. Advise and Consent – Appointment of the Director of Water Supply

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: In accordance with Section 510 of the North Kingstown Charter, the Town Council hereby gives their advise and consent of the Town Manager’s appointment of Alan Austin to the position of Director of Water Supply.

6. Acknowledgment of National Centenarian Day

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To induct the following North Kingstown residents into the North Kingstown Centenarian Society in recognition of 100 years of life and a lifetime of contributions to your nation, state, and community and to your family, friends, and neighbors:

Dora Anjoorian
Elaine DaRosa
Danute Decesare
Doris Fahlman
Seth Gifford
Edward Moorehead
Ruth Verber

7. Approval of Application for Necessity of School Construction

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the submission of the Stage 2 Application for the necessity of school construction as required by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 8 through 32 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 13, 15, 19, and 30.

8. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 15, 2024 and the Regular Meeting of August 5, 2024 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

9. Tax Abatement List #878

VOTED: To approve Tax Abatement List #878 submitted by Deb Garneau, Tax Assessor, in the amount of \$13,937.49; and it was

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

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10. Receipt of Donations

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$1,080.00:

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

For: Beechwood Senior Center
To be used for Programs
From: Jill Mulford \$1,000.00
Anonymous 15.00
Anonymous 15.00

11. Acceptance of Donation

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the donation of a 20' Nautical Flagpole given by George Silva to be installed in the Veterans Memorial Park across from the Town Hall.

12. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Water Department for a Fire Hydrant Replacement Project to Key Construction, 170 Fiore Industrial Drive, Wakefield, RI 02879, in the amount of \$84,000.00.

Funding is from Water Department Capital Outlay Account 44040090 550701.

13. Award of Bid

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To award the bid for the Water Department for Well No. 3R Construction to Weston & Sampson, 55 Walkers Brook Drive, Reading, MA 01867, in the amount of \$219,288.00.

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

14. Award of Bid

VOTED: To award the bid for the Water Department for construction services for the Saunderstown Village Water Main Replacement Project to New England Building & Bridge Co., Inc., 388 Veazie Street, Providence 02904, in the amount of \$625,039.00.

Funding for this project is from Water Service and Improvements Account 44040090-550701.

15. Ratification of Town Manager's approval of Change Orders #1 and #2

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To ratify the Town Manager's approval of Change Orders #1 and #2 for the Planning Department for work related to the cofferdam for the Wickford Waterfront Project to New England Building & Bridge Co., Inc., 388 Veazie Street, Providence, RI 02904, in the amount of \$95,929.69.

Funding for these Change Orders is from ARPA.

16. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Emily Bushman, resigning from the Arts Council, and that the Town Council President send a letter of appreciation to her for the dedicated service she gave to the Town of North Kingstown.

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17. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Varuna Abeywardane, resigning from the Library Board of Trustees, and that the Town Council President send a letter of appreciation to her for the dedicated service she gave to the Town of North Kingstown.

18. Acceptance of Rhode House of Representatives Legislative Grant

VOTED: To accept the Rhode Island House of Representatives Legislative Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used by the Police Department for child centric causes, including partnering with the School Department Office of Family Learning to purchase cold weather clothing/gear for our community's vulnerable children.

19. Authorization for the Town Manager to sign an Independent Contractor Agreement

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to sign an Independent Contractor Agreement between the Town of North Kingstown and Alex Snow as the Youth Intervention Specialist as allowed per the Rhode Island Memorandum of Understanding between the State and the cities and towns receiving Opioid Settlement Funds.

20. Authorization for the Town Manager to execute an extension of a Concession Agreement

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to execute an extension of the Concession Agreement between the Town of North Kingstown and Quonset Tavern by the Green, Inc. in accordance with Section 1 of said Agreement for a third year, for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

21. Resolution authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation

A resolution was passed as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted the FY2024/2025 North Kingstown Free Library Budget on April 24, 2024, in the amount of \$1,691,940.00; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted the FY2024/2025 Willett Library Grant in Aid Budget on April 24, 2024, in the amount of \$30,440.00; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted the FY2024/2025 Davisville Library Grant in Aid Budget on April 24, 2024, in the amount of \$23,826.00; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown received \$10,694.00 in additional library state aid than was approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Council approves a supplemental appropriation of funds to the FY2024/2025 North Kingstown Free Library in the amount of \$8,851.00, the Davisville Free Library in the amount of \$809.00, and the Willett Free Library in the amount of \$1,034.00.

22. Resolution authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation

A resolution was passed as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted the FY2024/2025 School Department Budget on April 24, 2024, in the amount of \$74,673,654.00; and

WHEREAS, the School Department received \$93,934.00 in additional state aid than was approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Council approves a supplemental appropriation of funds to the FY2024/2025 School Budget in the amount of \$93,934.00, increasing the School General Operating Budget from \$74,673,654.00 to \$74,767,588.00.

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23. Resolution authorizing the Transfer of Funds

A resolution was passed as follows:

WHEREAS, as part of FY2024 closing of the Municipal Golf Course financial statements reflecting a surplus, it is tradition that a portion of said surplus would be transferred to the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager has reviewed the recommendation of the Director of Finance and funds being transferred have specific purposes; and

WHEREAS, making this transfer will positively impact the finances of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the following transfer of FY2024 funds are approved:

Municipal Golf Course:		
From: 43300000-599999	2024 Budget Surplus	\$200,000
General Fund:		
To: 00100000-131001	Due from Other Funds	\$200,000

24. Approval of Salary and Wage Schedule

VOTED: That the Salary and Wage Schedule establishing rates of compensation for Nonunion Employees, Seasonal Employees, and Miscellaneous Fee Schedules for Fiscal Year 2024/2025, as submitted by the Town Manager, be approved; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: That the Town Manager is authorized to make changes to these schedules to maintain efficient operations, comply with State and Federal laws, and subsequent schedules will reflect those changes.

25. Entertainment License (new)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Entertainment License by North Kingstown Rotary, PO Box 708, North Kingstown, to have live music on the grounds of the North Kingstown Town Beach Campus and band shell on Sunday, October 20, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (rain date Saturday, October 26, 2024), subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Planning Department, and the Building Official.

26. Exhibition License (1-10 vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with 1-10 vendors by Cocumscussoc Association, dba Smith's Castle, 55 Richard Smith Drive, to hold Christmas at the Castle on the grounds of Smith's Castle, on Saturday, December 7, 2024 and Sunday, December 8, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. - 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 5, 2024 (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.

27. Holiday Sales License (new)

VOTED: To approve to July 1, 2025 the application for a Holiday Sales License by Spirit Halloween, 5945 Post Road, subject to taxes and water paid to date.

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28. Ratification of Town Clerk's approval of a Fireworks Permit

VOTED: To ratify the Town Clerk's approval of a Fireworks Permit by Manton E. Madison, II, 445 North Quidnessett Road, for a Fireworks Display that took place at a wedding which was held on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 8:30 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date, compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department and the Police Department, and compliance with the State inspection of the vehicle transporting the fireworks.

29. Second Bond Reduction

VOTED: To approve the request by Reynolds Farm Residential Development, LLC, for a second bond reduction on Reynolds Farm, Phase 2B, from \$122,225.37 to \$99,379.35, in the amount of \$22,846.02.

30. Second Bond Reduction

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the request by Reynolds Farm Residential Development, LLC, for a second bond reduction on Reynolds Farm, Phase 2C, from \$63,673.95 to \$42,195.21, in the amount of \$21,478.73.

31. First Reading – Amendment to Section 9-4

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 9-4 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Fee Schedule Enumerated – Table VI – Recreation Department Fees – Allen Harbor", and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of October 7, 2024 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

32. First Reading – Amendment to Section 9-4

VOTED: That this shall constitute the First Reading of an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 9-4 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Fee Schedule Enumerated – Table VI – Recreation Department Fees – Golf Course", and that this be advertised and referred to the Regular Town Council Meeting of October 7, 2024 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

III. REPORTS

33. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

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Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



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Projects

Revolution Wind
Offshore Wind Farm



- Regular meetings continue
- Work continues on Onshore Substation, Circuit Drive Roadway and Interconnection Facility; these are not disruptive. Zero complaints/concerns have been received since completion of pile driving.
- Rev. Wind personnel are working with QDC on a determination regarding their desire to extend work afterhours from 11 PM – 2 AM.
- Questions/Concerns? Contact Revolution Wind at (401) 255-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com

Municipal Parking Lot
Streetscape Improvement
Planning Department



- Work continues after a slight delay at the end of summer.
- The parking lot remains accessible at this phase of the project and has been utilized for various events, including the most recent Harbor Fire.
- We will continue our outreach efforts with merchants and residents, posting project updates to social media and the Planning Department's website: <https://bit.ly/wickfordwaterfrontwork>

- We continue with our regular meetings with Revolution Wind regarding their Offshore Wind Farm Project. Work continues with their Onshore Substation, Circuit Drive Roadway and the Interconnection Facility. All of these projects are not disruptive, resulting in no concerns or complaints being received since the completion of the pile driving.

They are working with QDC, and in a limited role the town as well, in their desire to extend their after-hours work from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. This work is primarily internal, with no noise or light disruption and we are waiting to hear from QDC regarding this request. Their community outreach continues, including them attending neighborhood meetings and events, and they advise us of any and all resident concerns. I want to thank them for their generosity as they have sponsored many neighborhood and town wide events, including our Family Day at Wilson Park and the Chamber's Savor the Sunset fundraising event.

As always, anyone having any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Revolution Wind at 401-255-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com.

- The extensive Municipal Parking Lot Streetscape Improvement Project continues after a slight delay towards the end of the summer. We will continue to post updates on our social media platforms and will continue with our outreach efforts with merchants and

residents. The parking lot remains accessible throughout this portion of the project and has been utilized for various events, including our most recent Harbor Fire. Our Wharf Parking Lot is also available for additional parking, and we are promoting our parking options via signage in Wickford Village.

Projects

Community-Based EV Charger Initiative



- My office, under leadership of Kate Glass, has led our participation in RI DOT's application to the federal Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant opportunity.
- The State's "Charging Ahead: RI Working Together for Electrification" application was approved for \$15 Million in funding, featuring our ChargeNK plans for community-based EV chargers throughout North Kingstown.
- We are one of 10 communities included in the application and are among the two initial communities that are slated to be included in Phase I implementation.
- As proposed, we will receive 11% of the grant's funding to install 22 dual-port Level II chargers at 11 locations in town.

Public Safety Campaigns Hurricane Preparedness WNV/EEE Education



- We have developed an informational campaign on Hurricane Preparedness for residents.
 - While this season is milder than first anticipated by forecasters, we aim to keep residents well informed
- We have been active in disseminating RIDOH precautions and information relative to the mosquito-borne illnesses recently discovered in nearby communities.
 - Residents are advised to avoid mosquito-prone areas, eliminate shallow standing water at their residences, wear approved bug repellent and are encouraged to cover their extremities to reduce their mosquito exposure.

- My office, under the leadership of Kate Glass, has played an active role in the State's "Charging Ahead Grant Application" for improving access to EV Charging Stations. My office was notified that the State's application has been approved for \$15 million; these are federal funds which may take some time to receive. North Kingstown is one of ten communities involved and because of our initial involvement and assistance, we will be one of two communities who will participate in Phase I of the process. As approved, we are scheduled to receive 11% of the EV Funding with 22 chargers at 11 sites in town. I will continue to provide updates on this project as they are available.
- The Town has developed an informational campaign on Hurricane Preparedness for our residents. While, fortunately, this hurricane season seems to be mild in comparison to initial projections, we feel that this information is helpful to keep our residents informed and safe when it comes to natural disasters. We have also been active in the public dissemination of RI DOH's Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus campaigns to keep residents safe amidst heightened concerns with positive cases found in nearby communities earlier this month. Full details on keeping safe and informed are on our website and social media.

Events

Sincere thanks and gratitude to all that were involved in an extremely successful and well-received **350th Anniversary Family Day Celebration** on Saturday, September 14th at Wilson Park:



- 350th Anniversary Steering Committee
- **Haley Wicker**
- Jeannette Alyward
- Kate Glass
- Beth Wilkins
- Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs
- The entire Public Works Department
- The entire Recreation Department, led by Dave Creta
- North Kingstown Fire Department
- North Kingstown Police Department
- ...and the many volunteers and community members that setup informational booths for our nearly 2,000 estimated guests!



- A sincere thanks and enormous gratitude to all involved in what was an extremely successful and well received Family Day at Wilson Park on Saturday, September 14th.

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- I want to thank the entire 350th Committee; staff who put a great deal of effort into this event highlighted by Haley Wicker, Jeannette Alyward, Kate Glass, Beth Wilkins, Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs and Chief Kettelle; the entire Public Works Department and Parks & Rec Department led by Dave Creta; our Police Department, Fire Department and the many others who set up informational booths; and I'm confident I'm missing many individuals, including our great volunteers, who put in a great deal of effort. It was an amazing event and was an example of what our community truly consists of. Thank you!



Events

- The next large scale 350th Anniversary event will be the **350th Anniversary Parade** on Saturday, October 5, kicking off at 1:00 PM
 - Parade Route: North Kingstown High School to Wilson Park through Wickford Village
- North Kingstown Middle and High School students have a chance to earn monetary prizes for their writing. Essay submissions must be turned in at the Town Clerk's Office.
 - Deadline for entries: **Monday, September 30 at 4:30 p.m.**
 - Complete details on the essay contest can be found on our website: <https://bit.ly/nk350thessaycontest>



- Thank you to the North Kingstown Police and Fire Departments for marking and honoring the 23rd Anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in a ceremony at the Town Beach.

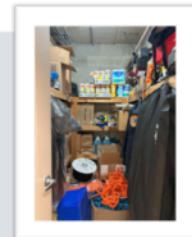
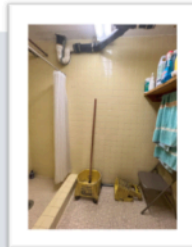
- Our next big event to commemorate our 350th is the Parade on October 5th. Keep an
- Also, September 30th is the deadline for the Middle and High School Essay Contest with monetary prizes being awarded to the winners. Complete details have been shared with the School Department and are on our website and social media
- Also, thank you to the Police and Fire Departments for marking and honoring the 23rd Anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in a remembrance ceremony at the Town Beach.

It was well attended and our thanks for their efforts in ensuring that, 23 years later, we continue to remember this day.



Events

- The Chiefs of North Kingstown Fire and Police Departments welcome residents who would like a better understanding of the current state of the Public Safety Complex on Post Road prior to voting in the November referendum, to tours on the following dates:
 - Wednesday, 10/9 at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, 10/23 at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.
 - Saturday, 10/26 at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.
- Questions? Contact Scott Kettelle: (401)268-7150 or skettelle@northkingstownri.gov



- The North Kingstown Police and Fire Chiefs invite and welcome residents to the Public Safety Complex on Post Road on 10/9, 10/23, and 10/26 for tours at the times listed on this slide and in our Social Media Posts.

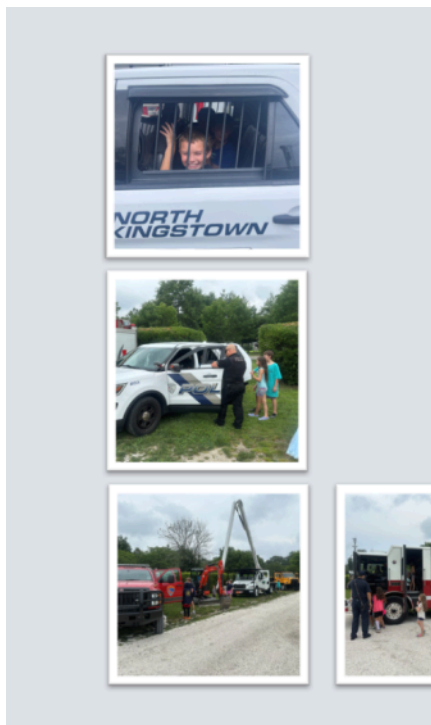


Initiatives

- North Kingstown has been designated Rhode Island's only **American WWII Heritage City** by the U.S. National Park Service in recognition of our community's significant contributions to our nation's WWII war efforts
 - Our application included a nod to current preservation work to retain the cultural heritage and significance of that period in history, notably as the birthplace of the U.S. Navy Seabees, and home to the U.S. Navy Seabees Museum and birthplace of the Quonset Hut



- I'm proud to announce that North Kingstown has been designated as a World War II Heritage City by the National Park Service to recognize contributions to WWII war efforts and our continued efforts in our historical preservation. North Kingstown joins 37 other communities nationwide that have received this designation, with 7 being named alongside us this month. Senator Jack Reed, who supported our application, stated that "North Kingstown, the birthplace of the Seabees, cradle of the Quonset Hut, and so much more, stands out with its unique contributions to the war effort." Receiving this distinction while we celebrate our 350th Anniversary is extra special. We will be sure to promote and celebrate this in the months and years ahead.



Initiatives



- Thank you to all who participated in making our **Summer Camps** a successful, cost-effective summertime recreational opportunity for North Kingstown youth!
 - 5 camps served 375 children, ages 6 through 13 over 10 weeks, with scholarships and educational programming and partnerships provided in part by our LEARN365RI grant.
 - The Departments of Public Works, Police and Fire, assisted with touch-a-truck events, the fire simulator, field day, and many others including our Town Council and more for Career Day



- A thank you to all who participated in making our Summer Camp a successful, cost-effective camp for our youth. We had 5 camps serving 375 children ages 6 - 13, over 10 weeks of this summer. Public Works and our Police and Fire Departments participated in programs with campers for touch a truck, a firefighting simulator, field day and many more. Campers were visited by our Town Council and other municipal staff for Career Day. In cooperation with our Learn365 Grant for out-of-school learning and reading instruction, this summer's camp was another success.



Initiatives

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- Our Planning Department's Economic Development Division, under the guidance of **Ben Mandel**, continues to move forward with program to benefit our business community.
- Post Road business gatherings are an effort to motivate a business association and continued involvement in the Post Road Façade Program: <https://www.northkingstownri.gov/930/Post-Road-Facade-Improvement-Program>
 - And an ongoing digital spotlight on a Post Road Business of the Month: <https://www.northkingstownri.gov/967/Post-Road-Spotlight-Archive>
- We have a renewed positive relationship with the new director of the North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce and look forward to another successful year with high participation in the Holiday Decoration Program along Post Road.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

- As requested, a thorough review and analysis on our current Tax Exemptions is currently underway.
- I expect to present a report to the Town Council on this matter during an October meeting in order to have ample time for review and action prior to the end of the calendar year.

- Our Planning Department's Economic Development Division, under the guidance of Ben Mandel, continues to move forward with programs benefiting our business community. A number of Post Road business gatherings were initiated in an effort to motivate a business association; they continue with our aggressive Post Road Façade Program; they've developed a positive relationship with the new administration at our local Chamber of Commerce; and we look forward to another successful and aggressive Holiday Decoration Program along Post Road.

Please reach out to our Planning Department and our Economic Development Division if you feel we can be of any assistance in providing tools for success with your local business or would like to know more about their digital spotlight program.

- The Town Council asked me to look at our current Tax Exemptions and prepare an analysis for the Council to review and act on in a timely fashion for any changes to be in effect for the next Fiscal Year. We are finishing up our thorough review and analysis. I expect to present a report to the Council during an October meeting in order for ample time for review and action prior to the end of the calendar year.

Staff



- **Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs**, Recreation Director, was selected among statewide nominees to participate in the upcoming R.I. League of Cities and Towns Municipal Leadership Academy.
 - Haley Wicker, Personnel Manager, was in the previous class from North Kingstown
 - Recognition at the Rotary Club's dinner tomorrow evening will include several North Kingstown employees and residents, including:
 - **Sean Grimes**, North Kingstown Police Department
 - **Scott Lessard**, North Kingstown Fire Department
 - **Leanne Gooding**, Bus Contractor
 - **Chief Scott Kettelle**, North Kingstown Fire Department
 - **Kim Page**, Town Councilor
 - **David Ruggieri**
 - **Fire Chief Scott Kettelle** was recognized in August by the R.I. Association of Emergency Managers as the Emergency Manager of the Year.
Congratulations, Chief!
-
- I also have many staff announcements highlighting our incredible team in North Kingstown:
 - Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, our Recreation Director, was selected among a number of nominations statewide to participate in the upcoming R.I. League of Cities and Towns Municipal Leadership Academy. She follows Haley Wicker who was selected in the previous Academy. Congratulations and good luck to Chelsey.
 - The Rotary Club of North Kingstown will be honoring Sean Grimes of the North Kingstown Police Department, Scott Lessard of the Fire Department, Bus Contractor Leanne Gooding, Council Person Kim Page, Fire Chief Scott Kettelle, and David Ruggieri at their upcoming recognition dinner tomorrow evening at the Quonset O Club. Congratulations to the honorees!
 - Fire Chief Scott Kettelle was recognized by the R.I. Association of Emergency Managers back in August as their Emergency Manager of the Year. Congratulations, Chief!

Community Issues

- The state-mandated **Statistical Revaluation** process continues. We are keeping a close eye on figures and look to utilize these calculations and tax classification system implemented during our last Reval to ensure equalization and fairness in next year's tax rates.
- I've been asked by a Council Member to share some information on **Short Term Rentals** and our Short Term Rental Registry:
 - We have approximately 75 properties registered to date.
 - We are comparing our database to the State's.
 - Our Police Department has received few, if any, short term rental-specific complaints or concerns.
 - We conclude that the Town of North Kingstown is not a hot bed for Short Term Rentals and have no public safety concerns about the practice at this point.
 - Our registry is working to identify short term rentals but we are confident there are short term rentals that are not registered; we are trying to address this issue.
 - NOTE: Anyone with a short term rental is not eligible for a Homestead Exemption.
- The 2023 **Low- to Moderate-Income Housing** Chart has been released by R.I. Housing. North Kingstown, at 8.57%, has the 8th highest percentage of Low- to Moderate-Income Housing among all 39 cities and towns.
 - Our percentage is much higher because we have qualifying mobile homes under the new statutory provision that was not accounted for in the 2023 rankings.
 - It is my position that we are one of only a few cities and towns in the state who are actively addressing this and have laws implemented to ensure low- and moderate-income housing is built with every new development.

- The state law-mandated Statistical Revaluation process continues. Our Tax Assessor and I are keeping a close eye on the figures as we look to utilize these calculations and tax classification system implemented during our last Reval to ensure equalization and fairness in next year's tax rates. I will keep the Council and public up to date.
- I've been asked by a Council Member to share some information on our Short-Term Rentals and our Short-Term Rental Registry. At this point, our registry is working okay. We have approximately 75 properties registered. We are comparing our registry to the state database as we want to ensure anyone registered statewide is registered locally. Our Police Department has received few, if any, short term rental-specific complaints or concerns. Our registry is cross-checked with our complaint database.

The result - North Kingstown is not a 'hot bed' for Short Term Rentals. We don't have any public safety concerns at this point. Our registry is working, but we are confident there are short-term rentals who have not registered and we are trying to address that. It should be noted that anyone with a short-term rental is not eligible for our Homestead Exemption.

- The 2023 Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Chart has been released by R.I. Housing. North Kingstown, at 8.57%, has the 8th highest percentage of Low- and Moderate-Income Housing among all 39 cities and towns. It is my position that our percentage is actually much higher as we have qualifying mobile homes that would qualify under the new statutory provision. It is also my position that we are one of only a few cities or towns who are addressing this and who have laws implemented to ensure low- and moderate-income housing is built with every new development. We will be sending updated information to R.I. Housing which I expect will increase our percentage.
- We are launching a new cyber security training platform. All municipal employees must participate in cyber security training. Our IT division has implemented this new training platform which will enhance our cyber security. This particular program has been reviewed by our Information Technology Advisory Committee and came highly recommended. We will be giving out incentives for 100 percent participation by our employees.



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Thank You

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



President Mancini thanked Mr. Mollis for his detailed report. He thanked Mr. Weitman and Councilor McCoy for their efforts in securing our World War II designation.

Councilor Anderson asked how the town fared in filling lifeguard positions this season as it has been discussed in the past that nationwide there have been shortages. Mr. Mollis stated that we did okay. We have a contract with the YMCA, and they supply the lifeguards at the town beach, which is a heavy cost. The beach wasn't fully staffed at times, but we did well. We have a meeting with the YMCA next week and they have said that they would like to discuss some issues, and they may not want to have a contract next year. He further stated that he has some innovative ideas for 2025. They may be somewhat controversial and will be discussing this with the Council in the future.

Councilor McCoy thanked Mr. Mollis for the comprehensive report. He also thanked Mr. Weitman and Kate Glass for working on the application for the World War II Heritage designation which is only awarded to one city/town per state.

Councilor McCoy stated that occasionally the Council gets inquiries regarding Ordinance compliance, such as junk vehicles and operating a business within the requirements of the ordinance. He asked that Mr. Mollis and appropriate departments put out information to the community on how to contact the appropriate people/departments if anybody has questions.

Mr. Mollis stated that the Department Heads meet every Monday, and we have scheduled our next Department Head meeting at the Seabee Museum. He further stated that when the Council or residents reach out regarding questions or violations of the ordinance, we address it as soon as possible. Occasionally we find out that the complaints or concerns are not compliance issues. We try to follow up with those residents and the Council.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

34. Discussion and potential Police Department's opinion on Speed Measuring Devices

Councilor McCoy stated that members of our community are concerned about traffic calming throughout town. As everyone is aware, we had a fatality on Boston Neck Road which wasn't necessarily related to speed, but driving under the influence. We get reports of these concerns on a routine basis from residents in the North Quidnessett Road and Fletcher Road areas. He is interested in getting a recommendation from the Manager and the Police Department on the procurement of either fixed or mobile traffic calming devices. Those devices range from ones that flash that a driver is going too fast to ones that capture photos. He further stated that his intent in procuring these are for safety, not as a way to get revenue.

Mr. Mollis stated that Chief Urban has been looking into various devices and what best practices are, as well as considering what areas these devices could or should be located. Chief Urban will be coming before the Council in the future with a recommendation.

Councilor McCoy stated that it is his understanding from the Clerk that funding for such devices could be from the Municipal Court fund balance as the ordinance states that any surplus could be used for Public Safety.

35. Indigenous People's Day Proclamation

A motion was made by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution as amended:

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown was created out of the Colonial-era town of Kingstowne whose charter was issued in 1674 which was previously named "The Vacant Narragansett Lands" and before that "The Narragansett Country"; and

WHEREAS, the Narragansett People are the "First Nation" connected to the lands of the Town of North Kingstown and therefore, the principal Indigenous People of North Kingstown; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous People's Day is being observed in the United States and Rhode Island on October 14, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That I, Gregory Mancini, President of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 14, 2024 as Indigenous People's Day in honor of these indigenous people, the Narragansetts, as well as the Wampanoag, Nipmuc, Pequots, Niantic, and other tribes that may have inhabited this region since prior to its colonization by the English.

Councilor Page abstained from the vote.

36. Veterans of Foreign Wars Day Proclamation

A motion was made by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) was founded in 1899 by a small group of veterans whom returned from campaigns on Cuba and in the Philippines, banded together to create a veterans organization that would advocate on behalf of all veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VFW is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces; and

WHEREAS, the VFW's mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts, to serve our veterans, the military and our communities, and to advocate on behalf of all veterans; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the VFW has been instrumental in the establishment of the Veterans Administration, the national cemetery system, and the creation of every national veterans' memorial; and

WHEREAS, the VFW has played a vital role in virtually every significant piece of veterans' legislation passed in the 20th and 21st centuries to include the Honoring Our PACT Act, the most significant expansions of veterans benefits in history; and

WHEREAS, the VFW's 125th anniversary is being observed on September 29, 2024, this date shall officially be known as VFW Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That I, Gregory Mancini, Town Council President of the Town of North Kingstown, do hereby proclaim September 29 as VFW Day in honor of the VFW's invaluable contributions to the veteran community in North Kingstown and around the world. We hereby stand with the VFW to ensure veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

37. Arts Council – Appointments

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint James Hosmer, 241 Burnt Cedar Drive, to the Arts Council to March 1, 2025, to fill the unexpired term of Emily Bushman.

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the remaining vacancy to the Arts Council.

38. Asset Management Commission – Appointment

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of one (1) Town Council Representative to the Asset Management Commission as there were no applicants.

39. Building Code Board of Appeals – Appointment

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of one (1) Second Alternate to the Building Code Board of Appeals as there were no applicants.

40. Library Board of Trustees – Appointments

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following four (4) members to the Library Board of Trustees:

Dianne Izzo, 62 Poplar Avenue, to October 1, 2027, reappointed
Stacey Weinstein, 737 Old Baptist Road, to October 1, 2027, reappointed
Michael Donohue, 141 West Main Street, to October 1, 2027
Pamela Rowland, 40 Web Avenue, #108, to October 1, 2026,
to fill the unexpired term of Varuna Abeywardane

41. Veteran's Liaison – Appointment

The Council directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancy of a Veteran's Liaison as there were no applicants.

42. Wickford Advisory Committee – Appointments

Motion by President Mancini, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the following two (2) members to the Wickford Advisory Committee to October 1, 2027:

George Brennan, 70 Boone Street, Wickford Village Resident, reappointed
Amy Jenner, 6 Bay Street, At-Large Member

The Council noted that William Maloney's application indicated that he was not a registered voter and asked the Town Clerk to verify if this would be a conflict of the ordinance. Ms. Alyward stated that she would verify that and get back to the Council.

Clerk's note: After this meeting, Ms. Alyward verified that Sec. 2-411(c) states:

“The board shall consist of ten regular members. The preferred makeup of the board shall include four (4) Wickford Village Residents, four (4) Wickford Village Business Owners, and two (2) At-Large Members who shall be qualified electors or residents of the Town.”

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43. Zoning Board of Review – Appointment

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

44. Correspondence

The following is a summary of the e-mail correspondence that I received from constituents since the last regular NKTC meeting on 08/05/24:

08/07/24 & 08/27/24 – Kathleen Guarino – Good Energy

08/08/24 – Carl Bender – Request for approval to expand the North Kingstown Food Pantry

08/11/24 – Pam Neal – Construction in Wickford

08/20/24 – Linda Impagliazzo – Invitation to attend the community mural project unveiling celebration

08/25/24 & 08/26/24 – TANK Organization – Re: 06/10/24 NKTC meeting

08/27/24 – Emily Scheitzer – Bridge flooding at Forest Park

08/29/24 & 08/30/24 & 09/03/24 – Veronica Masson – Speeding on Hamilton Allenton Road

08/30/24 – Heather Murphy – Construction vehicles on North Quidnessett Road

08/30/24 – Palmer Beebe – EDAB endorsement of Public Safety Bond

09/01/24 – Meg Kerr – Climate Conversations Program

09/02/24 – Kathleen Layton – Town Beach Accessibility

09/10/24 – Kate McGovern – Upcoming Social Justice Events

09/10/24 (2x) – New McDonalds Restaurant

09/15/24 – Michael Donohue – Application for a position on the North Kingstown Free Library Board

09/20/24 – Nancy Whyte Sherman – Fwd: Interview request on the runestone

Note: Information cutoff time and date was 2:30 PM, Monday, September 23, 2024.

45. Executive Session

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (1) – Personnel (Town Manager's Evaluation), Subsection (2) – Litigation (PFAS Lawsuit), and Subsection (5) – Real Estate (Sale of Property – Devil's Foot Road Lot).

Ms. Alyward noted for the record that Mr. Mollis was provided with written notice that he could request that his evaluation be held in open session.

The Council recessed the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

The Council reconvened the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

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V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk