

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 18th day of November, 2024 at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, at 6:45 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Gregory A. Mancini, President
Katherine K. Anderson
Lawrence C. Mandel
Matthew B. McCoy
Dr. Kimberly Ann Page

ALSO PRESENT: A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager
Jeannette Alyward, Town Clerk
Susan A. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk
James M. Callaghan, Town Solicitor

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

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown held on November 18, 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 Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (6) – Prospective Business/Industry (PILOT Agreement).

MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:00 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 honor of the passing of Lane Leedahl and the two young men from South Kingstown who died in a tragic car accident.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

5. Alcoholic Beverage, Victualling, Dance, Entertainment, Billiard, Amusement, and Jukebox License Renewals 2024-2025

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the following list of Alcoholic Beverage, Victualling and other License Renewals, expiring on December 1, 2025, subject to taxes, water, and any other assessments paid to date; compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Department and the Building Official; and receipt of a Certificate of Good Standing by November 30, 2024:

LIC #	Class	BUSINESS NAME	DBA	BUS LOC	HOURS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	SEATS	INSIDE SUMMER	OUTSIDE SUMMER	V	A	B	D	J	E
70	BL	Mad Good Pizza Inc	North Kingstown Chicago Pizza	7673 Post Rd	11:00am-8:00pm	NK	RI	02852	30	30	NA	1	0	0	0	0	0
43	BL	Kurnanji LLC	Rhody Slice	7415 Post Rd	11:00am-8:00pm	NK	RI	02852	25	25	NA	1	0	0	0	0	0
81	BL	Christopher M Martin	Pizza Vida	677 Boston Neck Rd	11:00am-9:00pm	NK	RI	02852	12	12	NA	1	0	0	0	0	0
14	B	West Passage Brewing Company LLC		7835 Post Rd	11:00am-11:30pm	NK	RI	02852	150	114	36	1	0	0	0	0	1
77	B	The Thirsty Beaver NK EG LLC	The Thirsty Beaver Pub & Grub	80 Frenchtown Rd	11:30am-1:00am	NK	RI	02852	109	109	NA	1	0	0	0	0	1
51	B	Plum Point Inc	Plum Point Bistro	1814 Boston Neck Rd	4:00pm-11:00pm	NK	RI	02852	75	48	27	1	0	0	0	0	1
12	B	Providence Coal Fired Pizza NK LLC		6105 Post Road	11:30am-9:00pm	NK	RI	02852	165	128	37	1	0	0	0	0	0
76	C	Sweet Marie's LLC	Sweet Maries Tea Cottage	25 West Main St	12:00pm-5:00pm	NK	RI	02852	50	50	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

6. Request by Michael McGovern to name the “Cross-Country Path” at Ryan Park as the “Paul Tetrault Trail”

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

Michael McGovern stated that he requested that the Cross-Country Path at Ryan Park be named the “Paul Tetrault Trail” due to Paul’s dedication to the North Kingstown Boys Cross Country Team as Coach for the past 42 years. He has been recognized for his years of service and coaching excellence with admission into both the North Kingstown High School and Rhode Island Track and Field Halls of Fame. Paul received the Quicken Loans Hometown Hero Award as the National Coach of the year and is a nationally recognized expert in disabled sports, including serving as Chief Referee of the Wheelchair Division of the Boston Marathon for 10 years.

Paul is a quintessential example of one of the best that the Town of North Kingstown has to offer. He is an incredibly humble man who has made a positive impact on the lives of countless young people in Rhode Island.

The North Kingstown Booster Club and the Leisure Services Advisory Committee have submitted letters in support of this request and, if needed, he can provide numerous graduates, parents, coaches, and elected officials who would also submit their support.

The North Kingstown Booster Club has provided funding to purchase a 14 x 14-inch cast aluminum plaque designating the trail as the Paul Tetrault Trail in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to the North Kingstown High School Cross Country Program.

Mr. McGovern thanked the Council for their consideration.

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the request by Michael McGovern to name and dedicate the “cross-country path” at Ryan Park as the “Paul Tetreault Trail” in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to the North Kingstown High School Cross Country Program.

Paul Tetreault addressed the Council to thank them for their consideration and stated that he is honored by this designation. He further stated that he has enjoyed his 42 years coaching the Cross Country Team.

7. Second Reading – Amendment to Section 14-25

Motion by Councilor McCoy, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing.

There was no public comment.

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

3

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To adopt an Ordinance in Amendment of Section 14-25 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled "Whistleblower Complaints" by rescinding the entire section; and that this shall constitute the Second Reading thereof.

8. Public Comment

Katie Cooney, 22 Allison Court, thanked the Council for inviting her to speak tonight to honor Lane Leedahl. So many people knew Lane as a coach, teacher, and friend but the thing he was most proud of was being a husband to his wife and a father to his two children. He always bragged about them in the best way. He always said don't tell people its cancer, say he lost a fight to a bear, so we say it was a bear named cancer. He was a champion to all, a coach, and a teacher, and he always said never give up without your best fight. She also stated there is a go fund me page to continue all the good work Lane used to do to help people out.

Kathleen Guarino, 139 Summit View Lane, thanked Larry and stated it is another huge loss to us and the town. She wishes him good luck in the future and thanked him for always listening and replying with answers. You knew he was always paying attention. She also wished the new Council well and thanked Ralph for the answers on the whistleblower policy.

Brett Mallery, 731 Annaquatucket Road, stated that the green light signal at the intersection of Newcomb Road, Devils Foot Road, and US 1 needs to be addressed. It is just an accident waiting to happen.

President Mancini stated that he would like to recognize the NK Girls Soccer State Champions and the NK Girls' Volleyball State Champions 3 years in a row.

Councilor Anderson stated she would like to thank her family for their support and sacrifice over the last 4 years. She also thanked her fellow councilors, Town Administration, and Staff. She is leaving with confidence and pride in our municipal services. She thanked the residents and voters for staying tuned in.

II. SPECIAL BUSINESS

9. Introduction of Analysis of Tax Exemptions

Town Manager Mollis stated that a while ago the Council asked us to review our current tax exemptions, provide a comparison with other cities and towns, and introduce this analysis and possible recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. Any recommendations for FY2026 may require enabling legislation which means that on the December 16th agenda we would need to have the Council vote to ask our legislative delegation to submit legislation.

He further stated that we have provided the Council with a list of 11 exemptions given by North Kingstown and how they compare with other surrounding or comparable communities. And, for the most part, North Kingstown is very generous in its exemption amounts and provides exemptions that other communities do not.

Mr. Mollis stated it is important to know that FY2026 will be a challenging fiscal year as we have a significant state deficit, two major bond projects that will be breaking grounds, increasing costs due to contract negotiations with North Kingstown being a little behind other communities in relation to salaries, and of course loss of funds due to the loss of ARPA and ESSER funding. We must also weigh the cost to those taxpayers who do not receive exemptions when we increase current tax exemptions.

Tax Assessor Deb Garneau stated that Section 19-29 of our Ordinances authorizes her to adjust tax exemptions pursuant to Rhode Island General Law in any year that the town has a revaluation in order to reflect the same monetary savings that appeared on the property tax bill existing the year prior to the revaluation.

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

4

Ms. Garneau further stated that our exemptions are based on assessments. She would recommend converting our exemptions to a tax credit based system which would eliminate the fluctuation in the amount of monetary savings to taxpayers whenever the tax rate changes. It would also eliminate the need to revise the exemption amounts after every reevaluation. The tax credit-based system is used by communities as shown on the comparable analysis spreadsheet. This would also provide monetary savings for our taxpayers currently enjoying exemptions equal to or greater than what the current savings are. In addition to enabling legislation, we would also need to make amendments to our ordinances.

Ms. Garneau recommending the following:

- Changing our Flat Senior Exemptions from 15 years ownership to 5 years ownership
- Flat Senior Exemption \$450 (it is currently \$430.20 / \$30,000)
- Veterans & Veterans Widow Exemption \$200 (it is currently \$179.25 / \$12,500).
- Disabled Veterans Exemption \$250 (it is currently \$209.36 / \$14,600)
- Gold Star Parent \$200 (it is currently \$157.74 / \$11,000)
- Blind \$450 (it is currently \$430.20 / \$30,000)
- Senior Income \$1,226 - \$2,243 based on Federal Poverty Income Guidelines established each year
- Under 65 Total Disability \$527 - \$1,308 based on Income Level

Ms. Garneau further stated that if the town switched to the tax credit system, the town would still be very generous with exemptions.

Councilor Mandel asked if the tax credit system would stop some of those receiving exemptions from still getting them. Ms. Garneau said no, they would still be eligible for those exemptions, it would be more than what they receive now, and it would be the same exemption amount every year. She further stated that she would recommend that any enabling legislation and ordinance amendments be drafted so that the amounts be reviewed every few years or so.

Councilor McCoy stated that one third of the town's population are seniors and asked if they would still be able to live in North Kingstown if we implement a tax credit system. Ms. Garneau stated they are able to receive more than one exemption if qualified. Councilor McCoy asked if Ms. Garneau has given any thought to total exemption for those 85 years of age. Ms. Garneau stated that we currently have Senior Income exemptions for 65 years of age and over 75 years of age, but it would be something to look at.

President Mancini asked what the effect would be on the current tax rate if we were currently using the tax credit system. Ms. Garneau stated that based on what she is proposing, it would be approximately a \$48,000 loss in tax revenue. Mr. Mollis stated that would equate to one cent (or less) per thousand.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have the Manager and Solicitor prepare any required enabling legislation to implement the tax credit system.

The Council thanked Mr. Mollis and Ms. Garneau for their analysis and presentation.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor McCoy and unanimously

VOTED: To approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 10 through 21 as presented with the exception of Agenda Item Numbers 14, 15, and 16.

10. Approval of Minutes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 28, 2024 as submitted by the Office of the Town Clerk.

11. Receipt of Donations

VOTED: To accept with gratitude the following donations in the amount of \$2,475.00:

For: Holiday Giving Program	
From: Robert and Cheryl Suglia	\$500.00
Cynthia O'Connell	500.00
Mary Lou Mallowney	400.00
Raymond and Helen Gorman	250.00
Fagan Quinn Funeral Home	250.00
Lisa Burditt	200.00
Suzanne Mancini	125.00
Cathy Streker	100.00
Deborah Murphy	100.00
Anne Huling	50.00

12. Letter of Resignation

VOTED: To accept the letter of resignation from Rini Georgekutty, 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.

13. Acceptance of a Federal Fire Disaster Relief Grant

VOTED: To accept the Federal Fire Disaster Relief Grant through Exeter Volunteer Fire Department No. 1 in the amount of \$48,709.04 for the operations and support during the Queens River Wildfire in April 2023. These funds will be used to purchase fire resistant jumpsuits for brush fires, wildfires, and confined space rescue.

Funds to be deposited into Fire Department - Brush Fire Revenue - Account #16748030-483000.

14. Authorization to Apply to the National Park Service FY2024 Historic Preservation Fund

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Page and unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Director of Planning and Development to apply to the National Park Service FY2024 Historic Preservation Fund - Save America's Treasures Program for a grant in the amount of \$270,000.00 to be used towards the renovation and restoration of the Old Town House.

15. Authorization to Purchase

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the purchase for the Recreation Department of playground equipment and installation at Yorktown Park to M.E. O'Brien & Sons, Inc., 17 Trotter Drive, Medway, MA 02053 (Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium Master Price Agreement), in the amount of \$408,593.30; and it was

FURTHER VOTED: To authorize an additional ten percent of the cost for contingency if needed.

Funding is from ARPA.

16. Award of Bid

Motion by Councilor Mandel, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To award the bid for the Recreation Department for the Yorktown Park General Site Construction to Beausoleil Bros., Inc., 330 Station Street, Cranston, RI 02910, in an amount not to exceed \$353,924.70; and it was

NOVEMBER 18, 2024
6

BOOK 111 PAGE

FURTHER VOTED: To authorize an additional ten percent of the cost of the project for contingency if needed.

Funding for this project is from ARPA.

17. Detective License Renewals

VOTED: To approve the following list of Detective License Renewals, expiring on December 1, 2025, subject to taxes and water paid to date, receipt of a bond, and receipt of a recommendation from the North Kingstown Police Department:

11/14/2024

Detective Renewal License
Town Council
12/11/2023

NK#	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Business Add	Phone	email
40	Ryan J Gwaltney	154 Holly Hills Ln	Saunderstown	RI	02874	154 Holly Hills Ln	206-9884	rjginvestigations@gmail.com
31	Russell A Bertrand	591 Stony Ln	North Kingstown	RI	02852	6595 Post Rd	486-3999	bert_cgcri@verizon.net
9	Percy A Tucker	146 Brookside Dr	North Kingstown	RI	02852	146 Brookside Dr	885-4043	jaytuck@cox.net
5	Russell Teller	149 Dawn Marie Ct	North Kingstown	RI	02852	149 Dawn Marie Ct	300-4876	russstellier@gmail.com
14	Richard Nagele	86 Walnut Rd	North Kingstown	RI	02852	86 Walnut Rd	474-2882	nagele@advantage411.com
57	Jamie Calore	18 Bowline Drive	North Kingstown	RI	02852	18 Bow Land Drive	241-8616	jcalore78@gmail.com
38	Lawrence O'Leary Jr	79 Greenmeadow Cir	North Kingstown	RI	02852	79 Green Meadow Cir	867-0009	detectiveoleary@gmail.com

All taxes/water assessments have been paid to date 11/14/2024 collection dept
Date 11/14/2024

18. Exhibition License (21-30 vendors)

VOTED: To approve the application for an Exhibition License with 21-30 vendors by the North Kingstown Arts Council/Nancy Sherman, 64 Pleasant Street, to hold an open studios tour at the Shady Lea Mill, 215 Shady Lea Road, on Saturday, December 7, 2024 and Sunday, December 8, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., subject to taxes and water paid to date; receipt of a Show Promoter's Permit; receipt of a list of vendors at the Town Clerk's Office by December 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.

19. Victualling, Dance, and Amusement License Renewals

VOTED: To approve to December 1, 2025 the following list of Victualling, Dance, and Amusement License Renewals, subject to taxes and water paid to date and compliance with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall, the Building Official, and the Water Department:

VABDJ LICENSE RENEWALS
November 18, 2024

NK #	NAME	DBA	BUSINESS LOCATION	PHONE	SEATS	HOURS	LIC. HELD
69	MJ Donuts Inc.	Dunkin	6166 Post Road	401-290-8718	22	5am-7pm	V EXT
105	NK Donuts	Dunkin	1241 Ten Rod Rd	401-290-8718	20	4am-9pm	V EXT
79	BBA Donuts	Dunkin	6923 Post Rd	401-290-8718	22	4am-10pm	V EXT
176	Daves Market Place Quonset	Daves Market Place	105 Gate Road	401-295-0019	N/A	7am-9pm	V
140	Daves Market Place Wickford	Daves Market Place	125 Tower Hill Rd	401-268-3991	N/A	7am-9pm	V
266	T's Vault LLC	Ts Vault Smoothie & Juice Bar	78 Gate Rd	401-601-9148	50	7:30am-9:00pm	V
203	Dania Food Mart LLC		700 Post Rd	401-523-4622	N/A	6:00am-Midnight	V
201	Kupa Enterprises LLC	Mae's Place	8230 Post Road	401-667-7272	21	7:00am-2:00am	V
132	MTDS Inc	Wickford Mini Mart	684 Boston Neck Rd	401-295-2080	N/A	6:00am-9:00pm	V
112	Jitters Café	Jitters Café	530 Tower Hill Rd	401-295-9155	8	6:00am-4:00pm	V
96	Slocum Grange #36		96 Slocum Rd	401-783-0860	80	night/month	V
267	Saugy Inc	Saugy Express	15 Beach St	401-640-1879	0	Varies	V
197	Ocean State Jobbers	Ocean State Job Lot	375 Commerce Park Road	401-295-2672	200	7:00am-1:00pm	V
85	Newport Creamery LLC	Newport Creamery LLC #14	7679 Post Rd			7:00am-11:00pm	V
269	Starbucks Corporation	Starbucks Coffee #68522	105 Gate Road	401-372-3063	20	5:00am-8:00pm	V
171	Starbucks Corporation	Starbucks Coffee #14269	1370 Ten Rod Road	401-295-5236	20	5:00am-7:30pm	V
273	Dollar Tree Stores Inc	Dollar Tree #09594	63 Brown St	401-329-6030	0	9:00am-9:00pm	V
11	Dollar Tree Stores Inc	Dollar Tree #1724	6649 Post Rd	401-336-1302	0	8:00am-10:pm	V
56	North Kingstown United Methodist church		450 Boston Neck RD	401-294-9293	200	Various	V
193	Marylou's News Inc	Marylou's Coffee	7025 Post Road	401-398-7772	0	5:00am-7:00pm	V EXT
194	Ten Rod Foods llc	Wendy's	1320 Ten Rod Rd	401-667-6144	50	5:30am-11:00pm	V
120	Dynamic Dance Inc		7418 Post Rd	401-667-7076	N/A	Various	V
95	Colbea Enterprise LLC	Season Corner Market	695 George Washington HWY	401-884-9434	N/A	24/7	V EXT
199	Lighthouse Coffee Roasters		7446 Post Rd	774-279-7430	17	6:30am-5:00pm	V
62	Stickney Holdings LLC	Shell Food Mart	10 Ten Rod Rd	401-294-2616	N/A	24 hrs	V EXT
77	Aramark Inc	Aramark at Electric Boat Café	Electric Boat 165 Dillabur Ave	401-268-2249	225	5:30am-9:00pm	V
96	St. Francis deSales Church		381 School Street	401-884-2105	200	Daily	V
38	Kingstown Bowl Inc.	Kingstown Bowl	6125 Post Rd	401-884-4450	175	9:00am-1:00pm	V
64	St. Pauls Episcopal Church		55 Main St	401-294-4357	121	9:00am-4:30pm	V
58	Allies Donuts Inc		3661 Quaker Lane	401-295-8036	0	6:00am-2:00pm	V
195	Stephen Palazzo	Cagney Food Service	1610 Davisville Rd	401-663-8032	0	9:00am-9:00pm	V
137	Pizza Pros Inc	Dominos Pizza	5951 Post Road	401-884-8546	0	10:30am-1:00am	V
128	Jules Inside Scoop LLC	The Inside Scoop	30 Ten Rpd Road	401-294-0091	50	12:00pm-10:00pm	V

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

BOOK 111 PAGE

7

VABDJ LICENSE RENEWALS
November 18, 2024

44	Colwen Management Inc/RRH Hotel LLC	North Kingstown Towne Place Suites	55 Gate Road	401-667-7500	40	24 Hrs	V Ext
100	Rome Point Café Inc	Rome Point Café	820 Boston Neck Rd	401-294-2122	50	6:00am-2:30pm	V
177	First Baptist Church of North Kingstown	aka Allenton Baptist Church	1135 Tower Hill Road	401-294-4037	38	Varies	V
265	North Koffee LLC		7726 Post Rd	401-578-8784	20	5:30am-4:00pm	V
180	Kristen A Murphy	Kristens Kreations Bakery	6670 Post Rd	401-885-4106	10	7:00am-4:00pm	V
59	New England Authentic Eats LLC	Dangelo Sandwich Shop	6857 Post Rd	401-885-4528	38	10:30am-8:30pm	V
142	Capital Ventures Corp	Amazing.Net	6774 Post Rd	401-885-0209	0	10:00am-9:00pm	V
65	Breakfastnook Inc		6130 Post Rd	401-884-6108	44	6:00am-2:00pm	V
124	IDance Academy		640 Ten Rod Rd	401-294-6098	N/A	2:00pm-9:00pm	D
165	Stop and Shop Supermarket Company LLC	Stop and Shop SuperMarket #0737	1300 Ten Rod Road	401-268-6845	N/A	7:00am-9:00pm	V
114B	North Kingstown Wickford Little League		Concession Stand Signal Rock	401-323-0249	0	4:00pm-8:00pm	V
114A	North Kingstown Wickford Little League		Concession Wilson Park	401-323-0249	0	9:00am-10:00pm	V
80	Stop and Shop Supermarket Company LLC	Stop and Shop SuperMarket #0716	90 Frenchtown Rd	401-884-9400	N/A	7:00am-10:00pm	V
11	JSC Management Group LLC	Burger King	7041 Post Road	401-600-0039	75	7:00am-11:00pm	V
136	Walmart Stores East, LP	Walmart Store#2261	1031 Ten Rod Rd	401-294-0025	N/A	6:00am-10:00pm	V,A
103	Knightstand LLC	Dels Lemonade	6525 Post Rd	401-885-2225	0	10:00am-9:00pm	V
268	The Chocolate Shoppe		7 West Main St	N/A	0	11:00am-5:00pm	V
271	Tower Hill Convenience LLC (NEED DOH)		1085 Tower Hill Rd	401-390-6193	0	8:00am-9:00pm	V
207	The Level 10 Nutrition	New Wave Nutrition	7661 Post Rd Ste 8	401-268-5241	15	7:00am-5:00pm	V
275	K&R II Enterprises	The Frozen Cow	6710 Post Road	885-8640	0	12:00pm-8:00pm	V
260	Jamu inc (Need DOH)	Micky's Pizza	60 Brown St	294-0044	4	4:30pm-8:00pm	V
272	Village Ice Cream Co LLC		4 Brown Street	487-1824	10	12:00pm-8:00pm	V
99	MARQUIS HEALTH SERVICES	BAYVIEW AT SCALABRINI	860 N QUIDNESSETT RD	884-1802	100	8:00am-8:00pm	V
7	SHAYNA'S PLACE LLC		45 BROWN ST	623-9620	22	9:00AM-8:00PM	v

20. Final Bond Reduction

VOTED: To approve the request from Gordon Development Company, LLC, for a final bond reduction on Dusty Hollow, in the amount of \$33,695.18.

21. Final Bond Reduction

VOTED: To approve the request by Camp Ave. Properties LLC, for a final bond reduction on Tide Mill Landings South, in the amount of \$60,402.41.

IV. REPORTS

22. Report by the Town Manager

Town Manager Mollis gave the following report:

November 18, 2024



Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager

NOVEMBER 18, 2024
8

BOOK 111 PAGE

Projects

Revolution Wind
Offshore Wind Farm



- Bi-weekly meetings continue.
- Their work continues on the Offshore Wind Farm with significant site work at the Onshore Substation, Circuit Drive Roadway and Interconnection Facility.
- Community outreach also continues. I will be touring the facility in the future.
- Questions/Concerns? Contact Revolution Wind at (401) 255 -2207 or info@revolution-wind.com – we receive weekly reports on these matters.

RI Department of Transportation
Post Road Sidewalks
Wickford Roundabout



- We had a productive meeting with RI DOT on 11/7 with a walk-through of Wickford for a project review.
- The project is on track for a bid in Spring 2025, kicking off in Summer 2025.
 - It is expected to be an 18-month project, with 90% of the project placing sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.
 - The Wickford Mini Roundabout is scheduled for Fall 2025.
- We are attempting to coordinate both projects in a manner that results in the least amount of disruption for the busiest times of year in Wickford Village, and had a productive on-site meeting sharing concerns and solutions in real time as they apply to our community.

- We continue with our bi-weekly meetings with Revolution Wind regarding their Offshore Wind Farm Project. Significant site work continues to take place at the Onshore Substation, Circuit Drive Roadway and Interconnection Facility. Their aggressive outreach also continues, and they have offered an opportunity for me to tour the facility at some point soon.

As always, anyone having any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Revolution Wind at 401-251-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com. They provide us with weekly reports on all contacts and how they were resolved.

- We had a very productive on-site meeting with the R.I. Department of Transportation on November 7th as we walked through Wickford for a review of the upcoming Post Road/West Main Street Sidewalk Project and the mini round-a-bout in Wickford Village.

The project continues on track for a Spring bid award and kick off in the Summer of 2025, with the round-a-bout scheduled for the Fall of 2025. Having an on-site meeting was very helpful as we were able to share concerns and thoughts in real time, making RIDOT familiar with the actual area. My thanks for RIDOT for taking the time to meet with us.

Projects

Municipal Office Building Renovations Update



- An unexpected challenge has arisen in that initial bid came in much higher than projected and budgeted; the concern is that we have until December 30th to enter into a contract if we are to use ARPA funds as planned.
 - We are meeting internally and with the architect to review bid contents, hoping to identify an alternative solution.
 - Council will receive an update at or before the 12/16 meeting.

State Traffic Commission Route 403 & Roger Williams Way



- A Speed Study was conducted to help motorists adjust to abrupt changes in roadway characteristics and posted speed limits along this highway. The Commission approved the following:
 - 45 MPH speed limit for both directions of Route 403, transitioning to 35 MPH on Roger Williams Way from Rt 403 to Burlingham Ave eastbound;
 - 35 MPH from Burlingham Ave to Commerce Park Rd;
 - 45 MPH from Commerce Park Rd to Rt 403 westbound;
 - 25 MPH for Roger Williams Way from Burlingham Ave to eastern limit of the roadway.
- RIDOT signage is expected within 6 -weeks.

- We've experienced an unexpected challenge with our Municipal Office Building renovation project as the initial bids came in much greater than projected and budgeted for. This is concerning as we have until December 30th of this year to enter into a contract if we want to utilize ARPA Funding. We are meeting internally, as well as with the Architect to review the contents of the bid, hoping that we can come up with an alternative. I will be sure to update the Council prior to or at your December 16th meeting.

NOVEMBER 18, 2024
9

BOOK 111 PAGE

- The State Traffic Commission conducted a speed study along Route 403 and Roger Williams Way. In order to help motorists adjust to abrupt changes in roadway characteristics and posted speed limits along this highway, the Commission approved a 45mph speed limit for both directions along Route 403, transitioning to 35mph on Roger Williams Way from 403 to Burlingham Avenue eastbound, 35 mph from Burlingham Avenue to Commerce Park Road, 45mph from Commerce Park Road to 403 westbound, and 25mph for Roger Williams Way from Burlingham Avenue to the eastern limit of the roadway. Signage is expected to be erected by RIDOT within the next 6 weeks.

In a somewhat related matter, Chief Urban will be presenting a traffic/speed zone report for our community with recommendations at your December or January Town Council Meeting. I've met with Chief Urban and you can expect this to be a comprehensive report with eye-opening statistics and concrete recommendations by the North Kingstown Police Department.

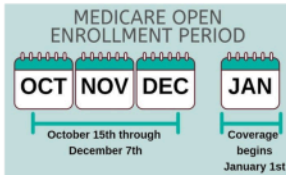


Events/Initiatives

SENIOR CENTER

- The 2024 Holiday Giving Program is underway to provide gifts for children ages 13 and under in families that are experiencing hardship during the holiday season: <https://bit.ly/NKholidaygivingDonations>
 - Donations to the program are welcome and appreciated. To donate, the form is online: <https://bit.ly/nk2024holidaydonations>
 - Please contact the Senior Center if are part of a family that may qualify, or you would like to donate: (401) 268-1596

- Medicare Open Enrollment is open and runs through December 7th
 - This is the time to review current plans and compare to new plans for 2025 as companies change formulas and costs each year.
 - Social Services at the Senior Center are taking appointment to assist seniors with plan reviews.



- The Senior Center's Holiday Giving Program is in operation, with plans to provide gifts for families of children 13 and under experiencing hardship this holiday season. Please contact the Senior Center if you are interested in contributing or if you know of a family in need.

- Medicare Open Enrollment at the Senior Center is also open and runs through December 7th. This is the time for individuals to review their current plans and compare it to new plans for 2025. Social Services at the Senior Center are taking appointments to assist seniors with reviewing their plans.

Events/Initiatives

RECREATION

- The Middle School Youth Commission is prepared to unveil their Buddy Bench project that was presented earlier this year and approved by Council within our LEARN365RI grant funding and overseen by the Recreation Department.
 - The bench unveiling will be on Tuesday, 12/10 at 3:30 p.m., at the Zeke Harris Memorial Playground at Wilson Park. All are welcome to attend.
- Applications for the 2024/25 Middle School Youth Commission cohort are now being accepted online. (7) total 6th-8th grade students from Davisville and Wickford Middle Schools will be chosen. More details are online: <https://www.northkingstownri.gov/989/The-North-Kingstown-Middle-School-Youth->
- The annual New Years Plunge at the Town Beach will be on Wednesday, January 1st.
 - Festivities start at 12:30 p.m. and the plunge is at 1:00 p.m. sharp.
 - No registration; warm refreshments will be served.



- As presented before the Town Council, our Youth Commission, as part of our Learn 365 Initiative and Grant Funding, created and presented a “Buddy Bench Project”. These Buddy Benches allow children to easily recognize when a peer needs support or a friend and reduces bullying. The North Kingstown Youth Commission and Recreation Department will be having their first Buddy Bench Unveiling on Tuesday, December 10th at 3:30pm at Zeke Harris Memorial Playground at Wilson Park. This will be 1 of 6 locations around North Kingstown where Buddy Benches will be installed. Please join us on December 10th.

Applications for the 2024/2025 Middle School Youth Commission Cohort are now being accepted online. Seven 6th – 8th graders will be chosen.

- The Recreation Department will be hosting their annual New Years Plunge on Wednesday, January 1st at our Town Beach. Festivities start at 12:30pm and the plunge is at 1pm sharp. Warm refreshments will be served, and no pre-registration is necessary. Just show up on January 1st.

Initiatives

350th ANNIVERSARY

- Led by 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Chairperson Matt McCoy, the Committee is planning a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony in conjunction with the American WWII Heritage City designation acceptance event with the U.S. National Park Service on Saturday, 12/7, at 1:00 p.m. at Chapel in the Pines (at Seabees Museum and Memorial Park).
- The 350th Committee, along with HistWick, is sponsoring Smith's Castle's annual event, Christmas at the Castle, from Noon – 4:00 p.m. on December 7th & 8th, and is supporting the Chamber of Commerce/Wickford Village Association's annual Festival of Lights multi-day event from December 5th-8th that is highlighted by our Annual Tree Lighting on December 5th at 6:00 p.m.
 - For complete details, see either of our Facebook pages (below), or the Wickford Village website, www.wickfordvillage.org
 - <https://www.facebook.com/northkingstown350th>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/ilovewickfordvillage>



- 350th Chair Matt McCoy and the 350th Committee are coordinating a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony in conjunction with World War II Heritage Town acceptance event for Saturday, December 7th at 1pm at the Chapel in the Pines located at the Seabee Museum and Memorial Park. This event will properly recognize and remember Pearl Harbor Day, celebrate our designation as a World War II Heritage Town, and recognize the role of Quonset Point and North Kingstown and its contributions to the war effort pre and post Pearl Harbor Day.
- The Wickford Village Festival of Lights kicks off on Thursday, December 5th with our annual Tree Lighting in Updike Park at 6pm followed by festivities that night and over the weekend to follow. Please visit Wickford Village's Facebook Page or website at www.WickfordVillage.org or visit the Town's website for more information.
- The 350th Committee, along with HistWick, is sponsoring Smith's Castle's annual Christmas at the Castle. The event will take place from noon till 4pm on December 7th and 8th and is supporting the Chamber of Commerce/Wickford Village Association's Annual Festival of Lights multi-day event from December 5th – 8th, highlighted by our Annual Tree Lighting on December 5th at 6pm.



Staff

- I want to recognize and thank our **Planning Department** on their efforts in meeting with a CRS Specialist to improve our Community Rating System as part of our 5 - year Cycle Verification.
 - The CRS Specialist for Community Hazard Mitigation commended staff on their efforts and the quality of their application.
 - Should we be successful, an improved rating would benefit the town and our residents. I will be sure to keep the Council updated.
- Our **Finance Department** was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement in Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.
- Congratulations to our **Wellness Committee**, led by Chelsey Dumas -Gibbs and Haley Wicker, on receiving The Trust's Working Wellness Gold Level Award which grants \$2,500 to our Employee Wellness initiatives this fiscal year.

- I want to recognize and thank our Planning Department for their efforts in meeting with a CRS Specialist in an attempt to improve our Community Rating System rating as part of our 5-year Cycle Verification. The CRS Specialist for Community Hazard Mitigation commended the staff on their efforts and the fact that this rating was obviously very important to them and the town and on the quality of their application. Should we be successful, an improved rating would benefit the town and its residents. We will be sure to keep the Town Council up to date.
- Although it was briefly mentioned at our last meeting, I want to announce, and commend our Finance Department, on the Town receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement in Excellence in Financial Reporting. This is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and exemplifies the amazing progress we've accomplished over these past years.
- Congratulations to our Wellness Committee, headed by Haley Wicker and Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, on receiving The Trust's Working Wellness Gold Level Award. As part of this award, our Wellness Committee will receive \$2,500 towards our Wellness Program initiatives for this Fiscal Year. We've made great strides in our Wellness Initiatives, benefiting all of North Kingstown.

Finances



- The Rhode Island Department of Revenue issues their Fiscal Year 2025 Report on the Property Tax Cap.
- **North Kingstown's increase in our Tax Levy in the current Fiscal Year was the 5th lowest in all of Rhode Island, and the lowest in all designated Suburban Municipalities.**



- The Rhode Island Department of Revenue issued their Fiscal Year 2025 Report on the Property Tax Cap. North Kingstown's increase in our Tax Levy in this current fiscal year was the 5th lowest in all of Rhode Island, something we can be proud of. It was also the lowest of all designated Suburban Municipalities. The Report also included interesting information, which may be applicable to North Kingstown in the near future, on specific qualifications to the exemptions of the 4% cap which is a topic that comes up frequently.



Thank You

November 18, 2024

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager

The Council thanked Mr. Mollis for his thorough report.

Councilor Mandel asked with regard to the sidewalk project starting in the summer of 2025, will they begin the project on West Main Street. He has concerns that it would coincide with the Art Festival. Mr. Mollis stated that staff has provided DOT with tentative dates of events, and it's all dependent of when they break ground with the expectation that if it is in the summer, they will start at Camp Avenue.

Councilor McCoy asked what the status is on the Municipal Parking Lot. Mr. Mollis stated that there was a meeting today and their main priority is to remove the water from the coffer dam. Ms. LaFontaine stated that the estimated completion date of the entire project is the summer of 2025. They do hope that the wall will be completed by Christmas because it has to be completed before they can start work in the parking lot.

Councilor McCoy asked if there has been any progress on the Phillips Street paving and the lights at Route 4 and West Allenton Road. Mr. Mollis stated not as of yet. In answer to Councilor McCoy's question what action the Council can take to move this along, Mr. Mollis stated that he's not sure anything can be done at this time; however, staff has this on every discussion they have with DOT.

Councilor McCoy stated that he would like to see statistics on the usage of the Senior Center and an analysis of trends.

Councilor McCoy stated that our Master Plan has recommendations of resiliency and would like to know what the Manager and staff feel are actionable that we could achieve within the next two years.

V. OLD BUSINESS

23. Status update Regarding Boards, Committees and Commissions Assessments

Director of Planning and Development Nicole LaFontaine stated that we have been reviewing and editing the board, commission, and committee's handbook to incorporate reporting requirements and an overall cleanup of the document.

In regard to the attendance reporting, we feel that we need to reinstate the reporting of attendance and define the difference between excused absence and unexcused absence for more than 50% of the regular or special meetings.

Boards will be required to report to the Town Council, at least in writing. It was determined in our review that we would not mandate a specific month, just that it needs to be completed and that we should use the handbook to make it clear that the reporting requirement is an opportunity for communication and outreach. The following boards that would be required to report include:

- Arts Council
- Conservation Commission
- Harbor Management Commission
- Economic Development Advisory Board
- Wickford Advisory Committee
- Veterans Day & Memorial Day Parades Committee
- Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee
- Information Technology Advisory Committee

The Audit Committee, Asset Management Commission, Leisure Services Advisory Committee, and Charter Review Commission have their own reporting requirements either by charter or ordinance.

Boards that are quasi-judicial (Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Review, Historic District Commission) cannot be subject to reporting requirements.

Ms. LaFontaine stated that since the discharge of the Groundwater Committee and the incorporation of some of their charge into the Conservation Commission to better incorporate groundwater protection, staff from both the Planning Department and Water Department are attending all meetings allowing even better coordination between departments on groundwater protection.

The newly appointed commission has had a reoccurring agenda item each month during which the Director of Water Supply provides members with an update of a variety of groundwater related activities. Some of these updates include the very popular rain barrel program, PFAS topics, aquifer educational kits to use as a demonstration in elementary schools, copper and lead line detection, and the start of a three-part series, entitled, "What Are We Protecting?":

- Part 1 included a discussion of the Hunt Annaquatucket Pettaquamscutt Aquifer
- Part 2 addressed ways in which the town is protecting groundwater resources
- Part 3 will be presented in January and addresses how we can protect these resources in the future

In addition to these updates, the commission has also discussed impervious lot coverage requirements which would address the total land area that each individual property could be covered by an impervious surface, such as roofs and driveways. This is an especially important issue in the groundwater wellhead and recharge overlay area.

The commission began a discussion last month of further protecting lands in the groundwater area through the municipal trust dedication process. As a first task, planning staff will create a map overlaying the town-owned land within the groundwater wellhead and recharge areas to identify parcels that the town owns in the groundwater area but do not have an easement over them to protect them from future development. Lastly, the planning staff also shared with the commission that over 4,400 acres within the groundwater wellhead and recharge area has been protected by easement or other land protection measures.

President Mancini thanked Ms. LaFontaine for the update and stated he would like to have the “What Are We Protecting?” series presented to the Council.

Councilor Mandel thanked Ms. LaFontaine for the update of the Conservation Commission and is pleased that they are focusing on education and groundwater protection. He further stated that he is fine with a written report from the committees; however, he would like to see that they be required to give an oral report to the Council to allow the committee and the Council to communicate. Ms. LaFontaine stated that we felt that it would be in the handbook where they could certainly opt to give that report in person but not make it mandatory.

President Mancini stated that he wasn’t concerned about the attendance reporting. Ms. Alyward stated that we have had situations where there have been quorum issues. Ms. LaFontaine stated that it would be at the Council’s discretion on how they would handle frequent absences.

Councilor Anderson thanked staff for the update on the success of the Conservation Commission revamp.

Ms. LaFontaine stated that the revised handbook will come back to the Council for adoption in January. The Council requested that Staff provide a notional schedule of when the Council could expect to hear from the various boards and commissions and while written reports might be appropriate in some cases, an oral report is preferred when possible.

The Council thanked Ms. LaFontaine for the update.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

24. Adoption of a Whistleblower Policy

President Mancini stated that because we rescinded the Whistleblower Policy, we are replacing that with a policy to be more in line with what other towns do. Mr. Mollis stated that the ordinance was not working and was being used for other situations. A lot of things that are in this policy take place on a daily basis; however, it is good practice to codify the policy. We are one of the only towns that have a whistleblower policy and feel what is being presented will be effective. Since we discussed this at a previous meeting, we added an alternative reporting method section for any concerns regarding the Town Manager or Solicitor.

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

VOTED: To amend the alternative reporting method section to include the Town Council through the Town Council President.

Motion by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Mandel and was

VOTED: To adopt the Whistleblower Policy, as amended, as follows:

Whistleblower Policy

Whistleblower Policy – The Town of North Kingstown requires its employees to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities, practicing honesty, integrity and obedience of laws & regulations when fulfilling their responsibilities.

Reporting – This Whistleblower Policy is intended to enable employees and others to raise concerns they may have internally so that the Town can address and correct inappropriate actions and conduct. It is expected that employees (and volunteers) would report concerns they have about suspected violations of law or regulations to the appropriate representative, as described below.

Protection from Retaliation – It is illegal, and contrary to the values of the Town of North Kingstown, for anyone to retaliate against someone who in good faith reports a suspected violation of the law, fraud, suspected violation of any regulation governing the operations of the Town, or an ethics violation. Anyone who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith would be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment, as well as subject to any laws broken as a result of retaliation against a “whistleblower”.

Reporting – The Town of North Kingstown has an open-door policy and suggests that employees (or any applicable party) share their questions, concerns, or complaints with the appropriate supervisor. If you are not comfortable sharing your concerns with the appropriate supervisor, you are encouraged to reach out directly to the Town Manager in the case of Town of North Kingstown operations. If you are not comfortable sharing your concerns with the above-mentioned individual(s), you should reach out directly to the Town’s Legal Counsel (Town Solicitor).

If your concern involves an alleged Ethics Complaint, you should also reach out to and potentially file a complaint with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission.

If your concern involves an alleged financial crime, or any action that rises to the level of potential criminal actions, you should also reach out to the North Kingstown Police Department and/or the R.I. State Police.

If your concern alleges misconduct within or by a member(s) of the North Kingstown Police Department while on duty, you should file a civilian complaint/police report with the North Kingstown Police Department.

It should be further noted under this section that the “Whistleblower Protection Act” protects those who work for the government and report the possible existence of violations.

Alternative Method of Reporting – If the alleged concern or complaint involves the Town Manager and/or the Town Solicitor, an individual can report this concern directly to the Town Council through the Town Council President or there shall be a Screening Committee who shall serve as an alternative method of reporting for this purpose. The Screening Committee shall be comprised of two members of the Audit Committee as appointed by the Audit Committee. If the Screening Committee receives any employee-related reports, they shall immediately refer these to the Town Manager. The Screening Committee shall refer all reports related to the actions of the Town Manager and/or Town Solicitor to the Town Council.

For purposes of this section, reports to the Screening Committee cannot be anonymous (for follow-up purposes) and the Screening Committee’s sole responsibility is to ensure the complaints related to the Town Manager and/or Town Solicitor are processed. The Screening Committee is not an enforcement or oversight authority.

Acting in Good Faith – Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the

information reported indicates a violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

NOVEMBER 18, 2024
16

BOOK 111 PAGE

Handling of Reports – All reports will be promptly investigated, and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

Councilor McCoy voted in the negative as he feels that the alternative reporting method should only include the Council and not a steering committee.

25. Authorization for the Town Manager to enter into a first Amendment to a Payment-in-Lieu of Tax Agreement

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Anderson and unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to enter into a First Amendment to a Payment-in-Lieu of Tax Agreement (PILOT) between the Town of North Kingstown and MBQ, LLC and Quonset Development Corporation.

26. Right of First Right of Refusal to Purchase 55 Brown Street

Motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Mandel and unanimously

VOTED: In accordance with Section 14 of the Purchase and Sales Agreement between the Town of North Kingstown and Chef Eve Clulow, LLC, recorded in Land Evidence Book 3323/Page 164, the Town Council *voted NOT* to exercise the right of first refusal to purchase the property at 55 Brown Street.

27. Correspondence

The following is a summary of the email correspondence received by the NKTC from constituents since the Council's last regular meeting on 10/28/2024:

10/28/2024 – Janice Dempsey – Urgent streetlight activation needed for safety concerns

10/30/2024 – Diane Gautieri – Use of ARPA (Covid Funds) coming to NK

10/31/2024 – Veronica Masson – Speeding on Hamilton Allenton Road

11/04/2024 – Susan Cesaro – Follow up: sidewalks on Annaquatucket Road

11/06/2024 – Rob Martone – Megan Reilly for Chair

11/06/2024 & 11/07/2024 – Bob Frechette – Megan Reilly is the right choice for chair

11/06/2024 – Andrea Mumford – Please consider Megan Reilly for chair

11/06/2024 – Gretel McCrory – Megan Reilly should be next chair

11/06/2024 (2x) – Melissa Forte – Megan Reilly should be next chair

11/06/2024 – Christina Frye – Appoint Megan Reilly to a chair position

11/06/2024 – Mike Bennett – Megan Reilly for chair

11/06/2024 – Sue Alexander – We need Megan Reilly for chair

11/06/2024 & 11/08/2024 – Becca Laptook – Town Council

11/06/2024 & 11/08/2024 – Alex Cesaro – We need Megan Reilly as chair

11/06/2024 – Robert Ellis – We need Megan Reilly as chair

11/07/2024 – Nick Proscia – Appoint Megan Reilly as Chair

NOVEMBER 18, 2024
17

BOOK 111 PAGE

11/07/2024 – Renee Charlton – We ask for Megan Reilly as chair

11/07/2024 – Carla White Ellis – We vote for Megan for chair

11/07/2024 – Ed Renehan, Jr. – Megan Reilly NKSC

11/09/2024 & 11/10/2024 – Kirk Jordan – Support Megan Reilly as chair of school committee

11/10/2024 – Carol Sabourin – Appointment of school committee chair

11/10/2024 – Howard Brown – Support Megan Reilly as chair of school committee

11/11/2024 – Brian Fallon – Town of North Kingstown plan to possibly put in a new water pump off Gilbert Stuart Road

Note: Information cutoff time and date: 2:15 PM, Monday, November 18, 2024

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk