**Minutes of the Town Meeting**

**March 14, 2023**

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM at the Swasey Gymnasium at 178 Main Street, Kingston, by Moderator, Ellen Faulconer for the election of Town Officers, 12 Town Articles, and 11 Zoning Articles as well as the voting for the election of Officers for Sanborn Regional School District, with 4 Articles for the School District.

Ellen Faulconer, Moderator swore in Election Officials Tammy Bakie, Richard Wilson, Kevin St. James, Electra Alessio, Christopher Bashaw, Caitlin Milhomme Holly Ouellette, Gail Ramsey, Lillian Lehman, Victoria Dobrowolski, Janet Hart, Peter Coffin, Deb Powers, Barry Sargent, Robert Choumitsky, Stacy Dion, Susan Diperri, and Mark Goddard. The Supervisors of the Checklist; Chairman Ken Isaacs, Claudine Dias, and Charlotte Boutin, were also sworn in by the Moderator for duty.

Total count of cast ballot including 79 absentee ballot was 686, total registered voters on checklist are 4342, which indicates 16% participation.

The following results were obtained:

 **Selectboard for Three Years**

GLENN G. COPPELMAN--------------------------------------------------------------325

ELECTRA L. ALESSIO----------------------------------------------------------------324

**Selectboard for One Year**

CHRIS BASHAW--------------------------------------------------------------------520

**Town Clerk-Tax Collector for One Year**

TAMMY L. BAKIE--------------------------------------------------------------------604

**Trustee of the Trust Fund for three years**

KAREN COOMBS----------------------------------------------------------------------15

**Supervisors of the Checklist for Three Years**

CLAUDINE DIAS---------------------------------------------------------------------540

**Library Trustee for Three Years**

HEIDI C. BLAIS---------------------------------------------------------------------541

**Budget Committee Member for Three Years**

ANNEMARIE ROTH-----------------------------------------------------------------510

KIM DONAHUE-----------------------------------------------------------------------7

**Budget Committee Member for Two Years**

RICHARD “RICK” RUSSMAN-------------------------------------------------------527

**Planning Board Member for Three Years**

LYNNE BARTLETT MERRILL--------------------------------------------------------524

ROB TERSOLO-----------------------------------------------------------------------33

**Planning Board Member for Two Years**

STEVEN T. PADFIELD--------------------------------------------------------------510

**Zoning Board Member for Three Years**

PETER V. BRODERICK--------------------------------------------------------------495

**Zoning Board Member for Three Years**

SHAW TILTON----------------------------------------------------------------------514

**ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Replace all off the existing section entitled, “Addendum: Enforcement and Administration” and adopt a new section drafted in consultation with Town Counsel which updates existing sections regarding penalties, conflicting sections, fines and those parties responsible for administering and enforcing the Town’s zoning ordinance. Copies of the full proposal are available for review at the polling place.

**YES 406 NO 206**

**ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Article 206 Section 206.4.J, by removing the existing language and replacing it with the following:

The applicant for a conditional use permit to construct an accessory dwelling unit shall make adequate provisions for water supply and sewage disposal for the accessory dwelling unit in accordance with RSA 485-A:38, but separate systems shall not be required for the principal and accessory dwelling units. In order to comply with this paragraph and prior to constructing an accessory dwelling unit, an application for approval for a sewage disposal system shall be submitted in accordance with RSA 485-A as applicable. This approved sewage disposal system shall be installed if the existing system has not received construction approval and approval to operate under current rules or predecessor rules, or the system fails or otherwise needs to be repaired or replaced. In determining if the existing system is functioning properly an inspection report on the system prepared by a licensed NH septic system inspector will be provided to the Planning Board.

**YES 462 NO 168**

**ARTICLE 4:** **Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Article 106, District for Age Restricted Housing, section 106.3.B. Density to read as follows:

Up to four (4) bedrooms per acre of gross tract area excluding wetlands as defined by the Town’s wetlands ordinance may be constructed. This paragraph supersedes the density requirement found in the Town of Kingston Aquifer Protection District Ordinance.

**YES 383 NO 240**

**ARTICLE 5:** **Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Article 208 Age Restricted Housing, section 208., 4., B., 1., a. General Standards: Maximum Density to read as follows:

Maximum Density: four (4) bedrooms per unit of gross tract area excluding all wetlands as defined by the Town’s wetlands ordinance.

**YES 376 NO 248**

**ARTICLE 6:** **Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Article 201 Aquifer Protection Ordinance section 201., 2., K., Regulated substance by adding an entirely new paragraph to read as follows:

Regulated Substance: Any substance, material or waste the use, generation, handling, storage, treatment, or disposal of which is regulated by any local or state government authority, including any of the same designated by any authority as hazardous, genetic, cloning, fetal, or embryonic.

**YES 511 NO 127**

**ARTICLE 7:** **Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Article 201 Aquifer Protection Ordinance, section 201., 4., E. Prohibited Uses, 4. by removing the language, “except for gas stations where allowed.” The section will now read, “Subsurface storage of petroleum and other refined petroleum products.

**YES 491 NO 153**

**ARTICLE 8: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Article 201 Aquifer Protection Ordinance, section 201., 4., E. Prohibited Uses, 14., by removing the language that reads, “In Zone B such facilities require a special exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment that imposes additional protections for groundwater. The only language to remain in the section is, “14. Gas stations.”

**YES 447 NO 185**

**ARTICLE 9: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Article 201 Aquifer Protection Ordinance, section 201., 8., General Requirements, F. Spill Prevention, by adding an entirely new section to read, “Facilities that store and use regulated substances shall submit, with their application to the Planning Board, an adequate spill prevention, control, and countermeasure (SPCC) plan approved by the Kingston Fire Department.

**YES 547 NO 97**

**ARTICLE 10: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #9 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Article 207, Residential Home Occupation Ordinance, section 207.4, Enforcement, by adding a new section entirely to read. “This section shall be administered by the Board of Selectmen. Any Person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined in accordance with RSA 676:17, I-V, as it may be amended. Please refer to section A -1000 for penalties, administration, and enforcement of this ordinance.

**YES 363 NO 255**

**ARTICLE 11: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #10 as proposed by Petition for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Section 300 Article 301 by adding the following language to the town ordinances new section F. to read:

 “For non-occupied structures such as a sheds or carports, that are 168 sq. feet or less, with a height of less than 12 feet, and are not placed on a permanent foundation, no permit is required. Additionally, it may be placed on the side or rear yards no less than 5 feet from the property line. The structure would still have to meet the required front yard setback for the applicable zoning district. The structure may still be subject to a safety inspection by the code enforcement officer."

**THE KINGSTON PLANNING BOARD DISAPPROVES OF THIS PETITION.**

**YES 452 NO 219**

**ARTICLE 12: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #11 as proposed by Petition for the Town zoning ordinance as follows:**

Amending Section 100 - Zoning Districts, Article 102 - Historic District. Section 102.9 GUIDELINES by adding the following:

"When making a determination on the application, reasons for denial of an application must be clearly documented and shall be factual and verifiable reasons for denial. Reasons for denial shall not be subjective or based on opinion or speculation. If the Historic District Commission or parties at the HDC application level other than the applicant requires expert testimony or documentation to support the denial, they cannot require the applicant be responsible for the generation or costs associated with such support of denial.

This shall not prohibit the Historic District Commission from making additional recommendations to an applicant that are in the spirit of the Historic District asking for voluntary compliance or participation."

**THE KINGSTON PLANNING BOARD DISAPPROVES OF THIS CITIZEN’S PETITION**.

**YES 396 NO 252**

**ARTICLE 13**: Shall the Town of Kingston raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session for the purposes set forth therein, totaling $ 7,981,390? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be $7,404,896, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Kingston or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Estimated tax impact is $5.97/$1,000

Estimated tax impact of default budget is $5.30/$1,000

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-0**

**YES 342 NO 330**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to allow a 1½% deduction from Property Tax when payment is made prior to the due date. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to take the deduction; deductions not taken by the taxpayer on or before the due date will not be refunded. (Majority vote required)

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-0**

**YES 641 NO 35**

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $100,000 to be added to the Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote required)

Estimated tax impact is $0.12/$1,000

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-0**

**YES 419 NO 255**

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town of Kingston will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $100,000 to be added to the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote required)

Estimated tax impact is $0**.**12/$1,000

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-0**

**YES 423 NO 252**

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $100,000

to be added to the Fire Apparatus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote required)

Estimated tax impact is $0.12/$1,000

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-0**

**YES 393 NO 274**

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to create two full-time Firefighter/EMT positions. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of $115,231 for salary and benefits for 9 months. If approved, these positions will become part of the operating budget in ensuing years. (Majority vote required)

Estimated tax impact is $0.13/$1,000

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 8-0**

**YES 409 NO 262**

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to create one full-time Land Use Administrative Assistant position and eliminate the current part-time position. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of $23,064 for salary and benefits for 9 months, to be added to the $33,587 currently in the proposed operating budget. If approved, this position will become part of the operating budget in ensuing years. (Majority vote required.)

Estimated tax impact is $0.03/$1,000

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE 5-2**

**YES 287 NO 373**

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the Town readopt the OPTIONAL VETERANS’ TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of $750?  (Majority vote required)

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**YES 597 NO 70**

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the Town readopt the ALL VETERANS’ TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal the same amount as the standard or optional veterans’ tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28?  (Majority vote required)

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**YES 573 NO 92**

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $8,000.00 for the purpose of updating the Forest Management Plan for Valley Lane Town Forest and to develop new and existing trails within the town forests. Said funds to come from the Forest Fund (RSA 31:113). (Majority vote required). No tax impact.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**YES 497 NO 166**

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall the Town approve joining the existing Valley Lane Town Forest (Kingston Tax Map R-001, Lot 5) with the abutting properties located on Kingston Tax Maps R-001, Lots 6, 7, 9 & 10 and to be defined as one parcel with the designation: *Valley Lane Town Forest*. These combined properties will continue to be managed by the Conservation Commission

pursuant to RSA 31:112. (Majority vote required) No tax impact.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**YES 539 NO 120**

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town of Kingston will vote to move forward with determining the feasibility of the concept, proposed in the Envision Kingston Charrette in 2017 and put into practice temporarily during the 2022 Kingston Days celebration, to convert the Plains to a one-way traffic pattern that allows the incorporation of walking and biking lanes as well as defined parking areas. This is a non-binding referendum.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD 5-0**

**YES 354 NO 318**