

## Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Monday August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

### Attendance

**Municipal Officers:** Wade Browne, Morgan Dunham, Hunter Lander and Kim Jordan

**Municipal Staff:** Leanna Targett (Town Manager), Travis Targett (Wastewater Superintendent)

**Public:** Sue Davis, Jim Boyce, Henry Williams, Terry Coffin, Valarie Cheimis, Gary Cheimis, Jeff Maget, Bob Carlton, John Goldfrank

**Via Zoom:** Annie Twitchell, Heidi Murphy, Claudia Diller, Diane Christen and Danielle Mathieu

**Absent:**

Chairman Browne calls the meeting to order.

Board reviews meeting minutes from July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept as written. Selectman Jordan seconds motion. All in favor.

### Old Business:

Chairman Browne moves into discussing the Riverside Light. He states that 15 homeowners say that want it to remain, 6 agree with it being removed, 3 don't care either way and there were 5 homeowners that we did not get an answer from. The board agrees to leave the light and to request the dimmest fixture possible. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to replace light with dimmest/lowest wattage. Seconded by Selectman Lander. All in favor.

The next item is the wildflower discussion. TM, Targett indicates that she has spoken with both property owners, and they agree with the town seeding the area with a wildflower mixture. Selectman Dunham notes that the school had used a pollinator mixture and she would like to discuss with Selina more as to how she likes it. Chairman Browne and Selectman Jordan feel that it is mainly grass and looks like a hay field. There may be flowers there in among the tall grass, but it is hard to see. Selectman Jordan suggests looking at Queen Annes Lace if that would be possible as it seems to be in bloom for a long length of time and is pretty to look at. It is agreed that Selectman Dunham will contact Selena and TM, Targett will discuss the Queen Annes Lace with BettyAnn Listowich.

Board reviews a spreadsheet compiled by TM, Targett. Following discussion, it is agreed that it is in the town's best interest to have Terry from Kyes come back again and to invite the town employees to ask questions.

Next item of discussion is the picnic area land improvement. TM, Targett states that the majority of the area has been washed away with the May 1<sup>st</sup> storm leaving large rocks which is viewed as dangerous to anyone using that location. She has discussed with the VEC the request to move this forward with Mainland Engineers to assist with any permits necessary to fix that are back to its previous appearance and to place the steps down into the river as the VEC had requested. Chairman Browne says he understands that DOT has issues with the placement of rocks in that area near the guardrails and they need to retain access for their drainage. Chairman Browne says he is in support of doing something there to clean it up. Selectman Lander says the parking in that area is horrible and should not be allowed. Selectman Jordan says she is not comfortable with the parking either as it is a huge safety issue

and would be concerned with kids using that area when there are cars parked there that are impeding the flow of traffic. TM, Targett says she would discuss further with the engineers and put the project out to an informal bid if the board agrees as she does not feel the project will constitute the formal bid process. Following further discussion Chairman Browne makes a motion to fix the area, to contact the engineers and look at installing the steps. Selectman Dunham seconds motion. The board states that cars must be stopped from parking there. All in favor.

### **New Business:**

Board moves into discussion of the refuge letter. TM, Targett explains that the board has been provided a letter in opposition to the wildlife refuge and has been asked to provide the boards opposition or support. Chairman Browne asks if there is a plan yet for the refuge. Bob Carleton is recognized and says no, that is part of the problem. When the process starts it is a refuge, that is why we started early in an effort to get ahead of this. We do not think it is a good thing for Franklin County. He has had towns in Franklin and some in Somerset County that have already shown opposition to this. He would like to remind the board of something David Guernsey said the last time a refuge was discussed, something that he has always remembered – “never, never, never give up local control”. If this refuge happens there is no local control, it is federal control. Following further discussion, the record is to show that the Kingfield Board of Selectmen are in opposition to the wildlife refuge.

Chairman Browne reads a letter from Susan Collins which indicates that she has supported the \$1,500,000.00 request for construction of workforce housing in Kingfield. It has several more steps before it is finalized but she will continue to advocate for this.

Board reviews a special amusement permit for 164 Main Street. Selectman Lander makes a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in Favor.

### **Town Manager Updates/Discussion:**

TM, Targett says she wants to make the board aware of an agreement signed twenty years ago whereas the town will need to pay Kingfield Water District to install a waterline to what had been known as the Bunker property. She has discussed this with the new owners of the property and has put him in contact with Alan at the water district. It sounds like Fenwick may be the one who is hired by the owner to do the work. She brings this to the board to make them aware of a future cost that was not planned for at budget time.

Tufts Pond has been completed with 3 minor punch list items.

She would like to go out to bid on the grinder which after reviewing the minutes in June she should have completed already.

Lastly, she just wants the record to state for anyone not on Facebook that the Property Tax Stabilization Program has been repealed.

### **Selectmen Discussion:**

Selectman Jordan states that a contractor had approached her about a certificate of occupancy permit and asked if TM, Targett could provide information on it. TM, Targett says that when

Doug Marble was here, he used to provide them as needed however when Tom Marcotte was here, he would not, instead he wrote a letter that stated that the property was satisfactorily completed by shoreland zoning and Kingfield Zoning guidelines. Tom had indicated that the town was not allowed to do them for inspection reasons. She has been told that Bill Gilmore provided one this past Friday, however she does not know the details behind it. Selectman Jordan says she will talk with Bill more about it.

Chairman Browne asks if there has been contact with the Flood Brothers. TM, Targett says yes, they were very apologetic and will fix the area once it dries up some, however the ditching work completed recently already took care of some of it.

### **Public Comment/Other:**

Sue Davis asks that the board consider having Leanna follow Dave Cota's pattern for agendas that are sent to 30-40 people such as the media. Every agenda item has everything explained with backup materials that are included with it. I believe Leanna has tried to change the agenda in the past. Carrabasset is a particularly well-run rich community, and we should follow them. Also, sometimes Leanna doesn't have the answer for something and states that she will get back to the board, which is of concern, if Leanna is emailing the board, then it is no longer part of the record, perhaps she could just include a paragraph in the minutes. Chairman Browne says Leanna does not email the board she brings it back to a meeting. Selectman Lander says it is discussed in a public setting usually under old business.

John Goldfrank says as far as the minutes go; we are losing a lot of people that don't get this information online as they may not be tech savvy. He knows of a lot of towns that video their meetings and perhaps the Baptist church could help with this as the record their services. John says it is marketing the town so the TIF could pay for it. John says I went looking for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes to see if I was quoted in there but there is nothing. The minutes inform me as to what is going on and they are not online. At least with the recording we get to see what you are doing. TM, Targett states that the minutes are updated if he is looking at the old location where they have been posted for many years which is where the board asked that they be shown. TM, Targett reminds John that the minutes are not uploaded until they are approved by the board. Selectman Jordan explains that we do not want minutes out to the public that may be incorrect. Chairman Browne states that meetings are recorded/video taped by zoom which the board has been doing this for well over a year. TM, Targett explains that the file is too large to upload to the town website, she does send the recording to those that send an email requesting it.

John Goldfrank says regarding the riverside light, now that this is determined can we adjust the gateway parking light as it is so far pointed downward that it does not illuminate anything. He asks if the wildflower project is being completed by the VEC. The board says no. He suggests prior to more money being spent on permits on the picnic area that the VEC investigate what is necessary. He wants to remind the board that TIF funds should be used to market our town.

Selectman Dunham makes a motion to adjourn the meeting and move into a TIF work session. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in Favor.