

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday August 17, 2026; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

Attendance

Municipal Officers: Morgan Dunham, Chris Rushton, Dave Davol and Kim Jordan

Municipal Staff: Leanna Targett (Town Manager),

Public: Rob Woodhouse, Scott Hoisington, Sue Davis, Claudia Diller, Kathy Houston, Tom and Barbara Wiencek, Jeff Maget, Kate Simson, Lance Dutson, Ian Donnelly and Seth

Zoom: Daniel Mathieu, Norman Biesaw

Absent:

Chairman Dunham calls the meeting to order.

Chairman Dunham asks the board to review the previous meeting minutes from July 6th, July 20th, and July 27th. Selectmen Rushton makes a blanket motion to approve all three sets of minutes. Seconded by Selectman Davol. All in favor.

Old Business:

The board reviews a newly simplified second draft of the Town Meeting Survey. The revision was created following feedback from the town clerk to ensure a higher turnout. The board agrees to move forward with Draft 2 without a formal motion, planning to distribute it to voters at the polls and alongside absentee ballots.

New Business:

Next item is a discussion with Ian Donnelly about a new pump track location. Ian Donnelly presents a revised layout for a seasonal mountain bike pump track. The track is proposed to be roughly 100 feet by 200 feet. It will be relocated to town property near the river to avoid underground utility conflicts at the original Gateway Trailhead site. The board discusses potential security concerns regarding ATVs tearing up the site, which will be addressed with fencing or large rock barriers. Funding includes \$25,000 earmarked from the Carrabassett Regional Member Board, alongside planned outreach to local businesses. No formal motion is made; the project will move to detailed layout design and river proximity permitting.

Shiloh Pond Committee Update: Committee members Rob and Kathy update the board on large gatherings held by the Legendarios, a faith-based group staying at Deer Farm Camps. The group brings 200 to 450 people to Shiloh Pond for ceremonies, baptisms, and chanting. Neighbors have expressed significant concerns regarding late-night noise (chanting and train horns at 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM) and lack of sanitation facilities. Kathy reported that group leaders were highly polite and accommodating during a weekend meeting, agreeing to adhere to a strict schedule, limit parking to one vehicle, and double their portable toilets to ten. The town Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) will look further into the campground's temporary licensing and septic capabilities. The committee plans to draft a comprehensive town group-use policy and explore noise ordinances over the winter.

The board evaluated a request from Hammond Lumber to relocate a Central Maine Power (CMP) utility pole blocking a sign. Hammond Lumber will cover all associated moving costs. Selectmen vote unanimously to approve the relocation, pending CMP's final approval.

Scott from the Planning Board presents research regarding regulations for internally lit and electronically changeable digital signs for a new standalone sign ordinance. The town's current 30-year-old ban was deemed legally undefendable by the town attorney. Board opinions remain split; some favor strict prohibitions to align with dark-sky initiatives and traffic safety, while others push to allow illuminated signs to help local businesses advertise during dark winter months. The state standard allows digital sign updates every 30 seconds, contrasting with the current draft's 30-minute restriction. The board tables the discussion until the September 8th meeting to allow for further review.

2027 Tax Commitment Review: The board reviews the tax commitment covering July 1st through June 30th, 2027. Due to adjusted town land values—specifically increasing undervalued rear land from \$1,200 to \$5,000 per additional acre to match market rates—the overall assessment has risen. This allows the town to lower its mill rate. Selectman makes a motion to approve an 18-mill rate utilizing \$300,000 from the town surplus, creating a \$43,000 overlay. The motion is seconded and passes unanimously. Most residents with smaller parcels will see a tax decrease, while larger landholders will see an increase. Selectmen are requested to sign the official commitment documents later in the week.

Town Manager Updates/Discussion:

TM, Targett notes an immediate official resignation from Selectman Hunter due to family commitments. The board will determine whether to operate with four members or fund a special election (estimated at \$2,000) during the September meeting.

Bids for the bunker water line project have been officially awarded.

The town office building painting is currently underway.

Targett held a successful comprehensive meeting with the DOT to review all town-owned roads, bridges, speed limits, and 911 addressing.

The town is reviewing community-wide texting and app notification services to streamline public updates.

Selectmen Discussion:

The board notes that Kingfield Days was a massive success, serving roughly 225 lobster and steak dinners. Full roadside cleanup and banner removal were entirely completed by 11:30 AM that Sunday.

The board agrees to look into bringing material to resurface the heavily used, muddy parking lot at Gateway Park.

A public work session dedicated to town benches is officially scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. A future work session regarding the music pavilion will be scheduled immediately following the completion of the benches project.

Public Comment/Other (not for new business):

Claudia Diller inquiries about the contents of the Town Meeting Survey and clarifies funding limitations, confirming that bike contract money cannot be diverted to the music pavilion.

Public discussion clears up details regarding Deer Farm Camps' operations, noting the property avoids full campground regulatory costs by pulling restrictive 12-day annual temporary usage permits from the state.

Selectman Jordan makes a motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Selectman Davol. All in Favor.

**The minutes provided above are a summary. The Town meets record management requirements and retention schedules by maintaining permanent records of electronic recordings of meetings to satisfy the requirements of §403-A. Minutes by Leanna Targett.*