

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Via GoTo Meeting (Remote)

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman, Nancy Gorski, and Selectmen, Jamie Young and Louis Annino, Jr.

BOS Members Absent: None.

Visitors: Tom Gagliardi, Kathleen Amoia, Eileen Blewett, Joan Gay, Casey Jacob, Eric Nunes, Richard Pleines, Regina Regolo, Joyce Mason, Ellen Oppenheimer, James Duffield, Elizabeth Disbrow, Donna Fornal, Annie Stirna, Bill Tobleman, Eileen Unger, Catherine Iino, Thomas Lentz, Lisa Connelly, Mary Solera, Laura Lefko, Kate Moran, and Jamie Sciascia

Called to Order: First Selectman Gorski called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Joyce Mason addressed the BOS - She sent an email into the BOS regarding the need for establishing a Killingworth Commission on aging. Her email was written into the record:

“We, the undersigned, strongly believe there is a growing need in town for the establishment of a Killingworth Commission On Aging. We see its purpose as the following:

- To study the needs of senior residents of Killingworth
- To identify needed services for senior citizens
- To promote active participation of seniors in the life of the Killingworth community
- To identify a place in Killingworth where seniors can gather for activities
- To identify and appoint an individual to coordinate activities for seniors
 - To seek out grants which will benefit the senior population
- To develop a budget
- To report to the Board of Selectmen
- To be a voice for our seniors.

Information from the 2017 Killingworth Plan of Conservation and Development created by the Planning and Zoning Commission contains the following pertinent information regarding our senior population:

- Data from the US Census 2015 Age Distribution statistics identified 1,311 or 20% of the population in Killingworth as 65+ and 2,304 or 36% identified as 45-64 from the

- total population of 6,526. (There was no breakdown for 55 and over.)
- A Senior Center was indicated in the question regarding what areas should be emphasized in future planning.

The US 2020 Decennial Census identified 2044 or 33% of the population as 55 and over. The 55-59 range was 642 residents or 10% and the 60+ range was 1402 or 23 %.

Currently there are no programs specifically geared toward seniors. The H-K Recreation Department has programs for adults, but no programs specifically for seniors.

It is for these reasons that we encourage the Board of Selectmen to establish a Commission On Aging.”

Respectfully,

Joyce Mason
Sandy Allard
Kathy Amoia
Joan Gay
Donna Fornal
Eileen Leahy
Nancy McCormick
Kate Moran
Jean Panciera
Mary Solera

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Selectman Young *Moved* and Selectman Annino *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen Monday, December 12, 2022 as amended.

Corrections are as follows:

1. *Under 11 - Selectman’s comments: Deletion of “ Motion by Young to add an agenda item: Trash haulers The motion, seconded by Annino, passed. [3-0-0] See public comment: Young asked that the town review the law regarding trash hauler registration, work to ensure compliance, and put any registered haulers on the town website.”*
2. *Under 12(D) - First Selectman’s comments: Replace “creating” with “recreating”.*

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #2 - Selectman Young **Moved** and Selectman Annino **Seconded** a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen Monday, January 9, 2023 as amended:

Corrections are as follows:

- 1. Under Department Reports, Item B (Page 2): Addition of “will be prepared” to the sentence, “A high-level summary from the selectman’s office and the decision process to remove trees will be prepared.”***
- 2. Under Selectman’s Comments, First Comment by Annino (Page 3): Addition of “be used quickly” in the sentence, “He would like to see money allocated to the town through an opioid settlement be used quickly.”***
- 3. Under First Selectman Comments, Fifth Comment Down (Page 4): Addition of “information” and “funding sources” deletion of the word “attention” to the sentence “Annino is concerned with the financial implications associated with PFAS remediation and would like we get more information regarding funding sources.”***

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #3 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** to Approve the Minutes of the Monday, January 14, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

Refunds and Abatements:

None.

Appointments:

Motion #4 -Selectman Young **Moved** and Selectman Annino **Seconded** a motion to appoint Thomas Talbot as the Inlands/Wetlands Watercourses Enforcement Officer.

Discussion - Selectman Annino asked if Mr. Talbot was endorsed by the Inlands/Wetlands Commission. First Selectman Gorski confirmed that he was, and served on the Commission last year. This was an oversight during the Appointments session.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion # 5 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to Reappoint Bruce E. Dodson (Democrat) to the Historic Review Committee for a period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #6 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** and Selectman Annino **Seconded** a motion to replace Graig S. Judge and appoint Laura L. Lefko (Republican) as the Historic Review Commission Alternate for a period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #7 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to appoint Brian James Blair (Republican) to the Park and Recreation Commission for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #8 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** and Selectman Annino **Seconded** a motion to appoint John F. Mancini (Republican) to the Open Space Committee for a period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #9 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** and Selectman Annino **Seconded** a motion to appoint Douglas G. Schueler (Democrat) to the Traffic Safety Committee for a period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #10 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to appoint Nancy Gorski (Republican) to the Middlesex Revitalization Commission for a period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Discussion - Selectman Annino inquired if First Selectman Gorski was allowed to serve on this Committee since she is the First Selectman. First Selectman Gorski confirmed that she is since it is a Regional Entity and there are no financial implications.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Department Reports:

Open Building Permits -

First Selectman Gorski sent a Summary to the BOS of older permits that need to be closed which is a matter of compliance of the homeowner to do so. Discussion of the permit process along with hours of the Building Department were discussed at length. Selectman Young suggested, as a more proactive approach, the possibility of putting a section in the Killingworth Krier Newspaper identifying the open permits as a way of informing the homeowners since some might not be aware of the permit process.

Budget Report

First Selectman Gorski provided the 2022-23 Capitol Status to the BOS and also noted the Highway Department is doing well. There was nothing to report from the KVFC.

New Business:

A. Approval of KAA/KVFC list of full active members:

Motion #11- First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve the Killingworth Ambulance Association List of Full Active Members in good Standing as of December 31, 2022.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #12 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to Approve the KVFC List of Full Active Members in good standing as of December 31, 2022.

Discussion - Selectmen Young and Annino expressed concerns that the letter listing the Members in Good Standing wasn't signed. Selectman Annino requested a formal executed letter along with a list of requirements from the KVFC.

After discussion, First Selectman Gorski *Tabled* this Agenda item until the next BOS meeting.

B. High Level Tree Summary

First Selectman Gorski provided a High Level Tree Removal Summary to the BOS. Selectman Annino raised concerns of the challenges the Town faces with the tree removal process and, more specifically, with the response time for removal of trees that Eversource and the State are responsible for. Further discussion about how the BOS can keep their infrastructure safe by removal of the trees took place. First Selectman Gorski suggested that Bruce Fagan speak with Eversource about the BOS concerns.

Selectman Young suggested obtaining an itemized report from Bruce Fagan of the challenges and obstacles he is facing with all the trees, so the BOS can help and address those issues to keep the Community safe. First Selectman Gorski will speak with Bruce and make it an action item for the next BOS meeting.

C. Historical Review Committee Update

Elizabeth Disbrow updated the BOS about a Demolition Delay Ordinance of 180 days on one of the Historic Houses in Killingworth. She explained in detail about the process, and how the house was declared preferably preserved. They tried to work with the homeowner to save it; however, the owners found some of the P&Z restrictions in the new regulation too burdensome and they are seeking to demolish it. The Historical Review Committee is charged to find a solution to preserve the house; and are bringing it to the BOS attention to possibly look at other avenues in order to preserve the home. Further discussion took place in length regarding tax incentives and/or helping the homeowner with the maintenance upkeep. Currently, there are approximately 100 Historical Homes in Killingworth.

Selectman Annino thanked Elizabeth for a thorough report and all her hard work. He believes this could ultimately be handled by P&Z and stressed the importance of proceeding responsibly and respectfully to the homeowners.

Tom Lentz spoke about seeking additional avenues to try to save the house with the possibility of moving it to another location, or speaking with the homeowner to leave it where it is. Tom thanked Elizabeth for doing a wonderful job and taking such an active role serving on the Historical Review Committee to try to preserve the Character of Killingworth.

Old Business:

A. Eric Auer Park - Multi-Purpose Field Project

James Duffield updated the BOS on the Multi-Purpose Field. He gave some background about the original grant, the way it was written, for a Baseball Field. He shared the design specifics of the Multi-Purpose Field, citing that the other fields are being overused, this approach being the better plan. The sports that would be utilizing the field would be: lacrosse, soccer and football. The field would be designed as a more flexible space depending on the needs of the town, incorporating around the Multi-Purpose Field, the original plan for the Baseball Field. Selectman Annino inquired whether or not the Killingworth Youth League has been formally engaged in this process and whether they are in agreement with this approach. Selectman Annino also commented about sticking to the original plan since it seems as though part of the youth is leaving the Town because there are no fields to play on. Lastly, Selectman Annino stressed the importance of making sure the Taxpayers are aware of the change in the original plans, possibly taking it to a Town Meeting if that is needed before making a decision to move forward.

Selectman Young also stressed the importance of hearing from the Baseball Community since a promise was made along with soliciting the funds to build the field and the original design shouldnt be revised until that point.

First Selectman Gorski asked for Jim Duffield to provide to the BOS an Inventory of all the fields and user groups, cost of maintaining the fields so they can view the data to help make a decision. This item for discussion will be added to the next BOS meeting scheduled on February 13th. First Selectman Gorski will also look into additional information/notes on building the Baseball Field circa 2007.

B. ARPA Policy Update

Motion #13 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve the revisions to the Policy Regarding use of ARPA Funds and its associated form.

Discussion - Selectman Annino wasn't prepared to move on this motion tonight. Discussion took place on how to handle these types of requests that come in possibly as a Capital Budget Request.

After discussion, First Selectman Gorski *Tabled* this Agenda item until the next BOS meeting.

C. KAA ARPA Request

This item was *Tabled* until the next BOS Meeting.

D. Custodial Bid Next Steps

Selectman Annino recently started the process and will come back to the BOS with a Report at their next BOS Meeting. He suggested the BOS could always hold a special meeting, if need be.

E. Water Pollution Control Authority

First Selectman Gorski provided in the BOS packet information she gathered; noting the statute is basically about sewage not necessarily about Water Pollution Control. First Selectman Gorski is not ready to act on this now but moving forward she wants to make sure the water pollution potentials are being managed.

Selectmen's Comments:

Selectman Annino - No Comments.

Selectman Young commented on the following:

- She thanked Joyce Mason and Group for speaking about the issues of aging and also expressed her support for it.

- She thanked Mr. Lentz and Elizabeth Disbrow about bringing to the BOS attention the matter that sits before the Historic Review Committee.

- Requested that Trash Hauling be placed on the next BOS Agenda for discussion.

- Open Space Committee - would like to confirm that the Commission is actively meeting.
- Ethics Commission - Selectman Young would like to research what an Ethics Commission would entail since it was previously brought up at the CRC Public Hearing. She noted that the BOS could wait until the CRC finishes their course of work if need be.
- She thanked the CRC as well as First Selectman Gorski for doing a great job with the CRC work and also for putting so much thought into their recommendations as well as the hours they worked.

First Selectman's Comments:

- She thanked Joyce Mason and colleagues for using their collective voices to have the BOS consider establishing an aging group and also agreed that Seniors needs should be met. First Selectman Gorski will follow up on next steps.
- The BOS will resume their in-person meetings in February. The next BOS meeting is scheduled with the Board of Finance for Priorities from a Budgetary prescriptive scheduled on February 13th.
- PFAS Update - First Selectman Gorski met with DEEP and DPH recently. After careful consideration, she will move forward in providing communication to Killingworth Residents. (what we know now, what we have done and will continue to do). A meeting will be held with the State along with DEEP and DPH to answer Community questions scheduled on February 22nd located at the Killingworth Intermediate School - Cafeteria.

Discussion took place about looking into the possibility of getting more funding through the State level. Selectman Annino commented about not committing to utilizing the Capital Dollars before seeking elsewhere.

Adjournment: First Selectman Gorski *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk

