

**TOWN OF DUCK  
TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
September 17, 2015**

The Town Council for the Town of Duck convened at the Duck Municipal Offices at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Don Kingston; Mayor Pro Tempore Monica Thibodeau; Councilor Nancy Caviness; Councilor Jon Britt and Councilor Chuck Burdick.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Christopher Layton; Town Attorney Robert Hobbs; Administrative Assistant Bethany Conery; and Permit Coordinator Sandy Cross.

OTHERS ABSENT: Director of Community Development Joseph Heard; Police Chief John Cueto; Fire Chief Donna Black; Public Information Officer Denise Walsh; and Town Clerk Lori Kopec.

Mayor Kingston called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

**PRESENTATION OF APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING BOARD AND QUESTIONS OF APPLICANTS BY TOWN COUNCIL**

Mayor Kingston stated that an opening was created on the Planning Board by the unexpected resignation of John Fricker, who was moving away from the area. He added that nine applications were received for the open position with three individuals opting out of the process, leaving six applicants present. He stated that Council wanted to hear an expansion on each applicant's background from the standpoint of how it pertained to the objective experience and what each individual has done for the Town as well as their involvement with the Town. He stated that Council will follow up with questions afterward. He suggested that each applicant take about 5-10 minutes each to speak about themselves.

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Mayor Kingston clarified that the appointment to the Planning Board will not be made until Council's October 5, 2015 meeting. He added that Council will take all of the applicants under consideration at this meeting. He stated that Council appreciated each applicant attending the meeting and looked forward to hearing from them.

Thom Holian of 117 Sea Hawk Drive West was recognized to speak. Mr. Holian stated that he's been a resident of Duck for over 30 years, was married and has five children. He stated that he owns 117 Sea Hawk Drive West and was a partner for the property at 1197 Duck Road. He stated that he became an architect in 1978 and came to the Outer Banks when he was a junior in high school. He added that he finished school and moved to Duck. He stated that he has 20 years of business experience in Duck and has built a lot of houses in Duck as well.

Thom Holian stated that he has done a lot of volunteer work with the school system and received a volunteer of the year award from the school system. He stated that he has lived in Duck approximately 35 years and wanted to give back some of his time to the Town. He stated that he was concerned about pedestrian and vehicular traffic in Duck. He stated that he offered about 10 years ago to the Town of Southern Shores, the idea of a three day check in. He added that it was

rejected by the Mayor of Southern Shores. He stated that he could not believe that local governments could not enforce the three day check in idea. He stated that he would like to suggest a lottery system for check ins to alleviate the traffic in Duck. He felt the realty companies would be positive about it.

Councilor Burdick stated that he's known Thom Holian for a number of years and that he's done a lot of work in Town. He stated that he was interested in Mr. Holian's comments regarding the pedestrian problems. He asked how familiar he was with the Town's pedestrian plan. He added that it would be forming the basis on where the Town was headed, provided the Town could get the financing for it. He asked Mr. Holian if he had spent any time reviewing the pedestrian plan. Thom Holian stated that he did not because he was not involved in it. Councilor Burdick suggested that Mr. Holian familiarize himself with the plan, adding that Council would welcome his input as the Town moves forward.

Councilor Burdick noted that over half of the Town's traffic problems were from Corolla. He added that Duck could do a lot to improve things. He wondered how to get Corolla on board. Thom Holian stated that the Town would have to begin by talking to the people of Corolla. Councilor Burdick stated that there has been considerable discussion. He added that there was a meeting in Currituck back in the spring that resulted in some significant improvement in the traffic patterns. He stated that there was active ground working on interim solutions.

Mayor Kingston asked Thom Holian if he had any involvement with any boards. Thom Holian stated that he did not.

Councilor Burdick clarified that Mr. Holian's public interaction was mainly with the school system. Mr. Holian stated he was correct.

Kip Keperling of 154 Cherokee Court was recognized to speak. Mr. Keperling noted that his wife was present for support. He stated that they started coming to the Outer Banks 27 years ago, starting in Nags Head and working their way to Duck until they purchased their home in 2003. He stated that he was currently the president of the Poteskeet Homeowners Association and has been for several years. He stated that he owned and operated a manufacturing facility in Pennsylvania since 1985 and dealt with many government agencies.

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Kip Keperling stated that the main reason that he was interested in serving on the Planning Board was because he loved the Town of Duck and was very proud of it. He thought he could be an asset with his business experience.

Mayor Kingston asked Kip Keperling if he had ever attended any Planning Board meetings. Mr. Keperling stated that he attended Council meetings but not Planning Board. Mayor Kingston asked if he had any other government experience. Mr. Keperling stated that he did not have any, but as far as volunteer work, he was an assistant scout master for his children and was a volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

Councilor Burdick pointed out that Kip Keperling had put on his application that he was a part-time resident. Kip Keperling noted that he and his wife lived in Duck half the time. Councilor Burdick stated that the Planning Board met monthly. He asked if the part-time basis was flexible. Mr. Keperling stated that it was as he had no structured schedule elsewhere.

Councilor Caviness asked Kip Keperling if he has been in Duck enough to experience an entire season. Kip Keperling stated that they come to Duck every month and it was rare that they weren't in Duck in any given month.

Randy Morton of 108 Sailfish Court was recognized to speak. Mr. Morton stated that he and his wife first came to Duck in 1983 and fell in love with the Town. He stated that they purchased a lot in 1985 in the Osprey subdivision and had a dream of building a house there. He stated that they were introduced to a business deal with a family and built a house that was completed in 1990; however, the deal went south and they did not get to use the house for a long time. He added that in 2007 his parents were going to sell their house and he and his wife bought it. He stated that he retired in 2013 and they were full-time residents of Duck.

Randy Morton stated that he and his wife have volunteered for the Jazz Festival and summer events for the past two years. He stated that he has volunteered with the homeowner association for the past four to five years and recently started volunteering with the Duck Volunteer Fire Department.

Randy Morton noted that he did not have Planning Board experience or experience with government entities, but did have IT and computer experience. He added that he worked in the health care industry as well as working for Capital One. He felt that this was relevant as his experience was in analysis and interpersonal/problem solving skills.

Mayor Kingston noted that Mr. Morton attended a lot of the Council meetings. He asked if he attended the Planning Board meetings. Randy Morton stated that he attended a Planning Board meeting recently.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau asked Mr. Morton if he had read through the Town's Vision. Randy Morton stated that he has.

Kent Zimmerman of 1400 Duck Road was recognized to speak. Mr. Zimmerman stated that he has been involved in volunteer work for some time in various communities. He added that he and his wife were currently volunteers for the Duck Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that they brought a property in 2002 and have lived in Duck permanently since 2004. He stated that they burned their home and built a new one that they currently live in. He stated that he was on the Planning and Development Committee at James Madison University and served on several other committees there as well. He stated that he was somewhat familiar with dealing with government and did underwriting on sureties at one point in his life.

Kent Zimmerman stated that he has had several businesses throughout his career. He added that he would like to continue with his volunteer work. He noted that as much as he likes the Town's pedestrian plan, it will cause problems with regard to driving a fire truck through Town. He added that he was currently an Alternate on the Town's Board of Adjustment.

Mayor Pro Tempore Thibodeau clarified that Kent Zimmerman had attended Planning Board meetings. Kent Zimmerman stated that he wasn't a regular attendee, but did attend some of the pedestrian plan meetings.

Sandy Whitman of 118 Tuckahoe Drive West was recognized to speak. Mr. Whitman stated that he first came to Duck in 1981 and formed a special bond with the area. He stated that he and his wife purchased property in 1983 and built their home in 1988. He added that last year they sold their home in New York and moved to Duck as full-time residents. He stated that he is a summer

volunteer for the Town. He noted that he was a member of the Planning Board for the City of Kingston, New York as well as being a member on the library board there. He stated that he owned his own electrical business in New York and served on the Board of Hudson Valley and was a trustee for the IBEW Local 363 Trustee Fund.

Sandy Whitman stated that he was a volunteer for the Boys and Girls Club in Kingston, New York for 38 years as well as being a volunteer coach for skiing with the United States Ski Association. He added that he was the past president of the homeowner association and chairman of the Architectural Review Committee for Tuckahoe for the past five years. He noted that he works all events in Duck and helped with the lighting on the south end of the Duck boardwalk. He felt that his background in volunteering, design building and planning would be beneficial to the Town.

Mayor Kingston asked Sandy Whitman to expand on his term on the Kingston, New York Planning Board. Sandy Whitman stated that it was a six member board for a population of 20,000 people. He added that he served a three year term and was appointed by the Mayor.

Councilor Caviness asked what kind of relationship the Planning Board and City Council had. Sandy Whitman stated that there wasn't a relationship between the two boards as everything went directly to the Mayor. Councilor Caviness asked if the Planning Board had a good relationship with the Mayor. Sandy Whitman stated that they did at the time.

James Cofield of 101 East Bias Lane was recognized to speak. Mr. Cofield stated that he was interested in serving on the Planning Board. He noted that the Planning Board, along with the Town Council played a significant role in shaping the near and long-term development of Duck. He stated that he had a strong interest in the Town with roots dating back to the late 1920's. He added that his earliest memories of Duck were as a kid in the 1950's. He noted that he had a background in real estate and finance and was an active participant in a number of city organizations, mostly in the Boston area, over a period of 45 years.

James Cofield stated that he served on the Boston Redevelopment Authority, which was the official planning agency for Boston and was the chairman for the Civil Rights Task Force. He stated that he was a property owner and resident of Duck and a volunteer on the pedestrian planning committee for the Town of Duck. He added that he has volunteered for the Advice 5k Turkey Trot and attended a few Planning Board and Town Council meetings recently. He noted that he was familiar with and supportive of the Town's vision and its principles. He stated that he has served on a number of civic organizations over the years and has sat on both sides of the Planning Board table.

Mayor Kingston asked James Cofield who he was accountable to for the Boston Redevelopment Authority. James Cofield stated that Massachusetts has a number of independent authorities and tended not to be accountable to anyone but the public. He noted that it was an appointed position so the Mayor could replace a member at any time.

Councilor Caviness asked if transportation projects came before the Boston Redevelopment Authority. James Cofield stated that they did.

Councilor Burdick stated that one of the things about the Planning Board in Duck that was unique was that it had a vision of what they like the Town to be. He added that the Planning Board was the one to steer Council on problems and helping to maintain the vision and be innovative in order to do things differently. He asked James Cofield how he saw himself contributing and

being able to add to the body of knowledge. James Cofield stated that he was excited about serving on the Planning Board. He added that the one thing that excited him was that Council was looking for an independent thinker and he's been one for over 45 years.

Mayor Kingston thanked all of the applicants for their presentations and time. He added that Council would go back and evaluate the candidates and will make a decision at their next meeting.

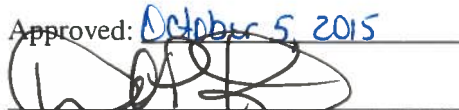
Mayor Kingston noted that the next meeting would be the regular meeting on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Burdick moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 5-0.

The time was 6:29 p.m.

Approved: October 5, 2015  
  
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Don Kingston, Mayor

  
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Lori A. Kopec, Town Clerk

