

NORTH KINGSTOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OVERVIEW



Meeting Date: Monday, November 17, 2025

Recording: https://northkingstown.granicus.com/player/clip/1523?view_id=3&redirect=true

The North Kingstown Town Council completed its November meeting schedule with a busy [Agenda](#) on Monday, November 17, in Council Chambers at Town Hall.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with four Public Hearings:

- The first resulted in Town Council unanimously approving an adjustment to the Commercial Passenger Harbor Fees as the Town moves towards promoting commercial vessels in providing off-season activities such as Seal Tours and other harbor-related possibilities.
- The second and third Public Hearings were licensing renewals, and a corporation change for an alcoholic beverage license for an existing Post Road establishment.
- The fourth public hearing was the result of the Town Council requesting enabling legislation before the General Assembly in order to convert the town's Tax Exemptions to a "Tax Credit Based System." This Ordinance change will eliminate fluctuation following revaluations and, most importantly, provide greater monetary savings for taxpayers that currently enjoy exemptions. Providing these savings was a priority of the Town Council in early 2025 and was unanimously passed this evening.

The Town Council then received an update from the Planning Department and Administration on the Ocean State Community Electricity Program currently offered to North Kingstown residents and businesses. This program has North Kingstown joining seven other Rhode Island communities in an existing buying group with the goal of providing utility savings to those who chose not to opt-out of the program. The Planning Department provided a detailed history of the program, a thorough review of the contract options available to the Town, answered a host of questions from the Town Council and received proper direction from the Council for this item to be on the next Town Council Meeting Agenda for action to authorize the administration to enter into the appropriate contract for future services.

This discussion was followed by the Public Comment portion of the agenda where residents are provided an opportunity to present comment on issues within the agenda as well as any issues that may not be on the agenda.

Town Council then proceeded to the Consent Agenda where they approved the meeting minutes of the prior Council Meeting, the tax abatement list as recommended by the Tax Assessor and Town Manager, receipt of donations towards the Holiday Giving Program and Beechwood Senior Center, as well as various license approvals and renewals. The Consent Agenda also resulted in the Town Council approving the purchase of Lifepak ECG Monitoring Defibrillators for the Fire Department, allowing the department to provide significant technological advances, improve our first responder's abilities to address life saving measures for residents and visitors. The Town Council also approved, via the Consent Agenda, the purchase of a Mini Excavator for

the Water Department, and the acceptance of \$157,300 in Community Development Block Grant Awards for 2023 and 2024.

The meeting had two reports to the Town Council. The first was a lengthy [Manager's Report](#) from the Town Manager which provided valuable information on various projects and events in the town, as well as a highlight of the School Department's recognition as a Unified Champion School by Special Olympics International, the School Department's recent 2025 School Accountability Ratings by Rhode Island Department of Education, and a congratulations to Matt Souza, Building Official, on his completion of the Municipal Leadership Academy.

The second was a [Financial Report](#) from the town's Finance Director as she provided the Town Council with a [memo](#) and preliminary update on the first four months of the 2026 Fiscal Year. While the figures are very preliminary, the report shows budgeting on target for the first third of the Fiscal Year; the Finance Director projected a much more accurate report in January 2026, where she will be able to forecast based on the first half of the recently completed fiscal year.

Under New Business, Town Council reviewed a Coastal Resources Management Council application, authorized the Administration to apply to the State for significant funding within their Housing 2026 Housing Infrastructure Program, made various appointments to some of the town's Advisory Committees, and closed with an update on Town Council Correspondence from Council Member Linnea Drew.

The final meeting of calendar year 2025 will take place on Monday, December 15, in Town Council Chambers at Town Hall on 80 Boston Neck Road. The start time is yet to be determined as the meeting will begin with a required joint meeting with the School Committee and may, as a result, begin earlier than the typical 7:00 p.m. meeting start time.