DRAFT – NOT YET APPROVED

TOWN OF EAST KINGSTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PUBLIC HEARING #1 ON DONATION OF LAND MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2026

Pound School
41 Depot Road
East Kingston, New Hampshire
6:00PM

Joseph Cacciatore, Chairman
Matthew Freeman
Edward Warren

In compliance with RSA 41:14-a, the East Kingston Board of Selectmen shall hold public hearings on September 14, 2026 and September 21, 2026 to solicit comments regarding the proposed acceptance of a gift of a 12-acre parcel identified as the Henshaw Lot #4 located at the end of Robin Lane. A vote shall take place no sooner than 7 days or later than 14 days after the second public hearing is held. This is hearing number one.

Board Members present: Joseph Cacciatore – Chairman, Matthew Freeman and Edward Warren.

Others Present: Town Administrator Grace Ruelle, Conservation Commission member Vicki Brown and Marie Nadeau.

Mr. Cacciatore opened the public hearing at 6:00 pm with the roll call and then yielded the floor to Conservation Commission member Vicki Brown.

Conservation Commission member Brown stated that the Conservation Commission has been working with both the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) and the Henshaws to place several of their parcels in conservation easement, however, the property owners received a better offer in which they will be pursuing. They also agreed to donate one of the parcels, identified as lot #4 on the list, to the Town of East Kingston. This parcel is ideally situated between two other conservation easements, and, from a conservation standpoint, will provide and preserve the wildlife habitat/corridor on those parcels. The Conservation Commission unanimously supports the town accept this parcel to be added to the other two conservation easements. She noted the town would lose approximately $350 in annual tax revenue when the parcel becomes town-owned as it is in current use. Additionally, and though not documented, it is very likely the parcel serves as home to federally-protected turtles as much of the parcel is wetland.

Marie Nadeau inquired of any sightings of the turtles on any of the abutting parcels to which Conservation Commission member Brown responded they have not; however, they have been sighted in other town wetlands and waterways. Mrs. Nadeau expressed her support in placing the parcel in conservation easement.

Conservation Commission member Brown further stated that over time, the parcel may become drier at which point the town could consider using the parcel for some sort of recreation.

Other conserved parcels in close proximity to this parcel include the Redgate Farm, the Clark, and Corbett parcels, all of which are not publicly accessible. Those parcels are currently managed by the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) and SELT.

Mr. Freeman opined that open space is the best and he intends to support this donation when taking the official vote.

Town Administrator Ruelle noted the process to accept this land donation is to hold two public hearings to solicit feedback from residents, and after the second hearing, hold another meeting to take official action.

Board members then reviewed the tax map depicting the donated parcel as well as other important, conserved parcels (Corbett, Redgate, Clark). It was noted that no other information or documentation is needed from the Conservation Commission for the second public hearing which will be held on September 21, 2026 at 6pm.

There being no other comments or questions,

MOTION: Chairman Cacciatore motioned to close the public hearing; seconded by Mr. Freeman. The motion passed 3-0-0 and the meeting ended at 6:14pm.

Minutes prepared by Catherine Belcher.

Joseph Cacciatore	Matthew Freeman	Edward Warren