

# E. KINGSTON EDITION

Happy 2nd Anniversary, EK Edition!



IN THIS ISSUE

---

## **NEW WEBSITE**

---

## **IMPORTANT TOWN DATES AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

---

## **EK TOWN AND SCHOOL DELIBERATIVE SESSION 2023**

---

## **IN MEMORIAM**

---

## **Happy Anniversary, EK Edition!**

This is officially our 25th issue of the EK Edition, meaning we've been going strong for TWO YEARS!

When our first edition came out in March, 2021, we really weren't sure what the reaction would be. We were pleasantly surprised at how well the newsletter is doing and we look forward to seeing what the next year will bring. We hope you enjoy it just as much as we do creating it!

You can read past issues of the newsletter on the library website:

[www.eastkingstonlibrary.org/east-kingston-edition](http://www.eastkingstonlibrary.org/east-kingston-edition)

# Happy March!

by Karen Cumings, Girl Scout Troop 59300

Girl Scout Troop 59300 is wrapping up a very busy cookie season, and if you still need some Girl Scout cookies, we are happy to help!

Each year, girls sell cookies to raise money for camping, STEM activities, crafts, badges, and an end of year trip. (Last year, we went to Canobie Lake Park as a troop!) The Girls are still able to sell to neighbors and people they meet in person, but if you don't know a Girl Scout, you can order some cookies online to have delivered to you (local addresses only, guaranteed through March 11th) or shipped directly to you (through March 22nd) at [digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/troop59300-126?fpkp=1](https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/troop59300-126?fpkp=1).

If you select girl delivery, we'll verify that one of our troop members can deliver your cookies and have them reach out directly.

We'll also be selling cookies in person at the Mall at Rockingham Park on Sunday 3/5 from 11-2 and Saturday 3/11 from 11-3.

If you have trouble with the link or have any questions, reach out to Karen and Robyn at [gsgwmtroop59300@gmail.com](mailto:gsgwmtroop59300@gmail.com). Thanks for supporting local Girl Scouts!



## East Kingston Edition

Town of East Kingston  
[www.eknh.org](http://www.eknh.org)

### Town Clerk & Tax Collector

(603) 642-8794  
Monday: 8am - 5pm  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:  
8am - 2:30pm  
Wednesday: 5pm - 7pm

### Town Administration

(603) 642-8406  
Monday: 8am - 4pm  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:  
8am - 2:30pm  
Wednesday: 11am - 7pm

### East Kingston Police

Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergency: (603) 642-5427

### East Kingston Fire

ekfd.org  
Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergency: (603) 642-3141

### East Kingston Public Library

eastkingstonlibrary.org  
(603) 642-8333  
ekpublib@comcast.net  
Monday & Wednesday:  
9am - 5pm  
Tuesday & Thursday:  
11am - 7pm  
Friday & Saturday:  
9am - 1pm

### E. Kingston Elementary School

(603) 642-3511  
EKES on the web: [eks.sau16.org](http://eks.sau16.org)  
SAU16 on the web: [sau16.org](http://sau16.org)

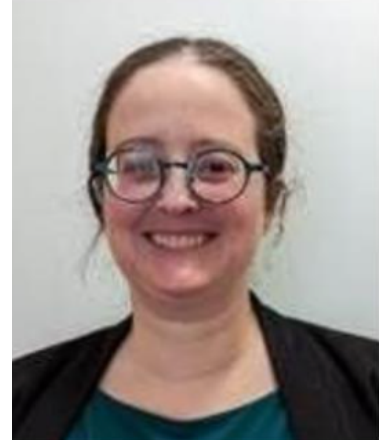
### Newsletter Deadlines

Submissions for the following month must be submitted by the 17th of each month. Send submissions to [newsletter@eastkingstonnh.gov](mailto:newsletter@eastkingstonnh.gov)

## East Kingston's Karen Cumings Named Girl Scout Volunteer of the Month

*Adapted from Carriage Towne News*

It's Girl Scout Cookie season, and that's a gargantuan feat of organization among thousands of volunteers and Girl Scouts to coordinate. One of those outstanding volunteers is East Kingston resident Karen Cumings, leader of Troop 59300 in Kingston and a Community Product Sales Coordinator for Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, the council serving girls across New Hampshire and Vermont. Cumings was named the council's Volunteer of the Month for February.



"Karen has been awesome for us!" said Lauren McFarland, Product and Marketing Specialist for the council. "She stepped up and distributed materials for cookies to (her troops)," noting that Cumings saved many troop leaders from having to drive out to Bedford to get their cookie sale materials and was excited to begin the cookie program.

Cumings said the key to making it work is constant communication with the leaders in her area, which encompasses Plaistow, Atkinson, Hampstead, Newton, Kingston, Danville, Sandown, and Fremont.

Her troop has used cookie proceeds to pay for camporees, trips, and other activities. She wants to make sure that no one is left out of these experiences for lack of funds. Her girls are just now making their own decisions about how to use those funds.

Troop 59300 is a large group of Girl Scouts ranging from kindergarten through sixth grade. They've camped at Pawtuckaway State Park and Camp Seawood in Portsmouth, and enjoy helping their community.

Cumings said she relies heavily on her co-leader Robyn Carroll, and the parents who volunteer to make things work.

Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains said they are proud to have Karen Cumings as part of its team, and to call her Volunteer of the Month.



Read Carriage Towne News's full article, from which this was adapted, at: [www.carriagetownenews.com/community/east-kingston-girl-scout-leader-named-volunteer-of-the-month/article\\_5013e56e-a194-11ed-a85a-9f2883bcd683.html](http://www.carriagetownenews.com/community/east-kingston-girl-scout-leader-named-volunteer-of-the-month/article_5013e56e-a194-11ed-a85a-9f2883bcd683.html)

# Friends of EKPL (FoEKPL) News

by FoEKPL

As we say goodbye to winter and hello to Spring, the Friends group would like to highlight our calendar for the upcoming year. For details, please follow our Facebook Page "Friends of East Kingston Public Library", visit our webpage or email us at [friendsofekpl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofekpl@gmail.com).

## New FoEKPL Board for 2023

Áine Cronin, President

Stacy Friedman, Secretary

Cara Gray, Treasurer

Carol Powers, Used Book Store Director

Nicolette Cutler, Communications Director

## Mark your calendars!

### ♣ The Used Book Store (UBS) at the Pound School

♣

Open Fridays 10am-5pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm.

March Specials:

- **Harlequin Romances** are 10/\$1 on our extensive inventory
  - **Top Shelf Sale:** 3 books for the price of one on all books (hardcover and paper) on the top shelf
  - Half Price Sale: All **Gardening** and **Cookbooks**
- Plus:
- Our shelves are bulging with **Puzzles**. Did you know they are only 50 cents each?
  - **Graphic Novels** - Currently we have many in stock. Don't miss out!

## Landscape/Clean-up day at the Library

This year's annual landscape/clean-up day will be held in the Fall instead of the Spring.

## Book, Bake & Plant Sale @ EKPL

Saturday, May 20th 10am-2pm (rain date: June 3rd)

## \*Holiday Social\*

Saturday, December 2nd 2pm - 4pm (snow date: December 9th)

## ⇒2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates

We would love to have you join us at our upcoming meetings. They are held at the EK Public Library from 5:00pm-6:30pm with a Zoom option.

2023 Q1: Wednesday, April 19th

2023 Q2: Wednesday, July 12th

2023 Q3: Thursday, October 12th

## Charitable Gaming Dates

FoEKPL has eight Charitable Games of Chance dates in 2023. The Friends will receive 35% of profits from Oceanfront Gaming Casino on Hampton Beach. Upcoming dates include:

- April 5th & 6th
- June 3rd & 4th
- August 7th & 8th
- November 3rd & 5th

## 2023 Membership Drive

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023 Friends Membership drive! As we've mentioned before, this is our most important fundraising period. If you would still like to donate, it is not too late! Pledge forms can be found at the library, the Used Book Store, or please send us an email at [friendsofekpl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofekpl@gmail.com).



**Do you love books? Do you have a few hours to spare Friday or Saturday?**

The Pound Used Book Store is looking for more volunteers.

contact: Carol Powers at [carol.jim.powers@comcast.net](mailto:carol.jim.powers@comcast.net)

## **Town of East Kingston Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee Members Wanted**

*by Ron Morales, Chairman Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee*

The East Kingston Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee is seeking interested town residents to serve as members on the Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee. The Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee meets on a quarterly basis to review the past quarters performance metrics and to review action items for the upcoming quarter. . Experience is not required, but an understanding Microsoft Office is a plus.

Any person interested in serving should submit a letter of interest as follows:

Ron Morales, Chairman  
East Kingston Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee  
24 Depot Road  
East Kingston, NH 03827  
Alternatively, email to [rmorales@EASTKINGSTONNH.GOV](mailto:rmorales@EASTKINGSTONNH.GOV)

---

## **Town of East Kingston Trustee of Trust Funds**

*By Ron Morales, Trustee of the Trust Fund*

### **ALTERNATE MEMBERS WANTED**

The East Kingston Trustee of Trust Funds is seeking interested town residents to serve as alternate members on the Trustee of Trust Funds. Alternate members will participate as voting members when a regular member is absent or unable to serve on any matter. Alternate members are encouraged to attend all meetings to keep themselves informed and to familiarize themselves with Trustee procedures; however, this is not required.

The Trustee of Trust Funds meets as required to act on requests for funds from the Capital Reserve and Capital Trust Funds and any other matters that come before the Trustees. Experience is not required, but an understanding of investments is desirable.

Any person interested in serving should submit a letter of interest as follows:

Ron Morales, Trustee  
East Kingston Trustee of Trust Funds  
24 Depot Road  
East Kingston, NH 03827  
Alternatively, email to [rmorales@EASTKINGSTONNH.GOV](mailto:rmorales@EASTKINGSTONNH.GOV)

# EKES School Board Update

by Andy Herum, EKES School Board Member

## Melissa Lyons - Outgoing Chair:

Tiffany DaBrieo and I would like to thank Melissa Lyons for her service to the school and the community of the last 6 years of her time as a School Board Member. Her work not only at the EKES level, but at the Joint Board level will be greatly missed.

## Kingfisher Chronicles:

The EKES students are now releasing a monthly paper called the Kingfisher Chronicles. Between 20-30 kids are involved with the paper and it will be available monthly at Jones General Store and the East Kingston Public Library.

## Meet the Candidates Night:

We will be holding a "Meet the Candidates Night" on March 9th at 5:30PM. Please goto [eks.sau16.org](http://eks.sau16.org) for more information.

Good luck to both Mike Metallo and Kirsten Soroko.

## School Play - Frozen:

Reminder that the school play is open to the community again this year. The play is "Frozen" and will be running March 30th to April 1st.

## School Board Meeting Dates:

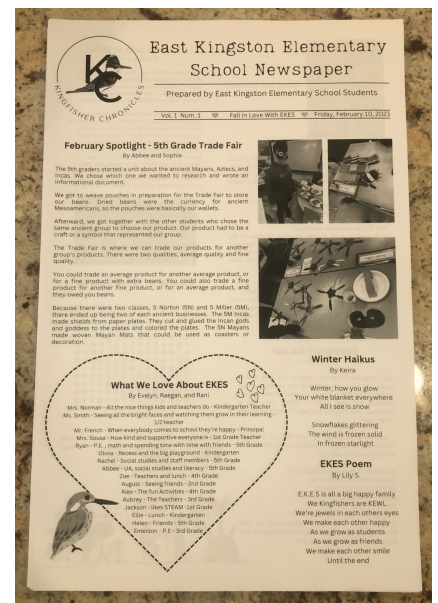
March 15th, April 12th, May 10th. All times at 5:30 in the EKES Library. Meeting times and dates subject to change. Please see the EKES website for the latest information.

# Kingfisher Chronicles

by Abby Sousa, EKES 1st Grade Teacher

East Kingston Elementary School has a new school newspaper called the Kingfisher Chronicles. It is written by third, fourth, and fifth grade students about all of the fun and amazing things happening at EKES. They meet weekly to create this interactive and informative newspaper. They put a lot of hard work into each issue and take great pride in doing an extraordinary job. You can find a new issue each month at the Jones General Store or at the East Kingston Public Library. Our next issue comes out March 10th.

EKES also has a Twitter page where we highlight our dedicated staff members, the excellent work students are doing, and other exciting things happening at EKES. Follow us @EKESCommunity.



---

# Important Dates

## Town Voting:

- **Tuesday, March 14th @ 8:00am - 7:00pm**
  - Multi-Purpose Room at the East Kingston Elementary School, 5 Andrews Lane, East Kingston.
  
- **March 6th @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
  - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the Town offices. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on [eknh.org/selectmen](http://eknh.org/selectmen).
- **March 13th @ 5:00pm - East Kingston Conservation Commission**
  - In-Person. Meetings will be held at the Town Offices. More information can be found at [www.eknh.org/conservation-commission](http://www.eknh.org/conservation-commission).
- **March 15th @ 5:30pm - EKES School Board Meeting**
  - In Person. Meeting will be held in the EKES Library. More information can be found at [eks.sau16.org](http://eks.sau16.org).
- **March 16th @ 7:00pm - Planning Board Meeting**
  - In Person. Meetings are held at the Pound School. More information can be found at [www.eknh.org/planning-board](http://www.eknh.org/planning-board).
- **March 20th @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
  - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the Town offices. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on [eknh.org/selectmen](http://eknh.org/selectmen).
- **March 23rd @ 7:00pm - Zoning Board**
  - In Person. Meetings are held at the Pound School. More information can be found at [www.eknh.org/zoning-board-adjustment](http://www.eknh.org/zoning-board-adjustment).
- **March 27th @ 5pm - EKPL Board of Trustees**
  - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the East Kingston Public Library. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on [eastkingstonlibrary.org](http://eastkingstonlibrary.org).

# VOTING IN EAST KINGSTON



**VOTING DAY:  
March 14, 2023**

**8am - 7pm**

East Kingston Elementary School  
5 Andrews Lane, East Kingston, NH



# Deliberative Sessions 2023

On February 4th, 2023, the town of East Kingston held its annual Deliberative Session in the Multi-Purpose room of the East Kingston Elementary School.

The Deliberative Session comes first in our voting process, called SB2. Deliberative Sessions are when the voters can discuss the details of the newly proposed budget for the upcoming year as well as make amendments to budgets and warrant articles.

Both Deliberative Sessions were recorded. You can view them here:

Town Session:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/ARgv-OG09aA?feature=share>

School Session:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/IVQVrmbXPLw?feature=share>

Materials presented at both sessions can be found at:

[www.eknh.org](http://www.eknh.org)

[www.sau16.org/budgets-elections-76930aaf](http://www.sau16.org/budgets-elections-76930aaf)

**and are available in hardcopy at the East Kingston Public Library**

## RESULTS:

At the town, elementary school, and regional deliberative sessions, all warrant articles and budgets passed through to the ballot as is with no amendments.

---

# Absentee Ballots and Voter Registration

*by Barbara Clark, Town Clerk*

Absentee ballots for the March 14, 2023, Town election are now available in the Town Clerk's Office.

An application for an absentee ballot may be transmitted by facsimile or email to the town clerk. Our office will accept completed absentee ballot requests in person by the voter until 5:00 pm the day before an election or until 5:00 pm on Election Day (March 14, 2023) if received through the mail.

If a family member drops off an absentee ballot with the town clerk, an Absentee Ballot Return Form must be completed by the person returning the absentee ballot.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Town Clerk's Office at (603) 642-8794, x 2. March 3, 2023, is the last day for the town clerk to accept voter registration applications until Election Day.

Town Election is scheduled for March 14, 2023, at East Kingston Elementary School. Polls open at 8:00 am and close at 7:00 pm.

# CANDIDATES FOR EAST KINGSTON

## TOWN POSITIONS

<u>OPEN POSITION</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>
SELECTMEN	JOSEPH CACCIATORE
TRUSTEE OF THE CEMETERY	DONALD JAMES CLARK
TRUSTEE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY (vote 2)	NANCY PARKER SARAH COURCHESNE
TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND	PAULA NEWCOMB

## SCHOOL POSITIONS

<u>OPEN POSITION</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>
SCHOOL BOARD (vote 1)	KIRSTEN SOROKO MICHAEL METALLO
TREASURER	THOMAS LARSON

# CANDIDATES FOR EAST KINGSTON

By Ron Morales, trustee of the Trust Fund

There is only one contested race on the ballot this year: School Board Member. You can read more about each candidate below. They are also both holding open hours at the East Kingston Public Library:

**Kirsten Soroko: March 4th 9am - 10am**  
**Michael Metallo: March 11th 10am - 11am**

---

## Michael Metallo

My name is Mike Metallo and I am running for East Kingston Elementary School Board to return the focus of EKES on academic excellence, while maintaining or reducing the cost per student. As a community, we face unique challenges of lost learning years due to the COVID emergency, paired with inflating costs of operations, putting pressure on EKES families, teachers, administrators and taxpayers alike. As a father and East Kingston resident, I understand the frustration yet am continually inspired by the resilience and optimism of our community, which is motivating me to campaign for this position.



Originally from the Midwest, I chose East Kingston in 2016 with my wife Katie (a Kensington native) and 3 sons: Matty (3rd Grade), Jackson (1st Grade) and Jonny (1st Grade). My professional career consists of 16+ years of shepherding companies through complex finance events such as IPOs, bankruptcies and strategic market launches. I understand the fortitude required to unlock excellence. When I am not working, I am a volunteer at my church, leading youth group for 5th and 6th graders.

I greatly appreciate your support and humbly ask for your vote on March 14th. I welcome any and all questions each of you may have. Please feel empowered to reach out to me at [mike4EKES@gmail.com](mailto:mike4EKES@gmail.com).

Together, we will strengthen EKES! I would be honored to serve each of you!  
Mike Metallo

# Kirsten Soroko

CAGS- Educational Leadership-  
Southern New Hampshire University  
M.Ed- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment-  
Lesley University  
B.S.- Elementary Education-Colby-Sawyer College

Experienced Educator- K-8 certificate (NH)  
Curriculum Administration K-12 (NH)  
Principal Certification K-12 (NH)



## Key Focus:

- I will be your bridge in understanding education initiatives.
- I will communicate with clarity about competency-based education.
- I will advocate for all learners (students, teachers, leadership, parents).
- I will make decisions that are reasonable and responsive.

## Who am I?

My name is Kirsten Soroko. I have lived with my husband, Matt, 3 children, and dog, LuLu Rose in East Kingston since 2021. We moved to East Kingston specifically for the elementary school learning experience for our daughter who is currently in first grade. Becoming engaged with the community was important to our family and what a heartfelt welcome we have received! I am so grateful for those who have genuinely embraced us. This is why I am running for school board. I feel strongly that my skill as a school leader, understanding of competency-based education, researched-based instructional pedagogy, and understanding educational initiatives is something I can offer to our community.

## Why am I qualified?

After many years of teaching in K-8 settings, I am currently the Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. Pinkerton Academy is an independent school contracting with 7 sending town districts. Pinkerton serves over 3,200 students with 400 faculty and sta. As the Lead Instructional/Curriculum Coach for Pinkerton, I train and coach 9 “Lead Teachers” in research-based educational theory and instructional practice that are aligned to student achievement. With this dynamic team, we design and facilitate the professional learning sessions for the school community. These trainings are designed to enhance understanding and move faculty and staff to an actionable and refinement stage of teaching and learning. Working collaboratively with many leadership teams and schools across New Hampshire, I have strategically designed plans for individual teachers, coached and consulted school leaders, and analyzed data for purposeful instruction and assessment.

## Why is this important?

I would like to offer some clarity. Our students at EKES and in SAU 16 are our future community members. The need for building skills such as critical thinking, communication, and decision making are necessary. With the introduction of ChatGPT and the push for Career and College ready pathways, our students are in the most intense and stimulating times in our history. How we work with these students, provide opportunities, challenge growth, and expect all students to learn will not only strengthen the community, but commit us to put learning first, regardless of our age. I truly understand and have a passion for teaching and learning. I would like to share this passion with our community.

I welcome conversations with you. There will be 2 discussions open to folks. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to chat further at [kirstensoroko@gmail.com](mailto:kirstensoroko@gmail.com).

## Dates:

EKES- March 9 at 5:30 pm.  
East Kingston Public Library- March 4 at 9 am

---

***Bios were written and submitted by the respective candidates.***

# On The Hot Seat:

## an explanation for two of the biggest items on the ballot:

*You can find more information on all warrant articles at the Library or on the town website: [eknh.org](http://eknh.org)*

---

### Warrant #16

*by Julie Ostopchuk, East Kingston Conservation Commission*

As many are aware, The EK Conservation Commission has been working on a project to restore the riverbank on the Powwow. This is a town-owned parcel that is accessed at the end of Troll Way, off of Route 107A. It's an area familiar to kayakers and fishing enthusiasts as well as those just seeking to cool off on a hot summer day.

East Kingston has limited public access to the Powwow pond, and this restoration project has been engineered to create an appealing family recreation area, with retaining structures to prevent future erosion. The Defensible Space Theory has shown that people care for and protect spaces that they feel invested in. Removing decaying trees and adding attractive native planting such as blueberries, butterfly weed, and willows, adding stairway access to the pond, and creating a tribute/memorial brick patio will create aesthetic appeal and easier access.

The project was put out for public bid, but only received one response at a cost that was higher than anticipated. It is the wish of the Conservation Commission to keep costs as low as possible, and we will be requesting more contractors to bid on a second bid request so we may have comparisons.

- Warrant Article #16 requests up to \$115,000 bond for this project. Though we hope the future bids will be significantly lower, in the event that they are not, we're requesting approval of this amount to see this project to completion.
- Cost to residents = 29 cents per thousand in property tax valuation, which is \$2.30 per year for households with \$7,000 annual tax valuation.

For less than the cost of a dozen eggs per household per year, we can create a beautiful oasis for residents that will last for generations. For all detailed information on this project and the warrant article, please visit the East Kingston Conservation Commission section of the town's website at: [www.eknh.org/conservation-commission/pages/powwow-bank-restoration](http://www.eknh.org/conservation-commission/pages/powwow-bank-restoration)

If you are a contractor who would like to contribute your services to this project, please contact Committee Chair Dennis Quintal at [d.quintal.pe@myfairpoint.net](mailto:d.quintal.pe@myfairpoint.net)



# Warrant #4

At the town Deliberative Session February 4, 2023, East Kingston voters approved, by 39-2, a \$4 million bond warrant article to acquire conservation easements over the next 20 years. Prior to the Public Hearing and Deliberative Session, the town's Select Board had also voted, 3-0, to approve the warrant article.

The proposed conservation bond will appear as Article 4 on the East Kingston town ballot Tuesday, March 14.

A similar warrant article 20 years ago has helped fund 16 East Kingston conservation easements, the most recent being Monahan Farm, a century-old pick-your-own berry farm and vegetable farm stand at the intersection of U.S. Routes 107 and 108.

Dennis Quintal, East Kingston Conservation Commission (EKCC) chair, said that funds from the 2003 East Kingston Conservation Fund have protected 600 acres of land and prevented the addition of another 128 houses in East Kingston.

For more details, go to [eknh.org/conservation-commission](http://eknh.org/conservation-commission)

---

## An explanation of Warrant Article 4 by Joe Cacciatore, Board of Selectmen

To the voters of East Kingston:

Land Protection Warrant Article.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) for the acquisition of conservation easements or open space lands by the Town, all for permanent protection of appropriate undeveloped land in the Town of East Kingston; four million dollars (\$4,000,000) to be raised through bonds or notes in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33: et seq., as amended) to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project.

Having bonding authority in hand will enable the Town to respond in a more timely manner when a landowner who wishes to protect their property from future development comes forward with a proposal to put a conservation easement on their property, and also provides leverage when applying for matching grants from State or Federal sources to aid in the acquisition of easements. We need to stress that bonds or notes would be acquired only on an as needed basis when a specific parcel is proposed for protection and we along with the Conservation Commission feel that it would be in the best interest of the Town to protect any given parcel from development.

**This Land Protection Warrant is a tool to protect our growth rate.** The public should be aware if our population continues to grow our Fire, Police and Road Agent budgets will increase which will become a burden on the residents in taxes.

If anyone has questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

Joseph M Cacciatore  
Chairman Board of Selectmen  
East Kingston