

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2009
7:00pm**

In Attendance: Michael Brogna, Miles Sinclair, Pamela Hamel (AA)

**Absent: Kyle Andrews
Audience Members Present**

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:08pm and read the appointments and announcements.

Ed Cherian, New England director of Iberdrola Renewables gave a power point presentation on wind power and a possible wind farm on Tenney and Fletcher Mts. in Groton. Iberdrola Renewables is the largest wind power company in the world. Their plan is to build and keep wind farms, not sell them off to other companies. They completed NH's first commercial wind farm in October, 2008, in Lempster. Mr. Cherian said Groton has excellent wind resources, location and existing log roads and clearings. Currently there are 3 met towers on Tenney Mt. and 2 proposed for Fletcher Mt. Completed project studies include wetland and property surveys, digital topography, breeding birds and raptor migration. Studies underway/planned include sound, bat acoustical detection, visual assessment as well as others. The NH Site Evaluation Committee application process is scheduled to begin in December. If begun at that time, they could have approval by September 2010, with construction beginning late 2010. It takes 8 or 9 months from first shovel turn to full operation. Although this project would be SEC regulated, the views of the Town are very important to the company. They would like to host an open house/meeting sometime in October, and will be offering scheduled tours of the Lempster project for those interested. There is still much work to be done including a tax agreement with the town. The DES website has copies of their agreement with the Town of Lempster for that project.

Mike read the minutes of the July 28 Selectmen's meeting. As Miles was not present at that meeting and Kyle is not present tonight, **Mike made a motion to table accepting the minutes until Kyle is present, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Miles reported that Kyle had phoned Pam to let her know he would be unable to attend this evening's meeting. Miles also wanted the audience to know that the affairs of the town are upmost on his mind and he would have been at last week's meeting but was away on vacation with his family. Concerning last's week's request by the GRC to have a BYOB dance where minors would be present, his position on that has not changed. He believes these events should be for 21 and over and will not support having minors there.

The school has not gotten back to the Board about the discrepancy on the student enrollment list. Pam will be in touch with them this week.

Mike mentioned that the previous evening there was a public hearing for a special exception for a boat storage area for Fredrick Sewall and Miles Friend. The ZBA has not yet made a ruling on this case. They will visit the site on August 24 at 6:00 pm with a meeting to follow.

Mike made a motion to sign the letter to Mr. Ethier explaining why the Board cannot sign his Intent to Excavate and outlining the steps necessary for him to be in compliance, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike read the Road Agent's response to the Leone's request concerning the culverts that were replaced on North Groton Road. **Mike made a motion to draft a cover letter to Leones to include with the response, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike read the Health Officer's response to Pam Yinger's concerns over the property behind her, Map 5 Lot 46:

- Many boats scattered about-some in disrepair, some look abandoned, some wrapped for storage
- Appears to be commercial storage
- Large pile of assorted demo-tires, boat pieces, other discarded junk which exceeds minimum junkyard amounts
- Discarded boats exceed junkyard levels also
- Large steel frame for a building
- Observed no health or environmental violations

Mike made a motion to forward the owner's name and map and lot number to the Junkyard Dog for investigation into possible junkyard regulation violations, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike reported that Mr. Roberti has given the public permission to visit the site with the ZBA on the 24th. However, this is not a public hearing and the ZBA does not have to take comment from the public. Lou Lieto expressed that what he saw at the site presents some ambiguity over what was said at last night's meeting. He would like to know what actions the Selectboard can take in this situation of an obvious flagrant disregard of the town's ordinances. Mike replied that normally they try to work with property owners to come into compliance. Mr. Lieto asked the Board to consider the magnitude of this violation and the circumstances involved. Chuck Stata reported that when speaking with Mr. Roberti after the Public Hearing, Mr. Roberti confirmed that he remembered applying for a building permit in 2006 and having it denied because a special exception was needed. He also recalls speaking with Mr. Stata (then Chairman of the Zoning Board) about the process to secure a special exception. The Board will be meeting to discuss this issue.

Mr. Sutton expressed concern over the danger of the egress from that driveway, the character of the petitioner, and that fact that the building is in a flood zone. Mike responded that the road is a state road thus the state has jurisdiction, and the town's flood ordinance would regulate the building. If a special exception is granted, there is a 30 day appeal period. If the property is evaluated as a junkyard, a special exception would be needed for that as well.

Mike made a motion to sign the BYOB permit for the GRC's dance. As the two Board members present are not in agreement over whether or not minors should be allowed at this event Miles made a motion to table this until Kyle can be present, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

In an email, Louise Traunstein from the Groton Historical Society informed the Board that Ernie Blood has once again offered to preserve some town records at no cost to the town. Because state

statute does not allow the town to have the records loaned to a third party for preservation, **Miles made a motion to take the steps necessary to preserve town records by contacting Mr. Blood directly and to make copies available to the Historical Society, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike made a motion to support the Historical Society's request to use the Town Hall for their ham and bean supper on August 15, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Miles made a motion to sign the building permit for Goslin, Map 5 Lot 64, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Miles made a motion to sign the building permit for Hamel, Map 2 Lot 25, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Miles reported that LGC is potentially looking to challenge the state's shifting of 10% of their financial responsibility toward the retirement system to the municipalities over the next 2 years. They have encouraged all contributors to include a letter of payment under protest with each payment. This letter also charges NHRS to be accountable for the additional monies received should the court rule in LGC's favor. **Miles made a motion to sign the payment under protest letter, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Map 6 Lot 13, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion to sign the amended septic plans for Kuder, Map 6, Lot 22, Sub lot 3, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

The Board would like to set up a work session with the Police Chief and Fire Chief to get their input on the Emergency Operations Procedures.

Miles would like to set up a work session with the Administrative Assistant to address some internal issues.

Chuck Stata reported that the Cannon septic system was installed and signed off on by DES on site. This is why the plans never came before the Board.

Jimmy Albert would like to see the Library building turned into a rec hall. Mike replied that the building is under the care and responsibility of the Library Trustees. They can forward his request to them. However, they have met with FEMA to discuss securing a grant to move the building out of the flood way.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18pm, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant