

**Town of Groton  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2010  
7:00pm**

**In Attendance: Miles Sinclair, Kyle Andrews, Christina McClay, Pamela Hamel (AA)**

**Audience Members Present**

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and read the appointments and announcements.

**Miles made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

In an email, Town auditor John Lyford states that the Library appropriation on the MS-5 is recorded under account number 4912, which is a transfer to special revenue funds. **Kyle made a motion to sign the 2009 MS-5, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Miles read the Board's letter of response to Groton Historical Society (GHS) President Roland Bixby, reaffirming their position on any matters concerning the Veteran's Monument. **Christina made a motion to sign the letter to Roland Bixby and copy it to the GHS, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

In an email, Steve Lindsey states that Bob Whitmore and Dave Demers now recommend that the Veteran's Monument be pinned to the base, and he assured the Board that it would be.

The GHS has invited the Board to the Memorial Day Veteran's Monument Dedication which will take place on Sunday, May 30 at 2:00pm. They would like permission to use the sound system for the ceremony and fly a flag with all of the military insignias under the current flag. **Miles made a motion to approve both requests, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Several months ago the Board made the decision to give Chief White his duty weapon upon his retirement as Groton Chief of Police. It was brought to their attention by Jimmy Albert that they did not have the authority to do this. The Board decided to offer to sell the weapon to the Chief, and after researching fair values, agreed upon a value of \$300. Chief White has accepted this offer and submitted a check for the weapon. **Miles made a motion to sign the bill of sale, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board received some correspondence from Elizabeth McNaughten, Land Agent for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department reiterating that the Town has jurisdiction over Spectacle Pond Road and Boat Landing. They have the authority to create and enforce parking rules but cannot hinder use. Dave Leone presented the Board with copies of the original documents for the highway layout to Spectacle Pond. Pam will make copies and return the file to Mr. Leone. The Board will look at the specs at the landing and along the roadway, and put together a proposal for the Town. They will take into consideration the need for emergency vehicles to access the site as well as sufficient area for turning around with a boat trailer.

The Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) will be having a public hearing regarding the proposed Groton Wind Farm. Date and location are not yet determined. The law requires a 30 day notice be given.

Miles read the letter of response to Mr. Wetterer's email complaining about the Groton Wind Project. This is a general response letter which will be sent to others who might submit letters of complaint, letting them know that the Board has received their correspondence and directing them to contact the SEC with their concerns. **Kyle made a motion to sign the letter to Mr. Wetterer, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles made a motion to sign the All-Ways Accessible service contract for the elevator, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** All-Ways Accessible has submitted a complete list of services covered by the contract.

Miles conducted a survey on Town roads, marking any trees larger than 6 inches in diameter in the Town Right of Way that were clearly dead, rotted, or in poor condition and situated in such a way that if they were to fall they could fall towards the road. He identified 109 trees in this category. After reviewing the Statute he believes the Board has the authority to take down these trees once they inform the abutter. If a tree poses an imminent danger they have the authority to take it down prior to informing the abutter. They can also require the electric company to remove any trees that pose a threat to wires. Miles feels he can take care of most of the trees himself, and he would not attempt to remove any trees that he did not feel comfortable taking care of. Most of these trees are in wooded/forested areas. As far as liability is concerned, he has insurance and would not attempt to take down any tree that he did not feel comfortable with and would be willing to sign a waiver if necessary. Christina expressed some concern over whether or not sending letters out now could possibly be construed as admitting liability for something that might happen in the future. The ensuing discussion included acting in good faith by trying to take care of the apparent problems, letting the state know, and sending out a general letter to any potential abutters.

Kyle and Christina would like to think about this for another week. **Miles made a motion to table this, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Instead of paying \$188 for a newspaper ad for a Part-Time officer, Chief Dickerson would like to post it on the Town's website, the LGC website, in the Police Academy monthly newsletter, at his office, and have the Sheriff's Department fax it to the Police Departments in the county.

The Board asked the Chief to clarify former Chief White's status with the department. He will have an answer for them by next week.

The Attorney for Iberdrola Renewables has offered to meet with the Board to discuss the decommissioning agreement. The Board has not changed their position on this guarantee. They have 2 questions to ask the attorney:

1. Is Iberdrola too big to fail?
2. What happens to the parent guarantee if they go bankrupt?

The Board is willing to meet with the attorney and Ed Cherian. Kyle suggested that if Iberdrola's attorney is present then the Town's attorney should be present as well. Pam will set up a meeting.

The Board has received one letter of interest for the vacant treasurer's position. Deadline to submit is May 12. They Board would like Pam to schedule interviews for Tuesday, May 18 beginning at 6:00pm.

The Groton Recreation Committee (GRC) made the following requests:

- To use the Town Garage for their Spring into Summer dance on June 26 from 7-11pm. This will not be a BYOB dance.
- To hold an Antique Tractor, Farm Equipment, Parts and Engines Show and Swap Meet at the Everett Hobart Memorial Park in September.

**Miles made a motion to grant their request, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Kyle made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for Merrill, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Kyle made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for SPNHF, Map 6 Lot 13, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles made a motion to sign the Spring 2010 Tax Warrant, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Administrative Assistant will be taking the following days off: Friday, May 21 and 28, Thursday and Friday June 3 and 4.

The Board has not heard any news from the cell tower company that approached them about a year ago. The Town was receptive to the idea of having a tower and passed the necessary warrant articles. At this time the ball is in the company's court.

**Miles made a motion to adjourn at 8:34pm, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Hamel  
Administrative Assistant