

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2010
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Jeanie Forrester, candidate for New Hampshire State Senate District two, introduced herself to the Board and audience. Ms. Forrester is running for Senate because she sees the negative impact of decisions made in Concord, such as the down shifting of retirement costs and reductions in revenue sharing, are having on communities and small businesses. She believes in limited government, fiscal restraint, personal responsibility and local control.

Miles made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles followed up on the correspondence the Board received last week regarding the removal of hazardous trees in the Town's right of way (ROW). The tree Ms. Hutchins pointed out is in the Town's ROW and clearly dead. Miles will continue to contact property owners and any others that have concerns. The Board will also review the statutes to determine if they should wait 30 days from date of notification before commencing with the cutting.

Miles reported that he did not find a quick easy answer regarding bridges on Class VI roads. As the current edition of A Hard Road to Travel does not address the issue, he will need to research the statutes. Dave Leone said he believes his older edition of A Hard Road to Travel does address this. He will look it up and inform the Board.

The Administrative Assistant spoke with attorney Christine Filmore from the Local Government Center (LGC) regarding using the Treasurer as a backup to do payroll when she is away. LGC does not see any problem or conflict with this as long as it is the Board of Selectmen who is approving all expenditures. **Miles made a motion to allow Darlene Andrews to act in Pam's absence for payroll purposes, Christina 2nd, so voted, Kyle abstaining.**

Miles read the letter concerning the issue of Mr. Robertie stockpiling tires on the Sewall lot. **Christina made a motion to sign the letters to Mr. Sewall and Mr. Robertie, Kyle 2nd, so voted.** These letters will be sent via certified mail.

The Board would like to look at the previous signatory documents regarding specific authorizations for each signer on the Town's various accounts before signing the new signatory cards. **Miles made a motion to table this until next week, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

In their agreement with the Town, Iberdrola Renewables has conceded to retain some language they were originally looking to strike under section 14.3.2 regarding decommissioning. Discussions concerning financial surety for decommissioning are ongoing. The Company has offered a parent guaranty which the Town of Lempster accepted. The Board has been asking for a bond, letter of credit or cash for this guaranty. The Company is not receptive to this but instead has offered to include a trigger mechanism in the guaranty that would require them to issue a bond, letter of credit or a new guaranty from a party rated by S&P and /or Moody's to have a corporate issuer rating of BBB or better if the Company's bond rating falls below BBB (which is 2 notches above junk). More research will need to be done regarding the rating system. The Board would like Pam to contact the Town's auditor to inquire whether or not he can advise them in this area. If he is

unable to, she will contact the Town's attorney. The portion of this proposal allowing for a new guaranty from a separate party is not something that was discussed with Ed Cherian during their last work session. However, they have asked Mr. Cherian to find out how much a \$2,000,000 bond would cost, and if the company would consider a proposal to put aside a specific sum of money each year for decommissioning.

Chuck Stata suggested that by taking out an insurance policy for decommissioning the company could avoid adding additional costs to the bottom line of the project.

Miles attended the Site Evaluation Committee's (SEC) prehearing conference for the Wind Farm on June 7. A site visit is planned for Monday, June 28 at 1:00pm. Miles will confirm with Ed Cherian how many people from the general public they will be able to accommodate. The Board is encouraging Town resident's to visit the SEC's website to follow the permitting process, and submit letters voicing their opinions, concerns, etc., regarding the project. A link to the SEC website can be found on the Groton Wind page of the Town's website.

Kyle made a motion to approve the Rogers building permit for a dog kennel, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to approve the building permit for Cole, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Kyle noted that an additional structure has recently been built on the property. The Board would like Pam to contact Mr. Cole to clarify the size of this structure to determine whether or not another building permit is required.

Junkyard Dog Ken Knowlton has made some recommendations on how the Board can proceed with the various junkyard violations/violators he has been working with. Several property owners have been working to clean up their properties but there are three who have not responded. Mr. Knowlton feels these property owners should receive a letter from the Town giving them thirty (30) days to comply or have the matter turned over to the Town's attorney for further action. The remaining property owners will receive a letter which includes Mr. Knowlton's latest progress report. **Miles made a motion to send a letter giving Tolman, Kolomick and Newton thirty (30) days to comply, and follow the Junkyard Dog's recommendations for the remaining properties, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Betty Smolinsky expressed her opinion that the Board should not be mentioning the names of individuals in their meetings unless someone specifically asks. The Board explained that this information is public.

The Newfound School District Budget Committee has requested to use the Town Hall for their Tuesday, July 6th meeting. **Miles made a motion to forgo the July 6 Selectmen's meeting as the Administrative Assistant will be away on vacation, Christina 2nd, so vote. Kyle made a motion to allow the Newfound School District Budget Committee use of the Town Hall on July 6 for their meeting, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Rego and Hutchin's junkyard permit renewals are scheduled for July 1st. Pam will review the Town's ordinance to make sure their paperwork is in order prior to putting this on the agenda.

The Groton Recreation Committee will be meeting Thursday, June 10 at 10:00am. Pam Yinger will ask the committee members if they would like any of the lilac bushes the Town received for participating in New Hampshire the Beautiful road side clean up.

Dave Leone asked if the Town contacts Dig Safe before commencing with any digging. Pam will confirm with Road Agent Glen Hansen. Mr. Leone also inquired about whether or not the Town has a written agreement with the Road Agent stating that the Town is not liable for the repairs on his personal equipment when he uses it for the Town. Currently, Glen is reimbursed for fuel only. Miles responded that the Board had this conversation several months ago and there are residents who feel that the town should pay for some repairs. However, they have not adopted this policy. Pam recalls receiving a certificate of insurance for Glen but not an agreement regarding repairs.

Mr. Leone said he was approached by someone who had heard there was a wetlands violation on his property. There is no violation on his property but he has heard of another possible wetlands violation. He would like to know the status of this and whether or not the Conservation Commission is aware of it. Pam reported that the Town had filed a complaint about a possible violation with the Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the Conservation Commission is aware of this. She will contact DES this week to get an update.

Mr. Leone submitted some maps representing the building of North Groton Road from Halls Brook Road up to the crest of the hill toward Route 118. The Board will have copies made for the Town's files.

Miles made a motion to go into non public session at 8:21pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to return to public session at 8:45pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to adjourn at 8:46pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant