

**Town of Groton  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2010  
7:00pm**

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

**Absent: Kyle Andrews**

**Audience Members Present**

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. **Miles made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Updates:**

Miles is continuing his research regarding the replacement of bridges on Class VI roads. At this time he is looking to hear back from Dave Leone who believes his copy of A Hard Road to Travel addresses this issue.

Fairpoint has conceded that the calls being made from the Transfer Station phone have not been correctly logged. The company will be issuing a credit for all additional fees charged to date.

**Old Business:**

After reviewing the statutes regarding cutting trees in the Town's right of way, the Board has agreed to wait the 30 day appeal period time before commencing with cutting.

Former Selectman Mike Brogna recently submitted a letter to the editor that was published in last week's Record Enterprise. In the letter Mr. Brogna gives some clearly erroneous information regarding the pending cutting of hazardous trees. He incorrectly asserts that the Board has made a decision to cut **all** trees in the Town's right of way, and he further contends that they are wasting tax payer's money with this. Christina and Miles concur that responding with a letter to the editor is not profitable and will just become a back and forth. It is best to take care of this in house at a Selectmen's meeting, having the minutes of the meeting reflect their response. Jo O'Connor addressed the inaccuracy of Mr. Brogna's comments in her Talk of the Towns column. Miles pointed out that Mr. Brogna had attended one of the selectmen's meetings when this issue was first discussed, thus he heard firsthand that the intention of the Board was to remove only those trees that posed a safety hazard. The total number of trees marked for removal is approximately 130. The town did a mass mailing to all property owners who have property on Town owned and maintained roads letting them know of their intentions. Mr. Brogna received one of these letters. The cost thus far for this project is the cost of postage. As there is no money set aside in the budget for hazardous tree removal Miles has offered to remove all the trees that he feels comfortable with at his own expense. John Faucher is still willing to volunteer his time to look at the trees that have been marked and any others that might possibly need to be removed. Christina's husband was in this business for several years. She will ask him if he is willing to help. The

Board is not rushing into beginning this work and they are open to receiving help from anyone who has expertise in this area.

**Miles made a motion to table signing the signatory cards until next week when Kyle will be at the meeting, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

In response to Groton Wind LLC's proposal for a decommissioning guarantee the Town's attorney is doing some research on corporate bond rating as the town's auditor did not feel he had sufficient expertise in this area to make a recommendation. In the meantime the Board is waiting to hear back from Ed Cherian regarding their questions about the actual cost of a \$2,000,000 bond and a savings plan for decommissioning.

The site visit for the Groton Wind project which is scheduled for Monday, June 28, is open to the public but with limitations. Access to the site is via logging roads and requires a 4x4. The number of vehicles depends upon the road conditions that day. Miles is planning to attend and has offered to take a few people with him in his vehicle. He reminded the audience that this visit is primarily for the benefit of the Site Evaluation Committee who will not be taking public comment at that time.

The Newfound School District Budget Committee has requested to change their meeting date from July 6 to July 14. **Miles made a motion to allow the Budget Committee to use the Town Hall on Wednesday, July 14 at 7:00pm for their meeting, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Three locations for hanging the Veteran's Plaque were presented to the audience for their consideration and vote:

- In the hallway between the lights
- On the left side of the far wall in the large meeting room
- Inside the front door where the bulletin board is currently hanging

The audience voted to hang the plaque in the hallway between the lights. Miles will take care of hanging it.

The Board recently received a letter from Cindy Williams regarding the Spectacle Pond landing area. In it she refers to some wording in a deed which raises some additional concerns over who has jurisdiction of the landing area. The Board would like to secure a copy of this deed and any other paperwork that the State might have in order to have a better understanding of the history of the landing area and who has jurisdiction. **Miles made a motion to do additional research to determine the jurisdiction over the area, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** Christina will contact Elizabeth McNaughten, Land Agent for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, and Pam will contact Cindy Williams.

The Board received a copy of a letter the Department of Environmental Services sent out regarding a possible wetlands violation which was reported by the Town a few weeks ago. The property owner has 20 days to respond to the State.

Road Agent Glen Hansen spoke with Dig Safe this week and they told him a Dig Safe number is needed "whenever there is disturbance of the ground". This includes ditching work. Glen has a Dig

Safe number for the ditching work on North Groton Road. The Administrative Assistant has created a Dig Safe notification record for the Town's files.

Miles read the agreement for use of personal equipment submitted by Glen Hansen. The Board accepts this agreement. Mr. Leone said it satisfies his concerns.

State Statute requires the owners/operators of an automotive recycling yard or vehicle junk yard to include with their renewal application a certification of compliance with best management practices established by the Department of Environmental Services for the automobile salvage industry. The Administrative Assistant has prepared a packet that includes a compliance manual/self-audit checklist and a compliance certificate for junkyard license renewal applicants Rego and Hutchins. **Christina made a motion to send the compliance certificate, manual and a cover letter to junkyard renewal applicants, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### **New Business**

**Christina made a motion to sign the Building Permit for Ron Foley, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board discussed continuing the use of the annual inventory. The inventory is used for the following:

1. Dog ownership information
2. Triggers the assessor for new construction and improvements
3. Alerts the Board to situations where people may have built without permit

Other communities get assessment information from more stringent building permit guidelines. The cost to send out and process inventories is about \$500 a year. The income generated from either the information contained in the inventory or the penalty assessed for not submitting it by April 15 is at least five (5) times that amount.

**Miles made a motion to table this until next week in order to give Kyle the opportunity to comment, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Christina made a motion to grant the Groton Recreation Committee's request for \$125 from their revolving fund to pay the DJ and buy food for the Spring into Summer Event, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Green Acre Woodlands, Map 1 Lots 29&33, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

FEMA will be reimbursing the Town \$1,391.57 for money expended when the Town Shelter was opened in February. **Miles made a motion to sign the FEMA Reimbursement Application, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Dick Clancy addressed the Board regarding the intersection of Blanchette Lane and North Groton Road. In 2007 several residents signed a petition to reopen the Y at the junction of these two roads as the lack of visibility presents a safety hazard. Also, Mr. Clancy's sister, Francis Rukus, had expressed concern that the road as it is now was encroaching upon her lot. At that time former selectmen Dave Leone and Mike Brogna visited the site and determined that a survey needed to be done to resolve the

issue. Mr. Clancy had the survey done by Alan Barnard in December of 2007 but did not submit the results to the Town. He has now provided a copy of the portion of the survey that pertains to this issue and encouraged the Board to contact Alan Barnard to discuss his findings. He also gave a brief history of the circumstances surrounding the removal of the Y approximately 40 years ago. Should the Y be reopened it would come onto what is now Rod Peverley's front yard. Mr. Peverley would like to eliminate the issue of safety but does not want to create a problem with his yard. His deed does not specify measurements, stating only that his property goes 'to the road'. He takes that to mean the current location of the road. He is willing to trim some of the trees to improve visibility and also suggested mounting a mirror across the street in order to see the blind spot. Both Mr. Peverley and Mr. Clancy are willing to provide copies of their deeds to the Board. **Miles made a motion to refer this issue to the Road Agent for his recommendations to the Board about how they can best immediately address any safety concerns, and to do further research as necessary in an attempt to make a determination on the contested issue of the Y in the road, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

State Statute requires that the Town Clerk, between June 1 and June 20, provide to the Board a list of all people who have not registered their dogs. There are 3 residents and a total of 6 dogs that have not been registered. Within twenty days of June 20 the Board of Selectmen shall sign a warrant authorizing the Animal Control Officer (ACO) to issue Civil Forfeiture notices to the people who have not complied with the law. The payment of the Civil Forfeiture is \$25 per dog and also requires that the dog(s) be registered at the time the forfeiture is paid. Should they choose not to pay the forfeiture notice it is the ACO's intention to file a complaint in district court. Residents have until the warrant is signed to register their dog and avoid the Civil Forfeiture notice.

Alan Barnard has loaned his copy of the Historical Research and Perambulation Survey for the boundary between Plymouth and Groton that was last done in 1998. **Miles made a motion to expend funds needed (approximately \$12) to make color copies of photos of the monuments taken for this survey marking the boundary between Plymouth and Groton, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Dave Leone asked about the material stockpiled at the end of Old Rumney Road. This material was purchased with FEMA Hazard Mitigation Funds which the Town received to repair washout damage from the heavy rains the summer of 2008.

**Miles made a motion to go into non public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 8:53pm, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles made a motion to return to public session at 9:22pm, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles made a motion to adjourn at 9:23pm, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Hamel  
Administrative Assistant