

**TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
November 30, 2010  
7:00PM**

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

**Audience members present**

**Christina called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.**

**Kyle made a motion to accept the minutes of November 23 as written, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Updates**

Some of the Class VI road signs have been put up, the remainder will be installed this week.

Police Chief interviews are scheduled for Dec 15. The first interview will begin at 6:00pm and the second interview at 7:15pm.

Pam spoke with Mrs. Coutu regarding doing work on a Class VI road and the Board's request that the Coutus meet with them to discuss the maintenance work they would like to do in order to access their property on Nedeau Lane. Mrs. Coutu will relay this message to her husband.

Miles joined the meeting at this time.

**Old Business**

Christina relayed to Dave and Nancy Yetman the information the Board received from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) regarding the driveway that Mr. Yetman would like to have put in on his property on Province Road. Christina took photos of the site and submitted them to DES who is requiring a wetlands minimum impact expedited application. The fee is \$200. DES requires that the application be filed by Mr. Yetman, and if the Town filed on his behalf there would need to be a record of this. The process could take up to 30 or more days for approval. The Board then contacted the Local Government Center (LGC) and received a mixed answer back from them but it was their recommendation that the Board submit the issue to the Town's insurance carrier and have them take care of it. For these reasons the Board invited Mr. Yetman to the meeting to have a conversation about where to go from here, and explore if there is something else they can do to compensate him for the damage indicated. Mr. Yetman feels that trees on his property were cut by the Town when they cleared the right of way on Province Road. The Board is not comfortable with the DES process and the wetlands aspect surrounding this issue. Mr. Yetman said that he had told the logger, Gordon Coursey, that if he could make things right with him by receiving 3-5 truckloads of wood, he would still be going to the Town for their part. Gordon gave him about 6 cords of wood. Mr. Yetman maintains that the deal he had with the Board was for a driveway, all work to be done by the Town. He does not want to be bothered with any permits. He also said that since purchasing the property in 1980, the town has installed 3 culverts on that road with no permits. Miles said that the proposal they had discussed with Mr. Yetman, and had agreed to in principle, included Mr. Yetman's representation that he did not think a wetlands permit would be necessary. Mr. Yetman maintains that about 40 trees were cut. The Board is willing to submit this to the insurance company or explore any other avenues that Mr. Yetman would propose. They asked him to think about it. Mr. Yetman also said that the snowmobile trail through his property would be closed and his property will be posted. Sometime after he left the meeting Christina verified with Kyle and Miles that originally Mr. Yetman had said that if he had

received satisfaction from the logger (more wood) the entire issue would have been closed. Now he is saying that he wanted satisfaction from both the logger and the Town.

In doing his final review of the proposed Groton Wind agreement, Miles found some language that he feels should be altered to keep consistency in the wording regarding the decommissioning agreement and to avoid any potential loop holes. The Board agreed with this change.

**Christina made a motion to sign the Agreement between the Town of Groton and Groton Wind, LLC, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** If the Company is opposed to these changes they can refuse to sign it and continue negotiations.

Miles gave a brief update on the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) process. They will make a ruling soon as to whether or not the process will continue on the current timeline or have it extended.

Miles encouraged residents to write a letter to the SEC letting them know whether or not they are in favor of the project.

The Rumney Board of Selectmen has sent a letter to the SEC stating that they and their Fire Chief, not the Plymouth Fire chief, speak for the Town of Rumney. Miles asked the Board to consider sending a similar letter to the SEC, which the Board agreed they should do.

**Miles made a motion to draft a letter addressing those issues, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Last week the Board had made available to the public the opportunity to take the glass at the Transfer Station after signing a waiver. They had indicated that interested parties should let the Board know by this week's Board meeting. However, Miles feels that the only people who would know about this offer would be those at the meeting, as the minutes will only be posted on the web this week after Board approval. Also, he contacted someone at the Department of Environmental Services with regard to the use of the crushed glass as fill, but the person he needed to speak with was unavailable. For these reason the Board will wait one week before dealing with this issue.

**Kyle made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Chapman, Map 1 Lots 16 & 21, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** The Board had not signed this last week as they have asked Gordon Coursey to review all Intents and Reports of Cut. Kathy Chapman feels that a local logger should not be reviewing these as he could be in competition with the logger hired by the land owner. She suggested that if the Board wants these reviewed then it should be done by a licensed forester or the state. The Board explained that Eben Beever, who was a licensed forester, previously used to do this review. Since the Board members are not loggers or foresters they had asked Gordon to do this. Christina suggested that they revisit the need to have Gordon look at the Intent as it is the Report that needs to be accurate. She says it varies from Town to Town as some municipalities have a licensed forester, some use a logger and others don't have the Reports reviewed by anyone.

Kyle and Miles had an opportunity to look at Old Rumney Road. Kyle said he saw 3 ditches in the road. He could get his 4 wheeler over them but not a vehicle. There was some discussion regarding the ditch lines. Miles did not think that two (2) of them were too deep. He agreed that most vehicles would not be able to pass however most  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton trucks could. Marina Chase feels the ditches are much deeper than they were before and that there were old culverts in there before the logging company came in. She also said that if the Board required Mr. Cross to fix Coolidge Woods Road then they should also require this of FORECO. The Board explained that Mr. Cross had not asked the Board for permission to work on the road. FORECO did ask to put in three (3) culverts and let the Board know of their intention to remove the culverts once the logging operation was complete. However, they are willing to have a conversation with Tom Hahn from FORECO.

**Miles made a motion to invite Tom Hahn, who is a forester for FORECO, to attend a Select Board meeting and have a direct conversation with them regarding Old Rumney Road, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Kyle made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for James Cross, Map 3 Lot 17, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Christina made a motion to sign the employee medical coverage rates renewal, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** The insurance premium decreased by 1.5%.

Pam will solicit quotes for the town Tax Mapping. The company previously contracted with Groton has retired and forwarded all business to another company. Pam feels it would be good to have options. Christina recommended that we quote both companies out so that we can compare costs as well as services provided under the contract that we may not know about. Pam will contact both companies for information.

The Board chose March 12 for the deliberative session for this year's Town Meeting. Elections will take place on Tuesday, March 8, and the deliberative session will be on Saturday, March 12 beginning at 9:00am.

The Board reviewed some quotes that Miles got for a water treatment system. There are various water softener models ranging from \$399-\$799 (these prices do not include installation, salt, etc). Sears does offer to do a water sample test to test for hardness, ph and iron content (free of charge), and supply an 800 number to call to discuss the results and the best water system. Ron Madan has a system in his house, where the company comes once a month to change the salt. He will get the contact information for the Board. Miles will bring a water sample into Sears and Pam will get a quote from the company Ron Madan uses. **Miles made a motion to table this until next week, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Town faces the possibility of having to raise an additional \$131,000 in state funding for education. The Board is open to hosting a meeting with the communities in our district, our representatives and Senator Forrester to discuss this issue. Pam will make contact with all the parties involved.

**Christina made a motion to sign the Eastern Analytical quote for Gas and Water testing, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

A citizen expressed concern regarding an abandoned trailer and some possible septic issues on North Groton Road. **Miles made a motion to refer this to the Health Officer for investigation and have him report back to the Board with his findings, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board scheduled a work session for Tuesday, December 7 at 6:00pm.

The Board will replace the batteries in the #4 Alarm Panic Button instead of having the company come out to do it.

Pam explained that she had received a call from Ken Brown regarding his property off of Victoria's Mountain Way. In a recent court ruling Victoria Collins was given ownership of the road. Mr. Brown is now concerned that his lots could potentially be land locked and he would like to know what the Town can do for him as far as his tax burden is concerned. He believes that since the Town approved his subdivision they should somehow compensate him because of access issues. The Board believes this is a civil issue between the Browns and Victoria Collins. Mr. Brown can file for an abatement if he feels that his property has decreased in value due to the access problem. Pam will call the Local Government Center for their input.

The Board asked Pam to forward all documents they have on file regarding Mike Ethier's excavation pit to the Town's attorney in preparation for Monday's public hearing.

The Selectmen's office will be closed the week after Christmas.

Christina reminded the other Board members about the law change regarding telephone poles. Phone companies are now liable for utility tax on their poles and lines effective in 2011.

**Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**