

**TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
March 22, 2011  
7:00 PM**

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

**Audience members present**

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

**Miles made a motion to accept the minutes of March 15 as written, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Miles informed the audience that in response to the Board's recent discussion regarding the need to install heat tape on the Town Hall, Lou Lieto donated several feet of heat tape to the Town. The Board would like to thank him for his generosity.

Pam had a conversation with Rita Greenwood concerning the recent junkyard licensing packet that the Greenwoods received. Mrs. Greenwood said they are not interested in being a licensed junkyard and will work to get the property cleaned up. Pam informed her that the Board would like to see this resolved this summer. The Board agreed to continue to work with the Greenwoods and would like Ken Knowlton, the "Junkyard Dog", to continue to inspect the property.

Jimmy Albert had approached Miles regarding the fill that is collected during the ditch cleaning process. He feels that the Town can make use of it and if not, then it should be offered to the property owners first. Pam contacted the Local Government Center (LGC) as well as conducted her own research regarding this issue, and reported the following findings:

- When dealing with maintaining the Town's right of way the statutes do not address ditch cleanings. They do address trees and roadside growth.
- Ditch cleaning is not excavating.
- Most of the debris in regularly maintained ditches comes from the road itself: sand, salt, trash, leaves, etc.
- There are a number of statutes that say the property owner has no right to disturb or excavate the shoulders, ditches and embankments of the roadway without permission of the Board. It is the Town's responsibility to keep these ditches clear.

Kyle expressed that if the Town can use the fill then they should. However, hauling fill from River Road to the Town Garage for storage is not efficient. He also questioned whether or not stockpiling at the Town Garage is wise as this is the flood zone. Christina has not changed her opinion from what she expressed last week: it is fine to continue to handle this the way they have in the past. However, they should require that a waiver be signed. Miles said that to offer this fill to the property owner first would be very difficult as they would have to mark all the boundaries in each area to be cleaned. Other municipalities and the State take care of this fill in the easiest and most economic way possible. The Board did not change their position from last week.

**Christina made a motion to sign the Junkyard Enforcement Contract with Municipal Resources, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board set up a tentative work session on April 5, 6:00pm with June Garneau to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

The Board announced the Mike Lemieux has given a 2 year notice as Emergency Management Director. He is willing to train his replacement. The Board feels the first step should be to ask Mr. Lemieux if he knows of someone who might be interested in the position. Pam will contact him. In the meantime, if there is anyone who would be interested in serving the community in this way, please contact the Board.

**Kyle made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Green Acre Woodlands, Map 9 Lots 2, 8, & 10, Groton Hollow Road, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Kyle motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Gardner Hall, Map 8 Lot 1, Route 3A, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board discussed RSA 74:10, which requires the Board to hold hearings at which time they will receive inventories and hear all parties regarding their liability to be taxed. They would like Pam to contact the LGC to get information and clarity regarding this Statute. **Miles motioned to table this until they hear back from LGC, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Lou Lieto and Bill Jolly announced that they have completed the MS-60, parts I & II, as part of the local audit required by the Department of Revenue (DRA). They presented the Board with a cover letter and the completed MS-60 document. In the letter they report that their general conclusion is that the Town's records and systems comply with the requirements embodied within the MS-60. They found no procedural issues or inconsistencies. Also included in their letter were some considerations for the Board's review where they feel the Town could benefit by improved efficiency and/or reduced likelihood of malicious intent by modifying some procedures. The Board thanked Mr. Lieto and Mr. Jolly for their service. The Board has 10 days to review the document before submitting it to the DRA. During the recent elections Mr. Jolly was elected to the auditor's position for the 2012 audit.

Mr. Lieto informed the Board that he along with a number of Groton residents attended the recent Northern Pass "scoping" hearing held at Plymouth State University. He said that of the 680 plus people in the audience, no one was for the project. There were a number of Select Boards, Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions represented at the meeting. To date the Groton Select Board has not voiced an opinion on the project. Mr. Lieto encouraged them to send a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as well as our State representatives, the Governor, and our local representatives. Deadline to submit something to the DOE is April 12. Anything received after that time may or may not be considered. Slim Spafford supplied the Board with submission forms and contact information. Miles assured Mr. Lieto that the Board has been following the project. They participated in a North Country Council survey and found that there are far more negative than positive impacts to the project. Both Miles and Christina have not made a final decision regarding their stand on the project. However, both agree that there does not seem to be a balance of benefits to draw backs. Kyle said he is against the project. Miles also said that the Board has not heard back from enough residents in order for them to know how to represent the people. A quick consensus of everyone in the room showed none in favor and three undecided. Pam will create a posting for the website and for the bulletin boards in Town letting the people know that if they would like to express their opinion to the Board they may contact the office at 744-9190 or via email at [tog@roadrunner.com](mailto:tog@roadrunner.com). This will also be an agenda item for April 5. Residents and taxpayers will have the opportunity to express their opinion to the Board at 7:00pm.

Kyle expressed some concerns about whether or not the Town had made the best use of the backhoe insurance rental. The Board agreed to discuss this with the Road Agent.

**Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Hamel  
Administrative Assistant