

**TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
August 13, 2013**

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

**Audience Members Present**

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Bruce Pratt from the Dorchester Cultural Arts Advisory Committee addressed the Board and audience. Mr. Pratt explained that the primary intent of the Committee is to create events that are of interest to the residents of local communities. The Dorchester Select Board asked him to open up a conversation with surrounding communities for promoting town events. Dorchester will be having a talent show and barn dance (both open to Groton residents as well), and a Town Hall art exhibit for Dorchester resident artists. They would like to publish their events in neighboring communities and vice versus with the hope of seeing increased participation overall. Mr. Pratt explained that there are grants available for some activities such as a concert series. They would like to find what events and activities will interest the townspeople and have them participate. The Board agreed to post activities for surrounding communities locally and on the Town web site. Pam will be the initial contact.

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

Under the dehumidifier section, Miles suggested amending the word abstaining to recusing.

**Christina motioned to approve the minutes of July 30 as amended, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**UPDATES**

Remaining Groton Wind Legal/Expert Funds

The Board reported that Iberdrola Renewables is not looking for the balance of funds to be returned. The Town may use it for whatever purpose. The Board agreed to use some of the funds to make up a short fall they are having for the new signs for the Park and Town House.

North Groton Road Reconstruction

The reconstruction project has been delayed for a few days but is still scheduled to begin sometime during the week of August 12.

Lemon Law

The lemon law does not cover governmental entities or vehicles over 11,000 pounds.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Transfer Station: Safety, C&D Container, Landfill Monitoring

*Safety*

Joe Koslow would like to have 2 employees on during each shift. The Superintendent in Rumney told him

this was a Department of Environmental Services' (DES) requirement. The Board asked him to contact DES to investigate. He would also like to hire an alternate. The Board discussed hiring someone already working for the Town.

George Evirs stated that last year there were some complaints about the lighting near the dumpsters after dark. For this reason he is suggesting winter hours for safety. The Board would be interested to know how many people use the Transfer Station after 5 on Wednesdays and Sundays.

#### *Construction & Debris (C&D) Dumpster*

Joe reported that Plymouth is the only Town in the area that has scales. Bristol figures C&D costs by the size of vehicle. Rumney gives a best estimate depending upon what is being dumped. There was discussion regarding the best way to price items without making it too complicated. The Board will continue to discuss this during the next several weeks. They will plan to have a C&D dumpster available by October 1<sup>st</sup> with a policy in place.

#### *Landfill Monitoring*

Suzanne Wall of Andover Geologic is recommending that the Board change labs for the ground water and gas testing at the Transfer Station due to Eastern Analytical's testing methods. Before making a decision they want to know if Ms. Wall spoke with the Lab and the results of that conversation.

#### Decal for Highway Vehicles

Travis Shinn has created a sample sign for the vehicles based upon a new design that Glen Hansen submitted. The members of the audience voted to remain with the original logo. Glen will submit this to Mr. Shinn.

#### Wetlands Permit

The Board discussed a number of specifications on the Wetlands permit with the Road Agent. They want to ensure that all requirements will be complied with. The Road Agent stated that he is familiar with the requirements. **Christina motioned to sign the Wetlands Permit, Miles, 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### John Fitzpatrick Possible Building Permit Violation

Mr. Fitzpatrick has submitted a letter explaining the possible violation. The Board would like the assessor to visit the property to confirm what is on site.

#### Fire Escape & Transfer Station Roof

The Contractor, who submitted the only bids, which are over the warrant article amount, is not able to decrease his bids. Kyle requested that the other Board members give him an opportunity to find someone else to bid on the projects before they make any decisions on how to move forward.

#### Fair Point Case: Hearing & Interrogatories

The Board discussed amending the current pole licenses. Miles suggested that they wait to schedule the hearing as in his experience, settlements are sometimes reached during the interrogatories phase of a case. Christina agreed. She would like to wait for more information regarding the case. Concerning the interrogatories; the Board has nothing to add to what has been drafted by the attorney.

## Junkyard Court Case

**Christina motioned to sign the paper work, once it is completed, for the junkyard court case, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### KHPAC

Chuck Stata updated the Board on the Kimball Hill Property Acquisition Committee's (KHPAC) progress. He stated that this is not a formal recommendation but an indication of the direction the Committee is going in.

- The Committee has agreed that the Town should acquire the property and their work is based upon this.
- Use for Long term: recreation and managed timbering
- Conservation easement built in such a way that active, managed timbering is included
- Recommend that the Town partner with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF). SPNHF has worked with Timbervest in the past. They know the property. They also have experience in acquiring funding.
- Conservation Easement: the Committee feels the property should be managed by a non-Groton entity, thus have the easement held by a third party.

### Next steps

- Now that the confidentiality agreement has been signed they have drafted two letters: one to Timbervest stating that they are ready to view their information (protocols) about the property, and a second letter to SPNHF telling them that they would like to work with them as well as asking them to be the easement holder. They are ready to have the Society put together assessors etc., to work on the project.
- Look into project development funding to pay for this work (possibly the Gemmill Fund). Estimate is around \$50,000. The Town and/or the Conservation Commission may have to front the Committee this money. This needs additional investigation.
- Meet with a Timbervest representative on 8/20 to look at the property.

The Committee is asking the Board to sign the two letters that have been drafted. After some discussion it was determined that the Committee needed to meet again to finalize the letter.

The Committee is looking for the Select Board to vote for SPNHF to be the first holder on the Conservation Easement as they cannot continue to work with the Town unless they are the easement holders. The Board believes this is a Town decision. Miles stated that with the information that is available to him now he is comfortable with recommending that SPNHF hold the conservation easement. Deb Johnson stated that the Committee is not asking for a guarantee but there is a threshold for SPNHF's participation. Christina stated that this is ultimately a decision for the Town.

The Committee requested that the Board appoint Tammy Drolet to KHPAC. **Christina motioned to appoint Tammy Drolet to the Committee, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### 2012 MS-60

**Christina motioned to accept the 2012 MS-60, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Kirk Junkyard

**Miles motioned to approve the Kirk Junkyard License renewal, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### September Schedule

Beginning September 10 the Board will meet weekly at 7:00 pm.

### Fill Disposal Agreement for Hansen

The Board would like the Road Agent to know that the fill needs to be distributed fairly with other Townspeople who live in the direct area of the construction, and the fill cannot be stored in the Town's right of way.

**Christina motioned to approve the Disposal Agreement with those concerns being relayed to the Road Agent, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Property/Liability Credit

The Board would like the credit to be refunded instead of leaving a positive balance on the account.

### Building Permit for Dauphinais

**Christina motioned to approve the Building Permit for Dauphinais, Map 2 Lot 49, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### 2014 Budget Memo

Initial 2014 budget proposals are due Friday, September 27.

### Request from George Sansoucy/Coos County Commissioners

The Board is willing to meet with a representative from George Sansoucy's office and possibly one or more Coos County Commissioners to discuss the Department of Revenue's assessment of wind projects.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Christina reported the following meeting schedule:

- Old Home Day Committee -Wednesday, August 14 at 5:00 pm at the Town House
- Library Trustee meeting -Tuesday, August 20 at 4:00 pm at the Library

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chuck Stata reported the following:

- The freezer on the Blodgett property has been removed.
- The trailer on North Groton Road is not inhabited. There is no electric or propane on site. It is in the same condition as last year.
- Some garbage has been removed from the property on Brock Lane. At this time the old mobile

home and the recreational trailer are still filled with garbage.

**Christina motioned to go into non public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (a, b) at 10:05 pm, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Christina motioned to return to public session at 10:42 pm, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board will research billing a property owner who was burning without a permit. Fire bills were incurred during the incident. Doug Miner from DRED informed the Board that they can bill the property owner for the costs.

**Kyle motioned to adjourn at 10:45 pm, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Hamel