

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
November 18, 2014

**In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, Robert Ferriere, Kyle Andrews and Sara Smith
(Administrative Assistant)**

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Select Board Work Sessions at the Town House

- Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 5:00pm

Planning Board meeting at the Town House

- Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 7:00pm

Conservation Commission meeting at the Town House

- Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 7:00pm

Senior Thanksgiving Dinner

- Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 11:30am to 1:00pm

SAU 4 Select Boards Meeting at Bridgewater Town Offices

- Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 6:30pm

Select Board Office Closed

- Thursday, November 20, 2014 from 8:00am to 1:00pm; will be open 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Town Clerk and Select Board Offices Closed

- Thursday, November 27, 2014
- Friday, November 28, 2014

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Bob motioned to approve the minutes of November 11, 2014 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

UPDATES:

Signs

Sara called Laconia Monument and explained the Board's concerns. The silicone on the Town Office sign, can be trimmed with a razor blade. Kyle thinks we should leave it there in case it is keeping the water out. He said he will look at it and trim back the sloppy parts.

The Board was also concerned with the picture on the sign at Hobart Park. Laconia Monument advised that there is a white spray that they can spray on the picture to try to make it a better quality but this cannot be done until Spring since it will not work properly in the cold and damp weather. Sara will call him and have him sign something stating that he will be coming back. Once we get that in writing we will mail the check.

OLD BUSINESS:

Quotes - Transfer Station Fence/window/door

Joe Koslow said that Matt hasn't given a quote yet for the fence because there was a piece that Matt said he needed to order. Sara stated that she did email Matt to let him know the board wanted him to do the window at the Transfer Station and to get a quote on the fence. Sara will call him since he hasn't responded to the email and will give him a deadline. Sara also mentioned that the quotes that we have from Superior Fence and American Fencing are old so she will contact both places for a new quote and explain this will not be done until Spring.

Kyle stated that he talked to Matt about the window and the Transfer Station door. Matt quoted a garage door versus a wood door because it is better when there is snow around the door and it is cheaper. Joe Koslow said that George mentioned that we could use the wood to build outdoor shelter to store the propane tanks. Bill Jolly mentioned that a barn door with wood will sag over time. He said that it is beneficial to have a garage door. Joe Koslow talked to Bill Higgenbotham and he will get an estimate on the door as well. We will have him do the quote with a garage door.

Joe Koslow asked for an update on the sign for fence at the Transfer Station. Christina said she is still working on this.

Edgar Albert Rd - DRA Update, Logger Letter, Landowner Letter

Sara explained that the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) said that they will not come out and look at the timber cut since it has been so long. The DRA also explained that they agree that all we can do is send a letter to the logger and the landowner. Bill Jolly explained that he thought he was told the Town could make them post a bond. Christina explained that we can only require a bond if we require everyone who uses the road, including the property owners, to post a bond. The only other reason a bond is posted is when property owners haven't paid their taxes.

Sara presented the letter to the landowner. This is being sent because the road agent requested that the logger put in water bars but never did and we believe that this location is causing damage to the roadway. At this point, it would be the owner's responsibility to address. Sara also explained that she has concerns about the address and will double check and update for the next meeting.

Sara also presented the letter that was created for the logger that worked at the end of Edgar Albert Road. Glen did talk to the logger today and got a verbal agreement that the logger would pay for some damages to the road up to \$1,000.00. The logger is Aaron Packard and he requested that we send them an invoice. The Board would like to also send the letter updating it to reference the verbal agreement and change the deadline to December 15th. The letter will be ready for next week's meeting along with the invoice.

Auction item posting

Sara presented the list of items that we want to auction from the Town Garage. The Board would like this put in the Penny Saver and on the Town website. Sara will include a deadline of December 15, 2014 by 4:00pm for the bids to be submitted. Sara will also add verbiage about needing to reference the item # they are bidding on. Kyle recommended adding the fax number to the posting. Christina recommended adding that the winning bids will have to pay and remove the items by December 30, 2014. Sara will make these changes and send the posting to the Penny Saver and post on the Town website once these changes have been made. After these bids are done we will put the next group of items up for bid.

Flag Lighting- Town Office

There is no light on the flag here at the Town House. Christina would like Gary Easson to look at it and see what is wrong with it. The Board agreed and requested that Sara contact Gary.

Christina also had concerns about the main light on the building. It has been moved and is now facing more towards the road. This can be blinding when drivers come up the hill. Sara will ask Gary to adjust the light back towards the parking lot.

NEW BUSINESS:

Timber complaint- Beaver Pond Rd/Sculptured Rocks Rd

This will be tabled for next week.

Christina motioned to table the Timber complaint for Beaver Pond Rd/Sculptured Rocks Road until next week, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Primex Updated Worker' Compensation Law of Notice of Compliance

We received a letter with a poster that is a requirement of NH state law to be signed by the Select Board. This needs to be copied after it is signed and posted in the Town House, at the Highway Garage and at the Transfer Station. **Kyle motioned to sign and approve the Primex Updated Worker's Compensation Law of Notice of Compliance, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

WebEOC Training

Sara explained that she looked into the Web Emergency Operations Center (EOC) training that she is required to attend. The Chief and Roger would also like to attend this training. The dates available are December 11th or January 8th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in Concord. The board agreed that it would be best to wait until after the holidays. Sara will check with Chief and Roger to see if January 8th works for them.

Emergency Contact List

Sara updated the list of emergency contact list. Kyle stated that we should remove the word temporary next to Animal Control Officer. Bob recommended changing Sara's last name. Christina mentioned to add Glen under the EMD section and put him as deputy. Sara will make these changes and then give updated copies to all department heads.

Conservation Commission candidates

Bob presented the letters that they have received from interested candidates for the Conservation Commission. Bob said that the Conservation Commission has reviewed and approves all of them. They are Jan Carruth, Otto Jespersion, John Resigno and Gina Resigno. Bob

said the only concern they had was with Gina and John. Bob asked if husband and wife can be on the same commission. The Board said that there is no rule that they are aware of and believes they can. Chuck mentioned that it was only at the chairman's suggestion that a husband and wife not be on the commission together but it is not a regulation.

Bob also mentioned that they are only allowed to have 7 people on the Commission. With Gina and John it would make 8 so they are recommending making one of them an alternate. Kyle and Christina are also fine with these candidates. Christina asked Bob to let Sara know when the decision is made for who will be an alternate so that it can be updated online. **Christina motioned to approve Jan Carruth, Otto Jespersen, John Resigno and Gina Resigno with the stipulation that one will be an alternate, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Bob abstained.**

Select Board Meetings

Select Board meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays, but Sara put a list of dates together for the Board to review due to the holidays. The Board agreed that we will not have a Select Board meeting on December 23rd but the rest are good. Sara will post the meeting schedule as approved.

Work Sessions

The Board agreed that we will not have a Work Session meeting on December 23rd but we will meet at 5:00pm for the rest of the year due to budgets. Sara will update the list and post as approved.

Legal Aspects for blocking the Town Pond Bridge

Sara emailed New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) to verify what the legal aspects are for blocking the bridge that accesses the Town Pond, but as of this meeting we haven't heard back. Christina mentioned that we should also email Primex about this as they are our liability carrier.

Joe Koslow mentioned that if concern is an emergency vehicle having access then we could make sure that the Hebron Fire Department has a key to it if it is a locked chain or barrier.

Conservation Commission web page

Bob was asked to present to the Board to see if the Conservation Commission can have its own page on the website. The Board agreed so Sara will work on creating a new page.

SAU 4 Select Board Meetings

Christina mentioned that Sara had asked if she should attend the SAU 4 Select Board and Christina told her that she didn't need to attend. Christina said she will take minutes. Kyle is okay with Christina taking minutes.

Spectacle Pond concerns

Christina mentioned that the Board should review Spectacle Pond and Sara will add to agenda for next week to discuss options.

Bill Jolly had some concerns regarding this. He said this is causing another rift in the town that it doesn't need. He thinks this should be looked at more closely before anything is done. Christina explained our concern is not with the people who use the boats but with the abandoned boats and that the Board is not making decisions lightly.

Flag at Park

Christina asked if the Flag has been taken down at the Park. Sara explained that she told Glen to do it and to bring the Flag to the Town House. Sara will check with Glen and tell him this needs to be done by the end of the week.

Septic Pipe

Christina asked if the septic pipe has been repaired yet. Sara explained that she told Glen to do it but she isn't sure if this has been done. Sara will check with Glen and tell him this needs to be done by the end of the week.

Picture of Everett Hobart

Sara explained that Laconia Monument sent the picture back us. Sara asked where this needs to go now. Christina said this needs to be returned to the family.

COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Kimball Hill Committee

Chuck Stata mentioned that Dave Dout left him a message to see if the Kimball Hill Committee is still active. Chuck offered to contact him to see what Timbervest is looking for. The Board felt that Sara should reach out to him instead.

Snowmobile Club

Chuck also wanted to give an update as far as the snowmobile club and their planned routes. Chuck has a map that he presented to the Board. He explained that the Hebron side of Hardy Country Road is being repaired but otherwise there are no additional changes. Christina mentioned that Hardy County Road where the repairs are being done is actually private and being completed by Maxam.

Bill mentioned he was just approached by Glen on Orange Road because Glen will be doing some minimal work which is grading on Orange Road to Sculptured Rocks Road. Glen is doing this work privately so he needs to go to Board to ask permission as a private contractor.

Christina motioned to approve the snow mobile club moving forward with the roads as indicated on the map, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Christina also asked Chuck if his decision still stands. He said it is negotiable. She explained if it still stands he needs to submit something in writing.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Gravel Pit Concern

Slim Spafford raised a concern with the use of the Ethier pit. The Planning Board has a cease and desist order for years that he cannot haul anything out. Christina said that if Slim has concerns that the Town can contact Mary Pinkham Langer who is the DRA Gravel Tax Appraiser.

New Wind Farm concern

Mark Watson mentioned that EDP Renewables is moving forward rapidly with their plans to build a wind farm and that now the bulk of the operation is in Groton. Hebron has been removed and Alexandria is down to 5 turbines. He wants to know if the Town and/or the Board

is for more turbines or against them. Orange and the other towns are going to oppose. That would leave Groton as the only undecided. He wants the Boards stance. He asked if it is possible to have a Special Town Meeting to see if the Town as a whole, wants more or not. He feels that all of the Town should have a say. He wants to know if the Board can make a decision now. Christina said that she is not ready to make a stance right now. As a member of the Board she feels that the input of the Town is important.

Bob mentioned that he looked it up and each one mentions Hebron. Bill Jolly said that these are in Groton but listed as Hebron on the site. If you look at the grid coordinates it shows these are actually in Groton.

Christina said she doesn't want to make a decision tonight. She said she feels we need to poll the community.

Kyle explained that this is not on the agenda and needs to be. He said it was already placed on next week's agenda. Mark mentioned that time is a critical factor and ask the Board to think about this by next week.

Kyle mentioned that a Town meeting would be hard to do. A Special town meeting could be done but can take a while but a public hearing would be the fastest way. There are different requirements and that it would be best if we looked into those options to make a final decision, whether a public hearing or a Special Town Meeting or a poll.

Chuck asked Slim Spafford, the Planning Board Chair, about the Master Plan and if there was any information in this that would help. Slim said they did surveys before but they were not yes or no it was in the comments. He said the majority said we have enough turbines and they do not want anymore but he doesn't have numbers. Christina asked Slim to look through to see if he can get us the numbers from these surveys.

Jo O'Connor asked how many turbines were mentioned. It was explained there are 29 total but it appears to be 11 in Groton.

Nancy asked who can attend a public hearing. Christina explained anyone can attend a public hearing as it is open to the public. Kyle mentioned he would want only town members here to get an accurate opinion. It was explained that at a Special town meeting is only registered voters. Christina said we can clarify all of this before next week's meeting.

Nancy mentioned that Danbury mailed out a vote and wondered if we should do this. Kyle mentioned that this isn't the way to do this since this is time sensitive.

Department Head Inquiry

Joe Koslow asked if we have done anything on scheduling meetings with the Department Heads on a regular basis. Christina explained that we have to get through budget first.

Budget concerns

Slim asked if we are taking the county bill into consideration when doing budgets. Christina explained that the county tax bill for 2014 has nothing to do with the budgets for 2015 but the Board is working on the best resolution possible for the Town.

Road Committee inquiry

Slim mentioned that the Planning Board is redoing the Master Plan and wanted to know if there is still a Road Committee. Christina explained that there is and they will be meeting to discuss the 2015 warrant proposal. Christina explained that the Committee consists of Roger Thompson, Glen Hanson, Chuck Stata, Barrie Sawyer and herself.

Slim wanted to pass along a complaint. He asked Glen about it but he was told to talk to Dave Flynn at District 2. Slim felt that the roadway along North Groton Road going down the hill from the Transfer Station is being undermined. Christina updated that Brian Souza has just moved into the position as supervisor at the Rumney shed. She said she is supposed to talk to Dave and will mention this to him.

Tax bill inquiry

Mark asked when tax bills will get sent out. Christina explained that we don't have the tax rate yet but will resolve as soon as possible.

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:42pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant