

GROTON PLANNING BOARD  
July 25, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Dave Labar, Celine Richer, Miles Sinclair (Selectboard liaison), Steve "Slim" Spafford (Chairman), Sherry Nelson (alternate)

Absent: Deb Johnson, Jenny Burnett, Russ Carruth

Minutes of June 27, 2012 read and approved by all except Miles, who abstained as he had been absent from meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Chair read letter from Boyd Smith of Newfound Lake Region Association regarding Groton's concerns about lack of response from DES when town asked for help with any problem. Boyd cited cuts in state budget, but urged municipalities and their committees to work UP the chain of command when trying to get help from DES.

Next, Chair shared communication between Town Administrative Assistant and Town Counsel concerning Ethier's excavating. Counsel advised our board to bring an enforcement action and as part of that we would seek an administrative search warrant, explaining that we believe there to be a violation on the property that Mr. Ethier has effectively refused to allow us to inspect by failing to respond to our request to inspect. Celine moved to proceed with action against Mr. Ethier as advised by Town Counsel. Slim 2<sup>nd</sup>. After some discussion the motion was put to a vote and unanimously defeated. Celine next moved to seek additional evidence before proceeding with enforcement action. Slim 2<sup>nd</sup> and all approved. Miles spoke of having recently seen an aerial map of the town garage, superbly detailed and marked "Courtesy of NASA". He will ask Alan Barnard how we could acquire these clear maps. Miles cautioned us to get as much hard evidence as possible to convince a judge to allow us onto Mr. Ethier's property.

Next on the agenda was the topic of Growth Management and our public meeting scheduled for August 15, 2012, 6:30 – 8 pm. Copies of the ad for the meeting, which will appear in the newspaper, are displayed in several places in the Town House. Discussion ensued as to the fact that the ad's wording was not what we had voted on at our work session of July 12<sup>th</sup>. Tara had expressed dissatisfaction with the board's wording so our Administrative Assistant had "tweaked" the language of the ad to Tara's satisfaction, not knowing we had taken a vote on language we felt strongly about. We discussed our appreciation for consultants, like Tara, but feel that we might know our townspeople even better than a consultant can. In the future, we agreed, we must proceed carefully when a vote has been taken as to the specifics wanted by our board.

Last under Old Business, Chair informed us that Alan Barnard has sent evidence of his recording the Lot Line Adjustment for May/Cole.

Under New Business, Chair told us of a new Senate Bill strengthening regulations for development on land labeled "Prime wetlands". Chair agreed to contact Boyd Smith and

Alexandria's Conservation Committee Chair as to availability of a wetlands map maker. Such maps will help our board see where development can and cannot take place in town. Celine agreed to buy paper cups and napkins (for 35) for Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> public meeting. Board will reimburse her. Sherry will provide lemonade. Tara is bringing cookies.

All agreed to motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

Sharon Nelson, Clerk