

**Town of Groton Zoning Board  
754 North Groton Road  
Groton, NH 03241**

Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2016

The Groton Zoning Board convened at 7:02 PM. Members in attendance were Glen Hansen, Chuck Stata, Nancy Watson and Mark Watson.

Frank Grelle was absent.

Alternate member Otto Jespersen attended.

Glen motioned to move Otto to voting member from alternate for the meeting. Chuck seconded. The vote passed Yes - 4, No - 0, Absent - 1.

The terms of member positions will remain the same.

The filling of officers was discussed. Chuck motioned to designate Mark as Chairman. Glen seconded and moved the vote for Mark as Chairman. The vote passed Yes - 5, No - 0, Absent - 1.

Chuck motioned Glen as Vice Chairman and Mark seconded. In the event Glen is not available due to his town job duties, Chuck will fill his roll as Vice Chairman. The vote passed Yes - 5, No - 0, Absent - 1.

Glen motioned Nancy for Secretary and Mark seconded. The vote passed Yes - 5, No - 0, Absent - 1.

**Old Business**

The minutes from the January 25, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Glen motioned to accept the minutes as written. Chuck seconded. A vote was taken with Yes - 4, No - 0, Absent - 1. Glen abstained due to his absence at the January 25th meeting.

**New Business**

The new business with the Maddens was moved up on the agenda to accommodate their presence at the meeting.

Application For A Special Exception -  
Madden Auto Service, LLC  
Dale and Michael Madden

The Maddens have operated an auto repair business for the past 10 years, during nights and weekends located at 115 North Groton Road. They have switched to day time hours (8 am to 5 pm). The location is a lot with a business, not home occupation.

Chuck stated the first determination that needs to be made is if the business is "grand fathered" prior to the adoption of zoning in Groton and what criteria would be used. He suggested a notarized statement declaring the business has been a contiguous operation of repairing of autos on site for the Zoning Board to place on file. If this determination is made, the Special Exception would be unnecessary.

Mark suggested the Maddens provide dated statements from billed clients and/or vendors to prove their operation prior to Groton's adoption of zoning.

Chuck suggested the documentation be provided by the next Zoning Board meeting in one month.

### **Return To Old Business**

The Spring 2016 Planning and Zoning Board Conference has been postponed until a latter date. Chuck will continue to check the state calendar for a rescheduling date. He will also contact Paul Hatch (Groton's state liaison).

Chuck said there are law lectures offered in the fall that run for four weeks. The lectures are moved around different areas of the state. The topics are helpful and cover such issues as variances, which are not always straightforward.

Mining Project on Kimball Hill - There is no new information. Mark will ask Sara if there have been any further communications since the initial inquiry.

### **Back To New Business**

Board members discussed the issue of responsibility for road repairs caused by new businesses in town. Logging is exempt due to the agricultural classification. Glen suggested the town have rules for impact to roads. It could be a checklist format.

Mark will print out some other town ordinances on how they handle new businesses in town and share these at the next meeting.

The Historic By-Way designation was discussed. If a road is classified under this designation, the town could receive federal funding. Board members were in agreement to pursue this designation and begin with information gathering. Chuck suggested working in the time frame to add this as a warrant article for next year's town meeting. The largest issues would be setbacks and abutters. Members will report back at the next meeting with their findings.

Chuck has a digital copy of the updated (November 2015) Zoning Board Handbook. Mark will contact the state to determine if the Board can obtain hard copies.

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for April 18, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Otto motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. Chuck seconded. The motion passed YES - 5, No -0, Absent -1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Watson  
Groton Zoning Board Secretary  
March 25, 2016