

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
August 12, 2014

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Old Home Day (OHD) - Saturday 8/16/14 from 5pm-9pm starting with the parade. Child seat safety also starts at 5pm.

Christina cancelled the OHD meeting scheduled on Wednesday at 6pm at the park due to weather and rescheduled it for Friday at 3pm for set up.

Conservation Committee meeting is scheduled for 8/14/14 at 7pm in the Town Office.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Bob motioned to approve the minutes of August 5th as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

UPDATES:

RSA 195 committee

Christina went to meeting Wednesday 8/6/14 with Bridgewater-Hebron Village School District Board. They recommend that Groton consider taking a stance. They have offered to come here to have a meeting to explain what is happening and think it is beneficial to have parents come in so everyone is on same page to get a general consensus on how we should move forward. They have concerns with what is going on with withdrawal committee. Bob asked if we were planning on having our own 195 committee. Christina stated we would have to list that on the warrant to do that and explained there are two options: 1) A special Town meeting or 2) Added to the regular Warrant Articles in March.

They believe that if Groton states their case and what they feel is best for the Town and for the kids, then there would be more support to push the School Board into a K-6. They wanted K-8 but are okay with K-6 and they don't want to hang Groton out to dry. It is not a money issue either. One thing they are being advised is it will cost \$2.4 million to run the school a year. This is one principal, three program specialist, 16 support staff, 14 teachers and a nurse.

Christina wanted to check with board to see if they think it is a good idea to have this meeting. Kyle states it is a good idea and Bob agreed. Christina would like to have this meeting before the next RSA 195 Committee meeting. Christina would like to shoot for two weeks. Kyle isn't sure that two weeks will be enough as you want parents here and need to give them enough notice.

He feels 2-3 weeks would be better. Christina will reach out to see when they would be available. Christina will let Sara know.

Bixby Junkyard license

Christina added this back to update the Board that she made a mistake last week stating that the report had been received. Sara checked and there isn't a report on file. Sara called the "junkyard dog's" office and they did not have anything but will reach out to Ken Knowlton. Kyle stated to hold on to this for next week's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Junkyard reports

- Old Rumney Rd - not in compliance - they have made some improvements since the May inspection, have been in compliance before but have come back out of compliance again. The Board would like to pull the file and review before making a final decision on this property. Kyle suggested this should be tabled for next week so we can further review the older files.
- Giovanna Rd – not in compliance - the property has come out of compliance again and the comments indicated that the next step is at the selectmen/attorney instructions. Christina asked if he came out of compliance then we wouldn't be at the attorney, we need to start all over, correct? Kyle suggested this should be tabled for next week so we can look through the older file.

Kyle motioned to table the junkyard reports for next week, Bob 2nd, so voted.

M.E. Latulippe/North Groton Rd project

- The Agreement was mailed to M.E. Latulippe on 8/6/14.
- Sara spoke to ME Latulippe and confirmed the project start date is 8/18/14.
- Road closures will be from 7a-5p starting 8/18/14 where construction will take place for two weeks on North Groton Road, with last date for closures being 8/29/14. If the project goes longer they cannot close road. Sara will contact the contractor to let them know.
- Wednesday 8/13/14, R&D Paving will begin reclaiming of the road, digging up asphalt and re-grading, but the road will not be closed, there will be one lane of traffic.
- Notices will be hand delivered to houses along North Groton Road from Halls Brook Road to Route 118 to inform of road closures. We will also contact emergency services on Monday along with anyone else that would need to be informed.
- Christina presented the W9 and Bond paperwork for the Board's review.

Penalty Inventory letters

- Reviewed Mudge approval letter
- Reviewed Calabrese denial letter

Bob motioned to sign the penalty inventory letters, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Inventory penalty - Forest Hills

The property was sold and the penalty will be due to previous owner, but issued on the new tax bill to the new owner. Bob asked if the old owner should pay it. Sara explained it attaches to the property. Kyle said we shouldn't hold the new owner responsible for this. **Christina motioned to waive the inventory penalty fee on Forest Hills once confirmation of deed is received, Kyle 2nd so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Trask Disposal agreement

A disposal agreement for 751 North Groton Rd was submitted to the Board for fill from the North Groton Road project by Trask. **Christina motioned to approve the disposal agreement for Trask, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Inventory penalties

O'Hearn – The owner requested to waive the fees. Sara pulled the history of inventory submissions in the past, and the Board reviewed. The owner purchased in March 2013 and nothing received in 2013 or 2014. Christina explained they are asking to waive the fee stating they never received form. We cannot confirm where the letter was sent since we never got it back. Bob stated anyone could say that they didn't get it and confirmed we have the proper address on file. Bob doesn't think we should waive it. Kyle said he wouldn't waive it. Sara will have letter ready for next week to be signed by Board. **Christina motioned to deny the request to waive the inventory penalty for O'Hearn, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Updated Municipal Communications contact form

Sara updated the Municipal Communications contact form with her contact information. The Board was fine with this.

Pamela Ferriere – Supervisor of the Checklist concerns

Pamela wasn't in attendance. It was decided to table the concerns for next week. **Christina motioned to put this on next week's agenda since Pamela wasn't in attendance, Bob 2nd, all in favor.**

Memo to Departments and Committees

Christina suggested we send a memo to committees reminding them to send the Administrative Assistant meeting dates and to send the meeting minutes as well. Bob mentioned he will bring it to Conservation Commission meeting. Sara will draft a memo for approval by the Board.

Joe Koslow - extra help & scrap metal issues

Joe wasn't here so Kyle spoke. The Transfer Station may have been closed on Saturday and we were not aware of this. George has taken a few Saturdays off and he needs someone in there for coverage. We have an alternate just waiting on the background check.

Scrap metal issues – The scrap metal bin is full. Christina spoke to Jeff Matthews who used to do this before. He stated he was reported as a junkyard but wasn't sure who reported him or why there was a mix-up as he is not a junkyard. Christina asked him if this is straightened out would he be interested in coming back to work for the Town again and he said yes. Kyle asked where he lives. Christina thought in Groton but we never saw any junkyard issue on this. Christina will

reach out to DES to see what happened before we make any other decisions. Joe Koslow arrived so we went back to his concerns. Christina explained that as far as extra help we are waiting on background check for new hire who agreed to help out at Transfer Station. As far as scrap metal concerns, Joe called a company that does a large amount so we do not do enough. They recommended Conkey and someone else in Belmont. Christina filled Joe in on Jeff Matthews and that this is being tabled until next week. Joe had some concerns about the aluminum cans. Christina said we will make that decision when we get this ironed out. Joe mentioned he will be covering George on the 23rd.

Spectacle Pond Concerns

The Select Board received an email from Frank Harris about abandoned boats located at Spectacle Pond. Joe Pivorotto was called in to see if he was aware. Kyle went over the pictures and explained which ones are being considered abandoned. Kyle thought it was a fish and game issue but fish and game emailed that it is Groton's responsibility. We should respond to fish and game about the boats in the water that are not registered. It is a public ramp so they shouldn't leave their boats there.

An attendee asked if it was a boat launch or swimming, it is a boat launch. Christina stated this was brought up before and it was allowed to be a swimming area and boat launch but swimmers need to be aware and stay out of the way. The residents stressed concerns about accident waiting to happen. Christina mentioned it is a policing issue, Joe agreed. Sara asked if it was posted anywhere that it is a boat launch and boats have right of way. They do not believe it is.

Christina stated the some boats are allowed to be left there since it is their only access point for their property on the opposite side of the Pond. Kyle stated that we need to think about them leaving the boat and if it should happen or not. Everyone should be allowed to launch but not leave a boat there. Christina thought there was a past agreement that said they could leave the boats there. An attendee asked what we charge and we confirmed there is no charge. An attendee asked if they are allowed to leave their cars there as well. It was explained that they are allowed to behind the no parking area. Another attendee asked why we are not charging as Hebron charges to use their water access right after the village store. Christina states we need to look up the agreement and look into it. An attendee asked for us to look into if it can be a public beach and a boat launch as she doesn't think any other place does. Christina gave name of beach Mooney Clark Landing which does allow both.

Christina asked Joe what his take on this is. Joe felt that if Fish and Game are saying it is Groton's responsibility then the Board can restrict it any way that we want but we would need to be backed up by the State. We would need rules for access to sites. We would need an RSA that will back us up on that.

Christina mentioned the Spectacle Pond Association is what we should look at and any agreement we made with those property owners. The Board would also need to look into what the rules are and RSA's etc. Kyle read RSA 270-b that he found on the attachment. Christina suggested to place a posting that states if your boat is left or considered abandoned then it will be impounded. Kyle asked where to store impounded boats. Joe said people are concerned about boats and have a right to be and it will get worse. We need to do something about this now. Joe states the Police do go up to enforce it. Kyle states we will look into this a little more.

Marina Chase asked if there is any responsibility of the Town. Christina explained we police it and fire and rescue access it. We have to research this before any other enforcement is done.

It also came up that the No Parking sign is gone. It is here at Town office for now as it was knocked down.

Joe Koslow also mentioned issues with the pond behind the Town shed and there should be limited access. Christina explained that this is controlled by the Conservation Commission. Bob states this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Faucher building permit

John Faucher submitted a permit for his property located on Bailey Hill Rd to build a 20x20 ground level storage shed to be also used for camping. Kyle asked if it would have running water. Christina explained it will not and it will not be heated or cooled. **Kyle motioned to sign the building permit for John Faucher, Christina 2nd so voted.**

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Old Home Day (OHD) - Christina mentioned that Old Home Day is coming together and told everyone to come! It is on Saturday, August 16th.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

James Martell of North Groton Rd was concerned with his neighbor's property. Early this spring the neighbor added pigs and the smell is so bad that Mr. Martell cannot keep his windows open. Christina reported that the Health Officer, Chuck Stata, went out to inspect the issue, required that lyme be placed down and a berm installed to protect the stream that flows behind the property. Bob asked how many pigs - there are 5. Mr. Martell feels quality of life has gone down and states that he can't even sell his house at this time. He reported that other towns are limiting pigs, etc. Bob mentioned there are no regulations for animals in Groton; Kyle stated that Groton is zoned agricultural. Christina reported that towns can adopt limitations but they can't limit something that was already in place, so this issue would be grandfathered, but we can research it further to see if there is anything else that can be done. Christina states she feels Mr. Martell's pain as she also lives close by. Kyle explained that the Town voted not to have zoning and these are allowed as we are agricultural. The Board will continue to research the issue.

Mr. Martell also mentioned that the same neighbor has a rather large fuel tank between the two properties that is emitting a strong smell of propane. The Health Officer, also looked at it and stated that it is empty and the resident uses it to cut it in half for pig roasts. Christina reported that the Junkyard dog was also contacted to inspect the property.

Glen Hanson, Road Agent, mentioned and presented the 1st place ribbon from the Rumney parade for the Town Dump Truck.

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:23 pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Moores
Administrative Assistant