

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2009
7:00pm**

In Attendance: Michael Brogna, Miles Sinclair, Kyle Andrews, Pamela Hamel (AA)

Audience Members Present

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and read the appointments, announcements and minutes of the August 25 selectmen's meeting. **Mike made a motion approve the minutes as written, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Miles gave the following updates:

- Board sent the revised letter to Mr. Ethier
- Miles is currently researching the unknown property
- Concerning a property in lien that is also in bankruptcy, Miles asked Pam to contact LGC to find out what the town needs to do to represent their interests in the property.

Boyd Smith, Newfound Lakes Region Association (NLRA) director addressed the board. The NLRA is currently asking for the various towns in the watershed to write letters in support of the Association's NHDES grant request. Mr. Boyd explained that each town, through their respective Planning Boards, determines whether to adopt part, all or none of the NLRA Master Plan. This Master Plan is a tool to use primarily through zoning ordinances adopted by towns at their town meeting. The grant request is for a shared planner who would assist Planning Boards in drafting ordinances to help protect water quality. These would then go to town vote. The grant is for 2 years. At the end of that time, the program would be finished and towns will not become financially responsible to continue it. Concerning the reclassification of Newfound Lake as a high-quality water of special significance; this is a pilot test for the management of surface water quality. It would give DES more authority such as allowing them to demand from developers a plan to control phosphorus. This pilot is a shift from the old way of classifying. The support letter is a stated willingness on the part of the town to work with DES on this watershed classification. The Board's concern is whether or not this reclassification carries restrictions in and of itself, restrictions that property owners might not be in favor of or that could become the town's responsibility to enforce. The Board decided to re-word that section of the support letter to read ***The Town is willing to discuss with NHDES the possibility of reclassification of*** Newfound Lake as a high-quality water of special significance. A letter will be drafted and ready for the chairman's signature by Wednesday evening.

Salvator Catanzaro addressed the Board. He felt they had gone overboard in their criticism of Chief White's actions to assist him and Mrs. Catanzaro with their wood chip problem. He read a brief letter stating this and left. The Board responded that it is the Chief's responsibility to police matters, not get involved in civil issues. When it is criminal then it is the police department's responsibility. Last week the Board met with Glen Hansen and Chief White to get their side of the story. Mr. Hansen said he had spoken to the loggers about their use of a bull dozer on a town road while doing snow removal at the corner of Sculptured Rocks and Orange Road. All he saw the loggers moving was snow. Chief White said he considered the wood chip problem a civil not criminal issue. His intentions were to help get it resolved. **Miles made a motion to sign the letter they had prepared for the Catanzaros, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike made a motion to approve the septic design for Salsman, Map 5 Lot 26, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted. The Board reviewed the flood maps to confirm that FEMA does not classify this property as in the flood way or plain.

Mike reported that he will get his work schedule on Wednesday to verify his availability to attend the Benefit Cost Analysis training.

Miles made a motion to send the 2010 budget request memo, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted. Preliminary budgets are due by September 24.

A safety committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22 at 6pm.

The Board would like to set up a work session with the Fire and Police Chiefs to discuss the EOP. Pam will contact Roger Thompson first as the Board would like to work around his schedule.

The Board discussed the Administrative Assistant's comp time. Pam would like the office to be closed Friday's during the month of September. The Board would like her to keep track of the hours that she works for the Planning and Zoning Boards in case they have to pay out any comp time at the end of the year.

The Board reported that the Plymouth Area Prosecutors Association has been asking for significant increases each year. Two years ago the town paid \$4,000. This has increased to \$6,150 for 2009, with an expected jump in 2010. The Chief shared that some communities might be pulling out of the Association. This would cause an additional increase for the town. Also, up to this point, the Association has been using a room at the court house as an office free of charge. They must now find a rent which will increase their budget. The Chief believes the association could crumble as more towns will be unwilling to remain in it and pay these costs. He recommends the Board draft a letter giving the association notice of their **intention** to withdraw thus giving them opportunity to seek other solutions. Miles reported that he is willing to offer his services as a prosecutor on a stipend basis at a fraction of the cost. He has approximately 3 years of prosecutorial experience. The bylaws of the Association require that the Town give notice now but they will still have service until the end of the year. In the mean time, they could hire a new Police Chief by the end of the year and the new chief could possibly be able to do this work himself. Because Miles has offered his services and this could be seen as a conflict of interest, he will abstain from further discussion of the topic.

Mike confirmed that a selectman can work part time for the town. This would allow them to put Miles in that position should they choose to go that route. **Kyle made a motion to draft a letter of intention to the Association, Mike 2nd, so voted, Miles abstaining.**

The Board discussed possible locations for the generator. **Miles made a motion to solicit bids for the generator, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** The location will be chosen based upon the input of the various companies bidding.

The Board will have a selection of possible light fixture choices for the Town Hall ready by next week. Town residents will be able to submit their choice.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant