

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2009
7:00pm**

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

Absent: Mike Brogna

Audience Members Present

Miles announced that Mike Brogna would not be able to attend this evening's meeting. Miles called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and read the appointments, announcements and minutes of the September 8 selectmen's meeting. **Miles made a motion approve the minutes as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Miles gave the following updates:

- The Board met with Gordon Coursey and Glen Hansen about the cutting on Province Road and the issue is being addressed. The property owners own the timber.
- The Board will be meeting with the Fire Chief to discuss the EOP on Wednesday.

Miles made a motion to table signing the Plymouth Area Prosecutors letter until they can have a quorum present, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Miles will be abstaining from the vote as it represents a possible conflict of interest.

Frederick Sewall/Bill Robertie have received a special exception from the ZBA for a boat storage facility. The exception will be withheld until a few outstanding fees are paid. The next step is a public hearing for site plan review.

The Board has received a response from the town's attorney concerning the possible zoning and building permit violations for Sewall. This will be tabled until the full Board is present.

Miles made a motion to table the Groton/Dorchester Mutual Road Aid Agreement until the full board can address it, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kyle and Miles reviewed the locations of all town owned properties for a possible cell tower location. **Miles made a motion to table further discussion until the full board is present, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Based upon the Health Officer's recommendation, **Kyle made a motion to deny the building permit for Rawlinson, and make them aware that they need a state approved septic system first, Miles 2nd, so voted.** A copy of the Health Officer's recommendation will be forwarded to the Rawlinsons.

The Board discussed whether or not a memorial donation for the Lorna White Benefit Fund to support cancer support groups should come out of the budget or from personal funds. Kyle feels that the Board should send something from the general fund as Chief White has served in this community for many years and is still currently an employee of the town. The donation would be between \$50 and \$100. Chuck Stata offered to have the donation come from his Health Officer stipend. Miles would like to see a line item for this kind of thing in next year's budget, and since there is currently no line for this expense he would rather not have it come from the budget. Several employees have already gotten together to send a fruit/preserves basket to the Chief using personal funds and he feels the donation should be done in the same way. Shirley Leone does not feel that anyone would complain about the Board using money from the budget as it is a small amount. She inquired as to where the funds came from to send flowers when Al Conkey's wife passed away. No one present at the meeting knew the answer to that. **Miles made a motion to table this until Mike is present, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to sign the letter to Goslins, Kyle 2nd, so voted. The Board is asking the Goslins if they are willing to remove trees that have fallen from their property across the Cockermouth River.

Miles made a motion to table the generator quotes until the full board is present, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to give the Historical Society authority to install a shelf in the kitchen and repair one of the tables, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles read a letter addressed to the Board from William Jolly. Mr. Jolly is alleging that the Animal Control Officer, Miles Sinclair, trespassed on his property. Mr. Jolly also advised the Board that no town official may enter his property without written permission, and suggested that Miles step down from one or both of the positions that he holds. Miles responded by saying that he and Mr. Jolly had left each other phone messages about the registration of Mr. Jolly's dog, but had not been able to speak together. He went to his home to make contact and did not see the No Trespassing sign. Since that initial visit he has gone up Orange Road to look at the snowmobile bridges and did locate Mr. Jolly's sign which is beyond the driveway on a single tree. This is not compliant with posting requirements. There was a small chain across the driveway and it also was not posted. If Mr. Jolly considers this to be a gate there should be additional postings there so it is obvious to someone that the property is posted. Miles did not consider this to be a gate. When he approached the house, he went to the doorway that appeared to be the one most used as an entrance to the house. There was a door to what Mr. Jolly calls his mud room. He knocked, received no answer, then entered the mud room to knock on the inner door. When there was no response he left his card at the inner door. He did not open that door or enter the house, and does not feel that he has broken the law. He will not be responding to Mr. Jolly's letter in writing as he has already had a phone conversation with him about it and does not feel that there is anything that he can say that will affect Mr. Jolly. He has no intention of resigning from either of his positions with the town.

As ACO, Miles is systematically reviewing all dog ownership records and contacting anyone who is listed as having an unregistered dog to verify whether or not they still have that dog or any others. The rules for loose/roaming dogs are if the dog is off its own property it must be under the control of its owner or keeper at all times. It doesn't have to be on a leash as long as it is obedient to verbal command.

In response to Shirley Leone's inquiry, the Board reported that the letter sent to the Province Road abutters did not include trees, only brush to be cleared. The Board will be having further discussions about how to move forward on this issue.

In response to Betty Smolinsky's inquiry, Chuck Stata announced that flu shots will be available in Plymouth.

Rena Chase said the clearing along Edgar Albert Road looks good. There are a few driveways with very poor visibility, and she asked if those areas were to be cleared as well. **Miles made a motion to pass this along to the Road Agent for any action deemed appropriate, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to forward a copy of Mr. Jolly's letter to Chief White, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant