

**Town of Groton  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2010  
7:00pm**

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

**Audience Members Present**

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:06pm and read the appointments and announcements. He proposed the following amendments to the April 13 Selectmen's Meeting minutes:

- Page 2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph: include the word **like** after the word also in the second sentence.
- Page 3, last paragraph: within the quotations strike the word **very** and change **vigilante** to **vigilant**. In the eighth sentence replace the words **be costly** with **increase costs**.

**Miles made a motion to amend the minutes as proposed, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Old Business:**

Judie Demers requested permission to buy a used Kirby in good condition with all the attachments for the \$300 cap previously voted on by the Board. All three Board members agreed as long as she assures that the vacuum is in good working condition.

**Christina made a motion to sign the signature card for the new debit/credit card for the Town and sign the letter canceling the current debit/credit card, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** The current debit/credit card was issued to the Town of Groton in the former Treasurer's name. Therefore, the Board is correcting by closing one card and requesting its reissue.

**Miles made a motion to sign the letter of response to Brenda Merryman, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** Ms. Merryman's concerns were discussed at last week's Selectmen's Meeting.

**Miles made a motion to sign the memo to all Town Officials concerning contacting William Jolly prior to going onto his property, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Kyle made a motion to sign the memo to all Department Heads concerning the use of Town funds and continuing with standard operations, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Christina made a motion to sign the letter to Avitar asking them to contact William Jolly and Victoria Collins prior to going onto their properties, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles made a motion to sign the Board's letter of support for the Groton Wind LLC wind farm project, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** The Board will inquire as to where the turbines are manufactured per an inquiry from an audience member.

**Miles made a motion to sign the Attorney engagement letter for the Hobart Bankruptcy proceedings and request a good faith estimate of the costs, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed Building Permit Guidelines changes that will clarify the original intent of the guidelines that were adopted in 2003. In addition, the current guidelines require that a copy of the State septic approval be attached to the permit as well as Public Utilities Commission approval for any

new buildings and additions of living space that are heated or cooled by fossil fuels. To date neither this Board nor past Boards have enforced these requirements. Also, Christina would like the Board to revisit the permit fee structure as the fee amount to add a deck is the same as building a small house. **Miles made a motion to table this while they give further thought to the guidelines, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Christina made a motion that the Board file to become an intervener in the Groton Wind application for Site and Facility permit process, and to have the Town's attorney file the necessary paperwork and attend the first hearing, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** Becoming interveners allows the Board the opportunity to have a voice in the proceedings should they choose to do so.

Concerning Iberdrola's proposed decommissioning agreement, the Board of Selectmen continue to insist on the following:

- Iberdrola Renewables provide documentation supporting their assertion that it costs \$23,000 to decommission one wind turbine. Since Iberdrola placated the Town of Lempster with a larger than required guarantee, then it would seem that they could similarly placate the Town of Groton.
- Iberdrola Renewables guarantee the cost of decommissioning in the form of a bond or cash
- That this agreement be governed under New Hampshire jurisdiction and laws, not New York.

### **New Business**

**Miles made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Green Acre Woodlands, Map 9 Lots 2,8,10, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Kyle made a motion to allow the Mooseman 70.3 Half Iron Committee to use the Town House Parking area for a bicycle aid station, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** Chief Dickerson has been meeting with the Mooseman Committee every other week to discuss preparations for the race. This year a portion of the course includes North Groton Road and Halls Brook Road.

The Board received 2 requests for abatement with regards to the inventory penalty. **Christina made a motion to deny both, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** The reasons given for one request appeared to be inaccurate, and by their own admission, the resident who submitted the second request would have been late filing their inventory even before any extenuating circumstances came into play.

**Kyle made a motion to approve the building permit for Vickie Kimball, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board reviewed Avitar's recommendation for Victoria Collins' 2009 abatement request. **Miles made a motion to deny the abatement request for the reasons given by Avitar, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Kyle made a motion to sign the abatement denial letter and send it to Mrs. Collins, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Local Government Center (LGC) sent a memorandum that includes a paragraph indicating the municipalities' possible obligation to provide health care benefits for all employees under the new Health Care Law. This topic will be discussed at a Benefits Administration Workshop given by LGC on May 14. The Administrative Assistant and at least one member of the Board will attend.

The Board received a Livable, Walkable, Community Survey. **Miles made a motion to leave whether or not to participate in the survey to Pam's discretion, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Dave and Judie Demers, and Buddy and Bonnie Lane requested permission to clean along the stone wall behind the proposed location for the Veteran's Monument. **Miles made a motion to approve the request but stressed that anything they are being authorized to do must be on Town property, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board discussed what their policy will be concerning media contacts as they get calls from the media for a number of subjects. Miles feels they should be allowed to comment but make it clear when they are speaking on behalf of the Board or on their own. Kyle feels the Board should not comment but direct everything to the Selectmen's Office to be fielded by Pam. Christina feels their comments should be based upon Board discussions and opinion, but if not discussed among Board members, then they should make no comment. **Miles made a motion to table this in order to give it more thought, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

The Board discussed whether or not they will utilize Skip Sansoucy to assess the value of the Groton Wind project. Christina commented that Mr. Sansoucy is one of the only assessors in New Hampshire who does utilities, and he supports his assessments in court if necessary. Groton Wind had supplied some public court documents showing that Mr. Sansoucy had made some misrepresentations in a case in Maine in the '80's and was ultimately sanctioned. In the ruling of another case, the court indicated that his assessment amounts were arbitrary. Iberdrola has said they do not want the Town to utilize Mr. Sansoucy, and they have given the Town some reasons to consider using someone else. Miles is concerned that the overall process will be hindered if they use him to do the assessment. Kyle will read the court documents by next week. **Miles made a motion to table this until Kyle has an opportunity to read the documents, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Jimmy Albert commented that it is good to see the entire Board making decisions.

**Miles made a motion to adjourn at 9:11pm, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Hamel  
Administrative Assistant