

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2010
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and read the appointments and announcements.

In review of the minutes, Marina Chase felt that the Board's response to Miles' question during last week's meeting regarding whether or not the Board felt it should adopt the Fish & Game Rules for boat landings for the Spectacle Pond launch should be recorded in the minutes. She was under the impression that it was a vote. She also feels the comment that the area be used as a multipurpose area for swimming, fishing and for Hebron's access to the other side of the pond should be included in the minutes as well. Miles responded, and the other members concurred, that last week's conversation was a discussion amongst the Board and not a formal vote not to adopt the Fish & Game Rules. This started out as a parking and turning space issue but has evolved into a determination of the general usage of the area. Ms. Chase asked what the area was originally intended for and also commented about liability issues should people choose to swim there. She also said that she has never seen swimming allowed at a boat landing. The Board does not know the original intent. Fish & Game put in the landing and then gave it to the Town in 1937. It has served as a multipurpose landing for several years, and Miles knows of no incidents that have occurred there as a result of this use since he has been living in Groton. Only gas powered motors are allowed for those who are grandfathered to access the other end of the pond. All other boats are powered by electric motor or oars. Kyle and Christina agreed that they would like to see it remain as a multipurpose landing. Dave Leone commented that he has always known it as a boat landing and swimming place. The issues he sees are safety for emergency vehicles to pass and having sufficient room for boat trailers to be able to turn around.

The Board appreciates Ms. Chase's opinion. They have not made any decisions and will look into any liability issues if swimming is to continue, possibly posting no lifeguard on duty, swim at your own risk signs. This spot is the only public access to the pond that Groton residents have as the rest of the surrounding property is privately owned.

Miles proposed the following amendments to the May 9 minutes:

- Page 2, paragraph 2, replace the or after the word dead with a **comma**, and add **or in poor condition** after the word rotted.
- Page 2, paragraph 2, change would fall to **could fall**.
- Page 2, paragraph 5, under number two, change do fail to **go bankrupt**.

Miles made a motion to amend the minutes as proposed, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles reported that he marked 10 additional trees on Bailey Hill Road that he considered hazardous (he had neglected to do that road the previous week), making the total 119. Christina spoke with someone from the New Hampshire Electric Coop (NHEC). They do cyclical trimming every 10 years and Groton is scheduled for 2012. However, in the interim they will look at any trees that the Town believes to be hazardous. They told Christina that this does not guarantee they will take them down. The NHEC's Right of Way (ROW) is to the power lines and in some instances 10 to 15 feet past the power lines depending upon the easement. They are not allowed to cut a tree beyond the ROW without the owner's permission. Miles said the statute requires that the electric company take care of these trees at their own expense and gives the Board the authority to require it of them. Kyle reported that he saw some trees during Monday's work session that definitely need to come down. Dave

Leone has some documents showing the ROW on North Groton Road from Halls Brook Road to John Faucher's house. There are monuments marking the boundary. He does not know if the NHEC has all the required easements for areas of North Groton Road. He will make this paperwork available for the Town to copy. He also said that the State archives should have all the information about the layout of roads and their width. He will ask his surveyor about it.

The Board is in agreement that they should move forward with the project. The first step will be to send out notices to anyone who lives on a Town road that has marked trees. They will include a copy of the statute giving the Board the authority to do this. **Miles made a motion to send notices to all property owners on the following Town roads: Sculptured Rocks, Province, River, North Groton, Fletcher, Old Rumney, Edgar Albert, Blanchette Lane, and Bailey Hill that the town has marked trees that in its opinion are hazardous and need to be removed pursuant to RSA 231:145. Should anyone wish to discuss this they should contact the Selectmen's office. If the Board has not heard from them they will commence removing these trees beginning June 14, Kyle 2nd, so voted.** There were no trees found that were considered hazardous on Smith Road.

There was some discussion about the branch hanging over some wires on Edgar Albert Road. Currently this branch is being supported by a tree in the Town's ROW. The top half of this tree is dead. If the Town takes it down the branch from the other tree (which is not in the ROW) will come down taking the wires with it. This branch would need to be removed first, preferably by the NHEC. Once the cutting commences Miles would like to take down the trees he feels comfortable with, get some assistance for more difficult cuts, and finally document and send a letter to the NHEC letting them know of the ones they need to take care of.

Miles had a conversation with someone that works with the State Highway Department who said they don't mark hazardous trees because if they mark them they own them, and if something happens and they haven't taken care of that tree then they are liable. Miles said that ignoring this issue is not something he would condone or propose as that is like putting liability blinders on.

The Board would like to set up a work session with Ed Cherian on either June 1 or June 8 at 6:00pm, whichever night works best for him. A safety committee meeting will be scheduled for the evening left open.

The Board advertized the vacant Treasurer's position beyond what they typically do because of an application they received from Kyle Andrews' wife. They felt that because of his affiliation with the Selectboard, it would be prudent to take extra steps to make sure Town residents had ample opportunity to submit letters of interest. Darlene Andrews was the only one who applied. The Board interviewed her this evening and they have extended to her a conditional offer for the position based upon successful completion of a background and reference check. Kyle abstained from participating in the interview process and vote.

Miles announced that the Board had a work session with the Road Agent to discuss and view the proposed road work areas. The Road Agent is looking to address problems on North Groton Road and Sculptured Rocks Road.

In a letter attached to Timbervest's Intent to Cut, Forester Bob Bradbury commented about the E2 posted weight limit (80,000 lbs) on the Atwell/ Orange Brook Bridge and inquired if the Town was now accepting road bonds to exceed the limit. The Board has not changed their position concerning that bridge and is not accepting road bonds to exceed the limit. **Miles made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Bradbury reaffirming the Board's position in relation to the weight limit on the Atwell/Orange Brook bridge, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Timbervest, Map 3 Lots 14 & 16, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for Barrie Sawyer, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to sign and send out the courtesy letters for delinquent Report of Cut filings, Christina 2nd, so voted. In the future Pam will send these out as part of her day to day work without putting it on the agenda.

T.L.C Tree & Crane Service has submitted a letter to the Board allowing the Town to use T.L.C.'s wood chipper #3. The Town will supply fuel and provide regular maintenance. Before the Road Agent uses this chipper Miles would like to have a clearer understanding of what happens if it breaks down while the Town is using it. **Miles made a motion to table this until Glen has an opportunity to discuss this with Mr. Faucher and get something more concrete in writing, Kyle 2nd, so voted.** The Board appreciates Mr. Faucher's generosity in offering the use of this piece of equipment.

Christina made a motion to approve and sign the Building Permit for Daniel and Susan Gallant, Map 1 Lot 78, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to sign the 1-2-3 Lock-Key Security service contract, Christina 2nd, so voted.

The Groton Historical Society would like to use the Town Hall on July 19 for a general policy meeting. **Miles made a motion to grant their request, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Betty Smolinsky reported that the old fencing at the North Groton Cemetery has been taken down.

Pam Yinger said she heard some explosions coming from across the brook. She doesn't know exactly where they are originating from as sound carries.

Kyle has stepped down as the Selectmen's liaison to the Planning Board due to scheduling and time constraints. Miles will be the liaison for now. Christina has expressed an interest but, due to some current commitments, she is unable to take the position at this time.

Miles made a motion to adjourn at 8:24pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant