

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2010
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and read the appointments and announcements.

Miles made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

The Board reviewed the letter to abutters regarding clearing hazardous trees in the Town's right of way. Pam will have these letters ready for mailing by the end of the week.

There were no problems reported on the background check for Darlene Andrews, and she received very favorable references. The Board had discussed whether or not an audit would be done before appointing a new treasurer. The Town's auditor, John Lyford, is familiar with what is going on regarding the former treasurer, and he feels this adequately addresses having an audit. The Board is comfortable with his recommendation. **Miles made a motion to appoint Darlene Andrews as treasurer effective immediately and, if available, to start immediately, Christina 2nd, so voted, Kyle abstaining.**

T.L.C submitted an updated agreement that addressed the Board's concerns over the use of the chipper by the Town Highway Department and clarified any issues. The Town is not responsible for wear, tear or incidentals to equipment when said equipment is used as designed. The Board appreciates Mr. Faucher's generosity in allowing the Town to use the chipper at no charge.

There is a public hearing for the Groton Wind, LLC, proposed wind farm on Monday, June 28, 7pm at Hyde Hall on the Plymouth State University campus. The Board is encouraging Groton residents to attend the hearing. A prehearing conference is scheduled for June 7 at 10:00am in Concord. The Town's attorney will be attending on behalf of the town, and Miles will try to make this meeting as well.

Bonnie Lane contacted Miles on behalf of the Groton Historical Society. They would like to know if any Board members want to say a few words at the Veteran's Memorial Dedication on Sunday. All Board members will attend the dedication. Miles is willing to say a few words and Christina will play it by ear.

Christina made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Cross, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kyle would like the Board to discuss the bridge on Coolidge Woods Road. The logging company had torn the planks off and replaced them after a few days. According to Slim Spafford, former Selectman Frank Harris told him that when he was on the Board, they were approached by a logging company that was trying to access a land locked piece of property off that road. At that time the Board laid out 1,500 feet of road, including the bridge, for access, and that portion is considered class VI. Kyle is under the impression that property owners must get permission from the Board before doing any work on a Class VI road, and when replacing a bridge on a Class VI it must be done in the same day. The Board will take some time to investigate the status of this road and what kind of arrangements have been made in the past that perhaps allow the logger to do repairs as necessary without going back to the Board each time. **Miles made a motion to table this until they have done the necessary research, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Administrative Assistant will be on vacation beginning June 30 through July 11. The Board will determine whether or not they will hold a Selectmen's meeting on July 6 as the time approaches.

A Town resident asked about having a children's birthday party at the park. Betty Smolinsky and Pam Yinger both said the Groton Recreation Committee (GRC) had discussed usage of the park in the past and would like it to be open to the public. Christina presented the Board with a GRC flyer given to the children from the Bridgewater/Hebron School inviting the public to make use of the facilities. Pam will contact the resident to advise.

While reviewing the property card files it was inadvertently discovered that Lewis Chase does not qualify for the veteran's credit that he has been receiving. Pam has already spoken with him to determine whether or not he has any additional information to submit for the Board's consideration. He does not. Although the law does not allow Mr. Chase to continue to receive this credit, the Board is thankful for his service to his country. They would also like Pam to let Mr. Chase know that the Town is not looking for any reimbursement as the Town was in error when originally granting the credit.

Pam reported that the Town Clerk had noticed that tires were being stockpiled on the Sewall property. She spoke with a driver delivering these tires who told her Bill Robertie was stockpiling them and once he has gathered enough he will sell them. Chief Dickerson also visited the site and confirmed that tires are being stored there. Mr. Robertie has received a special exception from the Zoning Board to operate a boat storage facility on the property. As he has not yet complied with Site Plan Review for the facility, the Planning Board recently sent him a certified letter asking him what his intentions are. To date Mr. Robertie has not responded. It now appears as though he is looking to expand his operation and may be in violation of the Town's junkyard ordinance. The Board discussed whether or not it was time to play hard ball with Mr. Robertie. **Miles made a motion to table this until next week as they consider how they will deal with this, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Kyle made a motion to sign the building permit violation letter to the Coles, Christina 2nd, so voted. On their inventory, the Coles reported that they had built an 8 x 22 deck. The Board is looking for them to go through the proper channels when building a structure that is over 100 sq. ft.; fill out the building permit application and submit the proper fee.

While doing some Animal Control follow up work Miles spoke with a resident who built a dog kennel that is clearly over 100 sq. ft. The Board would like him to go through the proper channels as well. **Miles made a motion to sign the building permit violation letter to the Rogers, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Road Agent wanted to clarify with the Board that there are sufficient funds available for him to order gravel for Province Road. The finances are holding and the tax bills have just gone out. Several weeks ago the Board had agreed that normal operations could resume and they see no problem with Glen Hansen ordering the gravel.

Miles made a motion to adjourn at 7:49pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant