

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2010
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

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

Miles had the opportunity to attend both of the Groton Wind LLC Technical sessions. These sessions are to facilitate the sharing of technical information regarding the proposed Wind Farm Project. During this round interveners were questioned by the applicant, council for the public and other interveners. October 4th is the deadline for information exchange.

Three people participated in the first hazardous tree removal day. Between 12 and 20 trees were removed with no damage or injuries. The next scheduled work day is October 9 at 9:00am. The Board would like to thank John Faucher for the use of his equipment including gas and oil at no charge to the Town.

Christina reported that she is still working on the Yetman issue. She has been referred to the wetlands inspector for this area and hopes to hear from her this week. She will also be contacting the Local Government Center regarding the legality of exchanging work for the value of the trees cut.

The Planning Board and Board of Selectmen are available to meet with the Town's attorney on either Wednesday or Thursday, October 13 or 14 to discuss the various roles of each of the Boards, including the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). Pam will contact the ZBA to make final arrangements.

After viewing the work James Cross has done on Coolidge Woods Road the Board is satisfied with how he finished the project. They did note that one of the logs on the bridge has been pushed out which could possibly cause some damage to a vehicle, and he should have gotten permission to place some rocks on the road that help to divert the water and make the road more passable. They asked Pam to draft a letter to Mr. Cross letting him know that they are satisfied with the work done and remind him that any future work needs to go through the Town before taking place.

The Board agreed that Province Road has sustained some damage due the current logging operation out there. Areas of the road are muddy and rutted, and large tire treads have dug up the road. They would like Glen to make contact with the Forester to see if the company responsible is willing to do anything. **Miles made a motion to refer this to Glen to try to address on his level and if he is unsuccessful bring it back to the Board, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

William Dufresne would like to leave some literature promoting his business in the Town Hall. The Board is okay with him and others leaving their business cards but no other literature.

Miles read a letter from Roland Bixby regarding the Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge in which he claims that Councilor Burton has requested detailed information about the bridge. The Board has received no correspondence from the Councilor. The Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge is inspected by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Bureau of Bridge Design and Bridge Inspection biennially, and was last

inspected on April 29, 2009. Since the Board has a letter of response to Gail Catanzaro regarding the concerns she raised about the bridge they will copy this to Mr. Bixby. Chuck Stata encouraged the Board to explore an appropriate replacement for the bridge so the Town can be planning for this. Miles replied that they have already had discussions regarding the appropriate replacement of this bridge. **Miles made a motion to sign the letter to Mrs. Catanzaro with a copy going to Mr. Bixby, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Kyle made a motion to deny the interest abatement request for Grahams, Christina 2nd, so voted, Miles opposed. Kyle and Christina believe that granting this could open up flood gates for others who 'forget' to pay for one reason or other. Miles feels that the Grahams have demonstrated that they consistently pay their taxes in a timely manner, and when they discovered their error this year they made immediate payment. He would support abating the interest that had accrued.

The Board set up a work session with the Cemetery Trustees for Tuesday, October 5 at 6:00pm to look at a 5 acre lot on Sculptured Rocks Road that is for sale. The Trustees informed the Board that there are about 21 Cemetery plots available and they would like the Board to begin considering the purchase of a lot for a future cemetery. They also reported that a few years ago a tree that was donated by the New Hampshire Electric Coop in celebration of Arbor Day was planted in the Rolfe Cemetery. They would like to move this tree to a location outside the Rolfe Cemetery or the North Groton Cemetery in order to use its current spot for a future burial. The Board is fine with this.

The Town's Health Officer Chuck Stata gave a brief update on any septic issues/violations that he is aware of. Last year he received four (4) verbal complaints which he investigated. He did stress the importance of complaints being in writing as this helps to eliminate neighbor 'telling' on neighbor because they are having some kind of feud. He also said that he needs probable cause to apply for an administrative search warrant. When he receives a complaint he looks around to check for obvious problems and septic failures but needs a warrant in order to enter a premise if the home owner does not allow him access. Concerning the property on North Groton Road, he inspected the outside; found a well, an outdoor shower and no evidence of septic failure. He has not been inside the residence nor has he contacted the home owner. There have been two (2) new outhouses constructed this year. He has also received official notice from the Department of Environmental Services that there is a water supply that has failed the E.coli test two (2) times. He is keeping an eye on this situation.

Christina made a motion to sign the acceptance of audit requirement for the 2008 FEMA funds the Town received, Kyle 2nd, so voted. FEMA requires the Board's signature even though the Town is not subject to the audit as they did not receive in excess of \$500,000 in aid.

Christina made a motion to sign the building permit for Tkachuk, Map 7 Lot 1, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

The Board reviewed the Ad for Police Chief, made a few changes, and directed Pam to post it in as many free places as possible. The deadline for submitting a resume is October 22.

The Spectacle Pond Association is applying for a matching grant to repair the dyke. They would like the Board of Selectmen to submit a letter of support for the project/Association which will be included with the grant application. **Miles made a motion to have Pam draft a letter of support for the Spectacle Pond Association, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Christina asked the Board members if they are okay with having someone with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) stationed at the corner of Sculptured Rocks Road and North Groton Road for the New Hampshire Marathon this weekend as the Town no longer has a police officer available to fulfill this responsibility. All three Board members are fine with this.

Miles reported that Jimmy Albert had approached him about having the Town Offices moved downstairs in order to help facilitate anyone who has difficulty maneuvering the stairway and would rather not use the elevator. Miles asked the Town Clerk and the Administrative Assistant if they were willing to assist anyone who is unable to come upstairs for one reason or another by coming downstairs and helping. Both Laura and Pam replied that they are already in the habit of helping anyone who would prefer to not come upstairs. This being the case, the Board feels no need to move the offices.

Mr. Albert also told Miles that he does not want to see his tax dollars spent performing work on someone else's property and he questions the legality of this. He is referring to the Board's agreement to do some driveway work on Dave Yetman's property in exchange for the timber that was cut last year when the right of way was cleared along Province Road. Christina said she would email LGC regarding the matter.

Miles made a motion to go into non public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II, at 9:06pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to return to public session at 9:43pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 9:45pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant