

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 8, 2011**

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

Audience members present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:37pm.

Miles made a motion to accept the minutes of February 1 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles reported that he met with Pam Yinger and Roland Bixby from the Groton Historical Society (GHS). In general terms Ms. Yinger and Mr. Bixby discussed what the GHS would like to do this year. The largest event is a Memorial Day celebration at the park. Miles let them know that GHS would have to secure permission from the Board to hold this event at the park. Helen Santoro said she heard a rumor that Mr. Bixby wants to move the Veteran's Memorial. Kyle responded by saying that the Memorial belongs to the Town now and Miles indicated he has heard talk of a second memorial at the park instead.

Due to competing schedules the Board agreed to switch meetings, changing the Junkyard Dog to February 22 and the Safety Committee to February 15.

Pam was able to contact two of the appraisers supplied by George Lagasse with regard to the assessment of the Groton Wind towers and the potential PILOT, but was unable to reach the third. The appraiser for the Mars Hill Wind Project was able to supply some numbers regarding the value of a project based upon the number of kilowatts and David Moody from the Shaw Group asked the Board to submit a written request for the scope of work. As consultation costs are very high the Board would like the company to provide some figures based upon the number turbines and megawatts of the project, and any other information that they are privy to that the company feels they need to have to produce a ball park figure to use as a comparison when negotiating the PILOT agreement with Groton Wind LLC. Additionally, two members of the Antrim Select Board and their Town Manager have reached out to the Town as they are in the process of negotiating a PILOT with a small wind energy company called Antrim Wind Energy LLC. They came up and spoke with Pam last week, and also left a copy of their proposed PILOT agreement. Pam shared with them in general terms where the Town of Groton is in their negotiations.

Pam contacted the registry regarding the recent Quitclaim Deed the Town received on a property that they had taken for taxes in August. The deed was signed in 2002 but the owner only submitted it for recording in December 2010. The registry does not review these forms to see if they have already been deeded for nonpayment of taxes, etc. However, the recording date does not negate the fact that the Town had already taken ownership of the property.

The Board would like Pam to contact We Log trucking regarding payment for damage done on Sculptured Rocks Road. Owner Malcolm Washburn had agreed to pay for this damage. His company was invoiced on December 13 and the Town has not yet received payment.

Joseph Arena reported that when there was a recent accident off of the Jewell Hill Bridge he heard that the Hebron Fire and EMS would not cross the bridge with the ambulance and their large fire truck. Miles spoke with Hebron Fire Chief John Fischer. Mr. Fischer did not say that they would not cross bridge but that they are uneasy about it due to the lack of information on it such as age, weight capacity, etc., as well as no railings. The department would likely take their smaller truck (27,000lbs) over the bridge and run a hose. He did not convey that they would not take an ambulance across.

Mr. Arena responded by saying that loaded logging trucks have safely passed over that bridge as well as the Irving 10 wheel propane truck. Miles said he had mentioned to Mr. Fischer about logging trucks using the bridge, and his response was is the bridge safe or were they just lucky. Again the issue is that there is no information regarding the structure. As this is a private issue with a private road and a private bridge Miles feels the Board should be concerned that they contract with Hebron for fire and ambulance and they want the Town's residents to be served properly. He asked if there is any information that could be obtained about this bridge to put them at ease. Mr. Arena suggested that the Fire Department send a structural engineer out to look at the project. Miles feels this is the responsibility of those who own and maintain the bridge. As far as Mr. Arena knows it was built by loggers 20 or so years ago and is maintained by the Jewell Hill residents. It has I-beams although he is not certain how many, perhaps 4. Ken Martel said the railings would not keep something from going over but they would be used as a guide. He also said that he would not take a piece of fire apparatus over a bridge that he felt was unsafe. Miles affirmed that Mr. Fischer did not say that they would not go over that bridge. As long as Hebron is meeting their contractual obligations the Town's role has been fulfilled. Any specifics about the bridge are a private issue and the Town should not be involved. The property owners can meet with Mr. Fischer directly. Pam will get a phone number for someone at the state level for bridge inspection for Mr. Arena to contact if he wants to go that route.

Dave Leone asked about the issues on the other private roads. He said that since they are paying for fire and ambulance coverage, he would like to know if they will have coverage. Miles responded that during his conversation with Mr. Fischer, he did not express any other concerns with the Town of Groton other than the Jewel Hill Bridge. Kyle stated that people on private roads and class VI roads are responsible to make sure their roads are accessible for emergency vehicles, not the Town. No one knows of any instance when someone on a private road was denied fire or ambulance service simply because they were on a private road.

Miles announced the 2011 candidates for Town offices, and the Newfound Area School District Board and Budget Committee candidates.

Candidate's night will be open for any candidate running for a position that Groton people have an opportunity to vote for. This will include school offices.

The Board set up a work session with Sam Greene from the Department of Revenue for March 22 at 6:00pm.

There is some draft proposed legislation that would allow certain auto dealerships to process motor vehicle registrations using a third party vendor. This could potentially create an auditing nightmare with money that should be going to the Town but perhaps getting allocated elsewhere. **Miles made a motion to draft a letter to our representatives, include a copy of draft proposal and letter, and urge them to oppose this legislation for the reasons stated in the letter, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

The Board scheduled the Administrative Assistant's annual review for March 1 at 6:00pm.

Groton Wind LLC had decided on an alternate route for their electric lines and step up station which now involves the Town of Holderness. The company and the Town have agreed to a schedule for discovery of information. Before filing the motion they are asking on whether or not the Board assents to their motion. **Miles made a motion to contact the attorney for Holderness and let him know that the Town of Groton assents to this motion, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Miles gave a brief update on the Groton Wind Project. The SEC process is continuing and a final decision is due by April 26. Groton has signed an agreement with Groton Wind regarding the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project and this agreement has been recorded at the registry. They are now in the

process of negotiating a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement with the company. A public hearing is necessary before a PILOT agreement can be signed.

Miles made a motion to notify Glen Hansen that the Board is concerned about the snow load on the roof of the Town House and would like it to be addressed immediately, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Dave Leone asked if the Board would ask the snowmobile club that uses Bailey Hill Road to post a speed limit and a stay to the right sign. He also said there are several holes on North Groton Road that are 8 inches or more deep. He would like to have them filled by the Road Agent and signs posted. And he believes that Groton uses a lot of salt on the roads which can cause damage to the road. He suggested that the Board drive down Hearse House Road in Dorchester to see how good the road can be using sand and not salt. He said the salt causes the road to freeze and thaw. Miles responded that the Road Agent had tried using less salt and just sanding the road, and that year there were numerous complaints about the ice on North Groton Road. That is when he started using additional salt to avoid that issue. Pam will speak to Glen Hansen about the pot holes and signs.

Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant