

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
April 19, 2011
7:00 PM**

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

Audience members present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Minute Approval

Miles made a motion to accept the minutes of April 12 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Jim Richardson and Richard Silverberg of the Caring Community Network of the Twin Rivers (CCNTR) addressed the Board and the audience. CCNTR is the public health network that services this region of New Hampshire (from Salisbury to Groton) and deals with emergency preparedness and health and wellness. They are a private non-profit organization funded by Federal Grants. CCNTR conducts a needs assessment every three years to determine the health and public health needs of the communities in their region. Assessments will become available on their website, www.ccntr.org, as well as at the Town Office. CCNTR is currently updating and restructuring their Emergency Preparedness Plan so that it looks more like the Town's Emergency Operations Plan. CCNTR also has the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is a group of trained volunteers who can step in and assist during emergencies. CERT members are involved in a variety of ways including traffic control and opening emergency shelters. More information can be found on the CERT website, www.gsbcertmrc.com.

Updates

Building Permit for Fields

Jason Fields contacted Dick de Seve at the Department of Environmental Services (DES). DES advised him that he needs to submit plans for a new septic (designed by a licensed septic designer) to the Board for review and then to DES for approval. He does not need to install the septic but he does need to have approved plans. He told Pam that he intends to submit plans by the end of the week. Based upon this information, **Miles made a motion to revise last week's decision to either approve or deny the permit based upon information received from DES, and to table this until Mr. Fields has complied with DES' requirements, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Old Business

Northern Pass

Last week the Administrative Assistant had neglected to have a letter prepared for the Governor regarding the Northern Pass survey results. **Christina motioned to sign the Northern Pass letter to Governor Lynch, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Kyle made a motion to sign the letter to the State informing them of the Board's decision to contract with June Garneau for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Brown Abatement Request

The Board reviewed the draft letter prepared by the Town's attorney regarding the Brown abatement request. Up to this point the Board has been treating this as a civil matter. In light of the fact that the recent court order regarding Victoria's Mountain Way makes no reference to the Brown's access, Pam suggested that the Board

first require them to show proof that they no longer have access. She pointed out that the Brown subdivision is twenty years old and was based upon access via that road. The Board agreed. **Miles made a motion to have Pam draft a letter to the Browns for their review, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Federal Surplus Property Agreement Form

Chief Pivrotto had indicated that the Police Department was also interested in being able to utilize federal surplus. **Christina motioned to add Joe Pivrotto to the Surplus Distribution Form, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Abatement for incorrect Timber Tax billing amount for Upper Birch Holdings

Kyle made a motion to sign the abatement for the incorrect timber tax amount, Christina 2nd, so voted.

New Business

Groton Historical Society

Pam Yinger and Roland Bixby gave the Board an update on the Groton Historical Society's (GHS) upcoming Memorial Day Celebration at the Everett Hobart Memorial Park. Ms. Yinger pointed out that the sign at the park is in need of repair. She also inquired if the Board had made a decision with regard to transferring the flag pole to Hobart Park and if the Town would be putting in a port-a-potty. The Town does have a port-a-potty at the park, which will be placed during the warm months. With regards to the flagpole, the Board has not been able to make a decision due to the continued inclement weather. Mr. Bixby said that the New Hampshire Electric Coop has offered to supply a temporary electrical service for the day at no charge to the Town or GHS. However, the Board's approval is needed for this. The Board gave their approval for this one time hook up but they are not prepared to have this service on a more permanent basis as normally there is a monthly service charge even if the power is not being used.

The Board reminded Ms. Yinger and Mr. Bixby that in order for the GHS to continue to receive tax exempt status in the Town they must file Form A-9 by April 15. Christina pointed out that the Form A-12 financial statement must also be filed by June 1. Ms. Yinger and Mr. Bixby advised the Board that they were not aware of this requirement. Pam will make copies of last year's filings for their review.

Intent to Cut

Miles motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Gould, Map 1 Lot 66, North Groton Road, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Possible Building Permit Violation for Fleming

During the assessor's visit to the property this year he found that a 15x13 lean-to was added to the property on Nedeau Lane. The Town has no record of issuing a building permit for the project. **Christina motioned to sign the letter to Fleming regarding the possible building permit violation, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Charitable Exemption Applications

The Board reviewed the Charitable Exemption applications submitted by the Circle Program and the Longyear Historical Society (LHS). The Board finds no issues with the Circle Program application. However, they do question whether the 7.25 acre lot which abuts the Mary Baker Eddy House qualifies for exemption as the LHS claims. Pam has spoken with the Local Government Center, the Department of Revenue and Avitar regarding this. All three concur that LHS must show why this lot qualifies for the exemption. **Kyle made a motion for Pam to draft a letter to LHS for the Board's review, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

May 3rd Public Hearing

The public hearing to discuss the proposed parking ordinance, revisions to the current junkyard ordinance, and revisions to the current building permit guidelines is scheduled to begin at 6:00pm. The Board is not able to know how long the hearing will take, therefore, they will post that the Select Board's meeting will begin immediately following the public hearing.

Brock Lane

Mr. Aguiar had contacted Miles regarding the condition of Brock Lane. Mr. Aguiar had been speaking with an attorney who had informed him that the Town had an obligation to maintain that road to insure that emergency vehicles could access the properties. He gave Miles a packet of information regarding this issue. Miles asked the other Board members if they would like to verify whether or not the Town has any legal responsibility to keep that road open for emergency vehicles. Dave Leone said it is his understanding that no one owns the portion of Brock Lane from North Groton Road to the Aguiar property. He is also planning on doing improvements to the road once it dries out. He was intending to ask the Town for permission to work on that portion of the road as there are no land owners who hold a deed to that section. In addition, he said he had contacted Fire Chief Fischer to let him know that if they must access a property on Brock Lane they will need to use a 4 wheel drive. Miles said the Town does not own the road so they cannot give permission for him to do work. Christina asked if the Town had ever declared Brock Lane an emergency lane. Mr. Leone said that according to Deb Johnson the Town did declare that road as an emergency lane when they did some work on it several years ago. However, he does not think they held a public hearing (this is required by state statute). Miles said doing something during an emergency is not the same as declaring it an emergency lane. The Town working on a private road once does not automatically mean that the Town has to continue to maintain it. It has to be a pattern of maintenance over a period of time. Miles asked Dave if the emergency provision he is referring to is the same as what a previous Board did with respect to the Jewell Hill Bridge during the flood. Mr. Leone responded that he was not sure. **Miles made a motion to refer these two issues (ownership of the road and legal obligation to maintain it for emergency access) to the Local Government Center for their opinion, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Carbon Monoxide Detector

Miles traced the wires from the carbon monoxide detector back to the alarm panel in the basement that was installed by 1-2-3 Lock-Key Security. There are two rechargeable mini car type batteries that serve as the emergency backup. The Board would like Pam to contact 1-2-3 Lock-Key Security for replacement/maintenance.

Questions and Comments

Mr. Leone asked if the Town had any information regarding last year's alleged wetland violation that was on Edgar Albert Road. Pam responded that the Department of Environmental Services visited the property but she does not know what the end result was.

Mr. Leone said that the Road Agent had picked up the garbage that was on top of the snow after he had hit a bag of trash while plowing. Now that snow has melted there is more garbage that needs to be taken care of. He would like the rest of that trash picked up. Pam will let Glen know.

The Board had no news to report regarding the lap top that was stolen from the library.

Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant