

**TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
April 26, 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 7:05pm.

**Minute Approval**

**Miles made a motion to accept the minutes of April 19 as written, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Updates**

Northern Pass

Miles reported that the Board had received responses from Senator Jeanne Forrester and Representative Paul Simard to the letter the Board sent to all representatives and the Governor regarding the Northern Pass Project. He also noted that the scoping period has been extended to June 14, 2011. Anyone wishing to submit comments on the project to the Department of Energy must do so by that date.

**Old Business**

Brown Abatement Request

**Kyle made a motion to sign the letter to the Browns regarding their abatement request, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Brock Lane

Miles gave a brief report regarding liability for emergency access on Brock Lane and ownership of the road:

- The Select Board, following a public hearing, can choose to declare the road an emergency lane. The Board is not obligated to do this.
- Should they choose to not declare a private or Class VI road an emergency lane the Town is not liable for keeping that roadway open for emergency vehicles. This is the responsibility of the abutting property owners.
- When a road is discontinued the ownership goes to the abutters. However, normally this does not change their assessment or acreage amount. Usually everyone on the road has a right of way so there is very little taxable value to that small section of road. The Town does not own it.

Carbon Monoxide Detector

Pam was informed by 1-2-3 Lock that the carbon monoxide detector has a 5 year shelf life and it has now exceeded its useful life. The newer detectors have a 10 year shelf life. The Town can replace this one for \$125 and the service call fee, or choose to have something else installed such as a plug in detector that can be purchased at a local hardware store. However, 1-2-3 Lock must be the one to remove the current detector as it is connected to the rest of the alarm monitoring system. Pam informed the Board that she had neglected to get the cost for a service call and the office is closed until Monday. Before making a decision the Board would like her to get this information.

### Longyear Historical Society (LHS)

**Christina made a motion to sign the letter to the LHS requesting that they show evidence that the 7.25 acre lot abutting the Mary Baker Eddy House qualifies for tax exemption, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Quotes for Supplemental Boiler Work

The Board reviewed the quotes for the supplemental boiler work recommended but not required by Travelers insurance agency. Travelers conducted the biannual inspection of the Town's boilers and recommended that some supplemental back up devices be installed. The installation of these devices is not necessary in order for the boilers to pass inspection. Quotes for the work ranged from \$729 to \$1,034. The Board agreed that since the work is not required they will not move forward with it. Had the quotes been for less they would have considered doing the supplemental work.

### **New Business**

#### Betty Smolinsky

Betty Smolinsky asked Miles to apologize for the comment he made at last week's meeting regarding the priests of the Catholic Church. Ms. Smolinsky feels the comment was prejudicial, crude and unnecessary. Miles said he regrets that Betty or anyone else was offended as he was not looking to offend anyone. He had intended the comment to be a joke and he recalls most of the audience responding to it in that way. He also said it is important to recognize that what he said is based in fact to a degree. He does not believe that he owes any apology to the Catholic Church as, in his opinion, they have by their actions or inactions made themselves the brunt of jokes in addition to scorn and ridicule. Ms. Smolinsky responded that she did not ask for an apology for the Church but asked for an apology for herself. She believes Miles is prejudiced against the Catholic Church and its participants, and although we have freedom of speech, she does not believe that he should use this meeting to exercise his prejudice. Miles responded that he is not prejudiced, he is tolerant, and people are entitled to believe what they want to believe.

#### Letter of Thanks to Ernie Blood

Ernie Blood has given the Town a digitized copy of the Groton Historical Society's newsletters and a number of older maps of the Town. **Christina made a motion to sign the letter of thanks to Ernie Blood, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### Groton Historical Society (GHS)

Pam Yinger and Roland Bixby gave the Board an update on the GHS' upcoming Memorial Day Celebration at the Everett Hobart Memorial Park. Ms. Yinger asked the Board if they had an opportunity to look at the flag pole at the former library building. Miles reported that the pole is a telescopic pole that can be pulled out and moved. A pipe would need to be set in the ground at the park. The pole could then be moved back and forth. There will need to be a discussion regarding who will be responsible to set the new pipe, who will purchase the flag and whether or not the intent is to display the flag day or night or both. Christina advised that the Library Trustees were in full agreement with regards to moving the flagpole. Ms. Yinger then asked the audience for volunteers to help the GHS during the celebration. Mr. Bixby reported that he has made arrangements with the New Hampshire Electric Coop to supply a temporary electrical service for the day. He did not get a date for when the service will be removed but he was told that it would be done immediately. He then asked if the Board would consider combining the annual Old Home Day event with this event instead of having two. Christina said the Old Home Day Committee should have input on this. She herself is not in favor of this as they are two separate events. The Board agreed that at this time it should be left the way that it is. They also agreed to Mr. Bixby's request for GHS to set up a place to play horseshoes.

#### Hazardous Tree Removal

Miles spoke with John Faucher recently and Mr. Faucher recommended that hazardous tree removal be started again in about a month. The Board agreed.

### Mooseman Triathlon

The Board agreed to allow the Mooseman Triathlon to park an aid truck at the Town House on Sunday June 5.

### Timber Tax Warrant

**Christina made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for Smith, Map 10 Lot 10, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Signs

Marina Chase said she and her husband will spruce up some of the signs at the park. Rich O'Connor had made one of the signs; therefore, Jo O'Connor will ask him if he is willing to take care of that one. Marina also mentioned that if the Cemetery Trustees bring her their signs she and her husband will spruce them up as well.

### Non Public Work Session

The Board set up a non public work session with the Chief of Police under the hiring exception of the right to know law following the Select Board's meeting next Tuesday.

### Property/Liability Update

Pam reported that she has done the annual property/liability update. This year the generator was added as it is not considered contents of the Town House and it should be insured. She asked the Board if they would like the pavilion at the park to be included in the schedule. The Board agreed to include the pavilion. They asked Pam to contact Gordon Coursey for a replacement cost as he is the one who built the pavilion. Should she not hear back from him by the May 2<sup>nd</sup> update deadline the Board will use \$7,500 for a replacement cost.

### Victoria Collins

Miles reported that he had received a small packet from Ms. Collins addressed to him at his home. He did not know if the other Board members had also received this packet. Kyle and Christina did not. As they have not had the opportunity to review its contents **Miles made a motion to table this until they have an opportunity to review the contents, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Building Permit for Verizon

Verizon Wireless has submitted a building permit request to replace 3 existing antenna and add an additional 3 to the Tenney Tower. In their past discussions with the Town's attorney regarding the Town's Zoning Ordinance, the Board discussed the addition of buildings but not antenna. **Miles made a motion to contact the Town's attorney regarding whether Verizon should be required to get a special exception for this, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Halifax American Energy Company

Frank Dumont submitted a request to have an opportunity to discuss the possibility of the Town purchasing its electricity from someone other than the New Hampshire Electric Coop. Due to deregulation this is possible. The Board is willing to meet with Mr. Dumont during a regularly scheduled Select Board meeting. Pam will contact him to set up a time to be on the agenda.

### DRA Timber Tax Appraisal Division

Pam asked the Board if they are willing to write a letter expressing their concern that should the proposed House budget be passed, then the only position at the Department of Revenue for handling Timber Tax issues will be eliminated. Currently this position is filled by Jesse Bushaw. Mr. Bushaw has been instrumental in the Town receiving additional tax dollars on the Bardsley cut as well as assisting a number of property owners who were unaware of the need to submit a report of cut or how to do so correctly when the logger did not take care of it. He has also contacted property owners who should have filed intents but had neglected to do so. The Town has benefited from all these services. The Board asked Pam to draft a letter for their review.

### Office Closings

The Select Board office will be closed during the following times:

- Thursday, May 5, opening at 1:00pm
- Friday, May 27
- Monday, June 6
- Friday, June 17-Monday, June 27, office will reopen on June 28

### Spring Clean Up

Christina reported that there is a lot of garbage along the road side near the Transfer Station as well as near the dumpsters. Miles said this is typical of the spring. Supervisor Glen Hansen will make arrangements with the Transfer Station employees to take care of this clean up. Christina suggested having a spring clean up day at the park and soliciting volunteers to help. May 14 has been chosen for the date. All Board members volunteered to help. Christina will check to see how much clean up there is and let the Board know next week.

### **Committee Updates**

On Wednesday, April 27, the Library Trustees will begin working on cleaning out the stored library books that are in the closet in order to make room for some fire proof filing cabinets.

**Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 8:17pm, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Hamel  
Administrative Assistant