

**TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
May 1, 2012**

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

**Audience Members Present**

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

**Miles motioned to approve the minutes of April 24 as written, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**APPOINTMENTS**

Cate Barrett, Director of the Newfound Area Nurses Association (NANA), addressed the Board. NANA offers similar services as Pemi-Baker Community Health including free foot clinics. Although they primarily serve the southern end of Groton, all Groton residents may avail themselves of NANA's services. In order to reach out to the local community, Ms. Barrett requested that the Town add a link to the NANA website on the Town's site.

**Kyle motioned to add a link to the Town's website. Christina amended the motion to include the Pemi-Baker Community Health link as well, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**UPDATES**

Sculptured Rocks Road Culvert Replacement

The Road Department successfully replaced the culvert on Monday night.

Groton North Country Council (NCC) Representatives

The Board learned that Town representatives are not required but this means that the Town does not have a voice with the Council.

**RIVER ROAD SPEED LIMIT CHANGE PUBLIC HEARING**

Miles opened the public hearing on the proposed speed limit change on River Road at 7:25pm.

Jo O'Conner stated that she believes the Board should take Chief Pivirotto's recommendation to lower the speed limit from 35mph to 25pmh. Kyle and Christina agreed. Miles stated that someone had brought up a 5 mph reduction. He does not feel that a 5mph reduction is enough to make any significant difference.

Miles closed the public hearing at 7:27pm.

**Christina motioned to change the speed limit to 25mph, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** The Board authorized the Road Agent to order two 25 mph speed limit signs, one for each town boundary line on River Road. The limit change will go into effect when the road is properly posted. Chief Pivirotto asked that the new, larger arrow sign be placed where the older, smaller one is (closer to the corner). The Board will relay this to the Road Agent.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Mooseman Triathlon

The Race Director for the Mooseman Triathlon requested permission to plug in an ice merchandiser at the Town House during the Triathlon. **Miles motioned to grant the request to use the outlet for the Mooseman, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Wind Farm Project Photos

Christina will choose some photos of the Board's visit to the Wind Farm project site for submission to Iberdrola for their approval to post online.

### Septic Plans for Rodriguez, Map 1 Lot 48-2, Bailey Hill Road

**Kyle motioned to sign the septic plan for Rodriguez, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Sculptured Rocks Road: Bryer/Ashley

**Miles motioned to have the attorney draft the acknowledgments for the Bryer and Ashley properties, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Road Committee

Christina will be the Select Board liaison on the Road Committee. They will meet prior to having a drive around with the Road Agent to discuss this year's work. The committee will be making written long term recommendations for the maintenance/care/improvement of Groton Roads to the Select Board. The Select Board then determines what goes before the people who will have the final say in the direction the Town takes regarding Groton's public roads.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Letter of Resignation

**Miles motioned to accept the resignation of Officer Timothy Vincent, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** The letter indicates that he has taken a position closer to home.

### Intent to Cut for Gardner Hall, Map 8 Lot 1, Rt. 3A

**Kyle motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Gardner Hall, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Intent to Cut for Green Acre Woodlands, Map 1 Lots 29 & 33, Eastman Rd.

**Christina motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Green Acre Woodlands, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### Timber Tax Warrant for Green Acre Woodlands, Map 9 Lots 2,8,10

**Kyle motioned to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for Green Acre Woodlands, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Transfer Station Supervisor Joe Koslow

Joe Koslow submitted a flyer that could be used as a handout/posting of what the Town receives at the Transfer Station, what can be recycled and the current fee schedule. Miles asked Joe to get the actual cost of disposal for all items that the Town currently charges for. Christina suggested adding language to encourage recycling and perhaps language regarding the disposal of ashes. There was some discussion about hazardous waste disposal. Joe stated that Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District offers a hazardous waste collection day once a year. This is free to Towns in the district (including Groton). This year's collection day is scheduled for September 29 in Plymouth. Joe has handouts with the date, location and examples of items to bring that he will begin distributing in early September.

**Miles motioned to table this until Joe gets those costs for the Board's review, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Joe would like to put doors on the back shed at the Transfer Station, and store the metal, tires, refrigerators, etc. there. This will keep them out of site and locked up until they are disposed of. The Board is fine with what he is proposing to do as long as he stays within his budget.

Building Permit Application for Fitzpatrick, Map 5, Lot 152, Karkheck Lane

**Kyle motioned to sign the building permit application for Fitzpatrick, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Current Use (CU) Application for Green Acre Woodland, Map 6 Lot 1, Map 7 Lots 21, 45, 46

**Kyle motioned to sign the CU application for Green Acre Woodlands, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Credit Application for United Rentals

**Miles motioned to sign the credit application for United Rentals, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup> so voted.**

Purchase of a GPS

FEMA has designated the areas to be repaired on Province Road by GPS point, and they will conduct their final inspection using those GPS points. The Road Agent will purchase a GPS navigation system that is adequate for the task. The Board might also have need of one if the Plymouth/Groton line is perambulated this year.

HB 263-FN

This bill has to do with limiting cash assistance for adults in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program to 36 consecutive months and limit the lifetime receipt of cash assistance in the program to 36 months. Senator Forrester would like input from the Board regarding this bill. Christina expressed concern with the lifetime limit and the potential for costs to be downshifted to towns and cities. The Department of Health and Human Services supplied some information indicating that the approximate one-time cost to implement the changes in the bill and the future unknown costs outweigh any savings that might be seen. In addition, the Department expects there will be no decrease in expenditures for cash assistance due to the hardship policy currently in effect. Miles stated that it appears the bill will not solve the problems that the legislature is trying to resolve. The Board asked Pam to send an email to the Senator letting her know that they do not support the bill because of the potential downshifting to cities and town, and because it does not appear to resolve the issues involved.

## HB 1510

This bill would amend RSA 491:22 to allow any taxpayer to “bring a declaratory judgment action without having to demonstrate that his or her personal rights were impaired” thus allowing no limit on who can sue for what. Because the proposed language is so broad, it seems that this would allow any property taxpayer to seek to overturn the granting of a zoning variance or a subdivision approval within the same town, even if the petitioner lived miles from the property in question. Or that any taxpayer in the state could challenge the granting of a liquor license, a dredge and fill permit, a hospital certificate of need, or even a license to practice a profession. The Board asked Pam to contact Senator Forrester and inform her that they do not support this bill, and refer her to the April 27 edition of the Legislative Bulletin for their reasons why.

## Hiring Out Work

Kyle asked the other Board members if they, as a Board, should be considering hiring out some of the Town’s road work such as culvert replacement or ditching work if it can be done more economically. Christina stated that potentially, it is less expensive to have the Town’s employees do the work. Kyle responded that the culvert that was replaced on Sculptured Rocks Road was initially installed incorrectly by the Town and the Town paid for it. A cheaper version is not necessarily the best. Also, if certain jobs were hired out it would allow for the Highway Department to be able to focus on other work. Miles stated that as long as the Highway Department has the expertise to do a job it should be the less expensive way to accomplish something. If they do not have the abilities/expertise then they should bring this to the Board. A ‘for profit’ business (as a rule) will not be able to get it done for less than the Town. Kyle expressed concern that with this year’s work load (additional FEMA work) the Road Agent will not be able to get all the work done. Perhaps they should meet with the Road Agent to discuss the schedule, whether he will be able to accomplish everything or if some items should be bid out. The Board agreed to set up a work session with Glen Hansen to discuss this.

## May 15 Select Board Meeting

Kyle announced that he would not be at the May 15 Select Board meeting.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Health Officer Chuck Stata announced that House Bill 514 was rewritten so it now applies to Conservation Committees only.

The Board set up a work session with the Health Officer for May 22 at 6:00pm.

Slim Spafford announced that the hearing for HB1551 (limiting liability for landowners who open their land for recreational use) is this month.

Slim Spafford asked the Health Officer to look into the septic design that the three trailers which are parked near the Cockermonth River are using. Mr. Stata replied that he was planning to look into that.

**Miles motioned to go into non public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (a,c) at 9:29pm, , Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Kyle motioned to return to public session at 10:02pm, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles motioned to adjourn at 10:03pm, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted  
Pamela Hamel  
Administrative Assistant