

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 29, 2015

In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, Robert Ferriere, John Rescigno, and Sara Smith
(Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of September 22, 2015 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Timbervest Property

The Select Board updated the Town that the Kimball Hill Property Acquisition Committee (KHPAC) and the Select Board (SB) negotiations regarding the intent to purchase the Timbervest property fell through. The money that was not spent from the warrant article will be returned to the general fund.

Junkyard Inspection Reports

Ken Knowlton visited three of the properties on September 14, 2015. The Board reviewed the inspection reports from these visits.

- 1361 North Groton Rd- does not constitute a violation but this will stay on the yearly review list.
- 56 North Groton Rd- has made substantial improvements. They do still constitute a violation but they are continuing to work with the Town and will be re-inspected mid-October
- 1153 North Groton Rd- a concern was raised by audience members. This was reviewed and did not constitute a violation. This can be removed from the list.
- 24 Old Rumney Rd- The Select Board and Ken Knowlton inspected the property and items were removed from the yard and Ken will be writing up an inspection report for this visit. The Board will continue to work with this property owner.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fuel Bids

Sara requested bids for our #2 heating fuel. We received three bids back:

- Dead River - \$2.049 per gallon; Sara will contact Dead River to clarify that the bid was for #2 heating fuel.
- Irving Oil for \$2.192 per gallon

- Foley Oil for \$2.25 per gallon

The Board will review the bids again at next week's meeting to make a final decision.

Memo from Sara

Sara submitted a Memo requesting October 24th, 2015 off for a doctor's appointment. The Select Board approved this day, so Sara will post it.

Memo from Highway Safety Department

Christina explained that EJ, herself, Glen, Roger, and Chief Pivrotto are on the Highway Safety Committee. The Committee is charged with looking at roads within Groton and making recommendations for changes for safety purposes. The Committee also approves grants that the Police Department applies for. They met on September 23, 2015 and submitted a Memo requesting that the Board consider the following:

1. The intersection of Sculptured Rocks Road and North Groton Road – The Committee recommends that the yield sign be changed to a stop sign. This request would need to be done through the Bureau of Traffic and is recommended for the following reasons:
 - a. Several accidents have occurred at this location
 - b. Numerous complaints of near misses for accidents have occurred at this location as many vehicles don't slow down and speed through the intersection
 - c. There is limited sight visibility caused by signs posted at the intersection
 - d. The installation of a stop sign is anticipated to reduce collisions and other safety issues at this location.

EJ drafted a letter that he will send regarding this. Sara will draft a letter in support from the Select Board stating the points that are on the Memo. The Board agreed and will move forward with requesting this change.

2. Speed limits on Town Roads (excluding North Groton Road – no change recommended, Spectacle Pond Road – no change recommended, Province Road – change recommended under #3) - The Committee recommends that speed limits be modified to 25mph for all Town roads for the following reasons:
 - a. To eliminate issues on some Town roads that may have two different speed limits posted
 - b. To keep consistency for speed limits on Town roads
 - c. To provide better safety for kids playing in the area as well as buses that may travel on Town roads
 - d. To eliminate potential safety issues on gravel roads that may be too narrow or have no outlet
 - e. To reduce complaints regarding excessive speed
3. Province Road Speed Limit - The Committee reviewed Province Road, which is a Class V Cottage Road (Seasonal Road) and recommends a speed limit of 20mph. Currently, this road is not posted with a speed limit and the Committee believes that it should be since it is a maintained Town road. The speed limit recommendation is for the following reasons:
 - a. The road is primitive

- b. The road is quite narrow in places
- c. It is a gravel road
- d. Off road vehicles travel this road

John motioned to change the speed limits on the Town Roads as stated in the Highway Safety Department Memo, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Christina stated that the Board doesn't need to review the request for yellow lines on North Groton Road as there was a concern raised that if a yellow line is put down then we would have to put the white lines as well.

EJ updated the Town to the grants that the Police Department has applied for:

- OHRV grant- this was put on the back burner as it is given more often to the Fish & Game Department
- Portable breath test grant to NH liquor commission and the Town received that and purchased a portable breath test machine in 2014.
- In 2015, they have applied for 10 to 15 bicycle helmets. These would be given to kids under 16 who are riding their bikes in Groton and not wearing helmets. This provides an opportunity to inform the kids of the importance and provide them with helmets with no cost to the Town.

Dave Leone mentioned they changed the yield sign at Sculptured Rocks Road to a stop sign years ago, but since they didn't follow the proper channels the State changed it back.

Plates for 2008 Expedition

Christina informed the Town that the 2008 Expedition has been sold. EJ confirmed it was sold to a security firm in Maryland. We are waiting for the purchaser to pick it up. In the meantime it will be stored at the Town House but the plates and registration have been removed from the vehicle.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Helen's driveway

The Select Board and the Road Agent went out today to inspect the issue with Helen Santoro's driveway. They believe they have come up with a solution to install a paved berm in the Town's right-of-way, which will re-direct the water to the gulley and also add a second ditch line further along Nadeau line. This will be done at the same time as other paving projects.

The Board also felt that a letter should be sent to Mr. Coutu because it is believed that the plowing of Nadeau Lane is causing some of the issues with Helen's driveway. Sara will draft the letter for next week's meeting.

Update on ramp/landing

Christina explained that Glen came and secured the loose boards on the ramp and landing but has to replace a board in the interim. Sara has also spoken to Matt Fysh to review the project and update the quote previously supplied to the Town.

Class VI Road Maintenance Waiver

The waiver had typos that have since been corrected. Sara will update the website with the corrected form.

NHEC Scam

New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC) sent an email explaining the scam that is affecting NHEC customers. Phone calls have been made to customers demanding immediate payment to avoid disconnection of electric service. NHEC assures customers that they do not call members threatening immediate disconnection nor to demand immediate payment, they send written notice at least 14 days in advance to warn of a disconnection if an account is delinquent, they do not perform disconnections on weekends, holidays or after 3:30 p.m. on weekdays, and the caller ID may be "spoofed" to show NHEC's phone number. NHEC is asking the public to report any scam calls to your local police department using a non-emergency number. Sara has updated the website with the information that was provided to the Town.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Groton Historical Society Request to Use Town Hall

Sherry Nelson wanted to make sure that the Groton Historical Society is all set to use the Town Meeting room this Sunday. The Select Board did approve this.

Signs

Slim asked who will make the new speed limit signs and stop signs. Christina explained it will come out of the Highway Department budget and it is usually the prison sign shop. We may have some signs at the Highway Department but Christina will quote the price of these.

Easson Septic

Dave Leone asked if there is an update with the septic at Easson property. Christina explained that we have reached out to Mr. Easson and have not received a full response yet.

Town Forest

Slim recommended making the Holden lot of 50 acres be turned into a Town Forest. The Board will consider this once the chain of title is resolved.

Private Road

Ann asked if we can put STOP signs on private roads that come on to a Town Road. Ann said there should be one on MacDonald Lane which abuts Edgar Albert Road. Sara will check with NHMA.

Helen asked why there isn't a stop sign on Nedeau Lane, which is a Class VI road. Sara will check with NHMA on this as well.

Property for new Highway Garage

Slim stated that the Historical Society has been made aware of the purchase of the property and the old town pound there. The Groton Historical Society stated they might be interested in helping do the clean-up of that area. Bob explained nothing has been decided but it has been discussed to restore the old pound. Bob mentioned that it was also mentioned that the Conservation Commission may want to get involved in this.

Hard Road to Travel

Dave Leone asked if the Highway Safety Committee and Select Board have reviewed the Hard Road to Travel Book. Christina explained that they have read it and Glen recently went to a work shop regarding this and has received the new book.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:48pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant