

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
April 19, 2016

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Bob motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of April 5, 2016 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted. John abstained.

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of April 5, 2016 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted. John abstained.

John motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of April 12, 2016 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted. Christina abstained.

Bob motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of April 12, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted. Christina abstained.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE GROTON FREE PUBLIC HEARING:

Christina opened the public hearing at 7:15pm, Bob 2nd so voted.

Elizabeth Jespersen explained that the Library Trustees have been doing a lot of research on the library. They have been working with the Mike York, the State Librarian, who didn't have a lot of positive things to say about the library. Elizabeth said that she doesn't know why there is an issue with the library. They have tried to raise money each year and have been turned down.

Mike York gave some suggestions. The first was a co-op but it is expensive. The other was to find another local library to do a memorandum of agreement. The Town's residents can use the Bristol Minot-Sleeper Library currently for free as a member of the school district, but Bristol's Trustees have talked about charging other towns an annual fee to use the library, so this may change.

Robin Orr, the Librarian from Hebron, said that Hebron would be willing to help Groton out without an agreement on a temporary basis. They are very interested in providing library services to the Town of Groton and currently they allow Groton residents to get a family library card for an annual fee of \$10. They would rather proceed with an agreement with the Town moving forward.

Some of the current issues with the library include:

- Sherry mentioned that the book sign out list that we had was illegal because it gave personal information out.
- As of 2/12/16, the library no longer has a librarian as she had another job. No one used to come in during the time she was here anyway.
- We have over 100 books that have disappeared. Otto Jespersen has been looking into the values of the books we currently have, but at the recommendation of the State, the Library Trustees will be boxing up the remaining books to store and save them in the basement.
- As there is no one currently answering the phone or checking the messages on a consistent basis, the Library Trustees have made a decision to also turn off the Library phone. The only messages they received are ones from people trying to sell something.
- Per RSA 202-A:19, the library is considered a defunct library. RSA 202 A4-B we are allowed to contract services with someone. Currently there is \$22,080.81 in a library account. Some of this information was insurance payout from the flood. Others have been from when they didn't use the entire budget.

This has been a library since late 1800s. It was in people's homes previously, then it moved on from there.

Mike says it would cost more than \$40,000.00- \$50,000.00 to make this an actual functioning library. He said we just have books on a shelf. Also our library was only open four hours and the State recommends 12 hours. Hebron is open 12 hours and is looking to open more. Elizabeth stated that on many occasions the Library Trustees have posted contact information for her and no one reached out.

Slim wanted to make a suggestion that we go with Hebron for now until there is a decision made about the Highway Department and possibly there could be some open space.

Betty Smolinsky asked why we haven't increased the salary for the Librarian so we could get someone to come in. She said it is a disgrace that the Town wouldn't have their own library. Christina mentioned that they looked for a Librarian for years but with the little budget they had they couldn't offer many hours.

Kyle said this library is only temporary not a Town Library location. He doesn't think that we should pay a librarian for the amount of use. Kyle speaking personally said this Town doesn't even want a Fire Department, so do we need a library. He said there are only 5 families that go to Hebron. Christina mentioned that doesn't include the amount of kids that go to Bristol for free.

Ruth Gaffey explained that she is a professional Librarian and friend of Pam Yingers and has retired to Groton. She said what the libraries mean to a Town is huge. She did say you won't hire a librarian to work here and the collection is not a library collection. She has a free card for Bristol, paid for Plymouth and has others. She thinks the only option we have now is to use Hebron. She said in this small town we will never be able to build a library to put into it what is needed to be up to date. She said even if they were to get rid of the library we could still have story time or something library related for community

relations. She also suggested looking into grants. Elizabeth explained that she looked into grants and with budget cuts there are no funds available for libraries.

Pam Hamel said that we are not at the place of what to do with the library building but to think of what we want to do with this library or build interest of the community before the next Town Meeting. Pam said that anyone that lives on the other end of Town does not go to Hebron so she feels that paying them for services is not the answer. If this is done with Hebron it should be looked into using Rumney as well. Elizabeth explained that Mike didn't recommend using Rumney because they are just getting their feet under them and just starting to get new services. EJ explained we do have services for Fire and EMS with Hebron and Rumney so we should do the same thing. Sherry explained we are only limiting our choices right now for a small amount of time.

Dave Leone explained back in the day when the flood happened they were told the library is separate from the Town so they had to get their own money. They were told they had to provide the library a space and were told that they cannot shut it down. They were told they couldn't get rid of the library; they need to keep the library. It was always his understanding that this room was supposed to be the library. Back then there was no mention of having it secured. The Town did vote to get rid of the building and the library. It was passed to get rid of the building. Terri Knowles offered to go to Superior Court and say we moved from one location to another so we can get rid of the building. As far as he is considered this room is the library. Dave mentioned that the hazard mitigation report states this building houses the library.

Christina mentioned that the person that met before Elizabeth did research and Terri Knowles didn't tell them they had to go to Superior Court to get rid of the old building. Terri Knowles met with the trustees. Annie said she was a trustee shortly after the flood. The books brought up here but nothing else was done. Annie said that the Select Board gave them this room and it was definitely a temporary room and they met with Terri at the time. They had records back then on everything especially proof that the building was given for the library. It was a Charitable Trust which was donated but even though the building was not being used the library is still considered a Charitable Trust. However, all of the records have been lost. Elizabeth explained that research was done and there is no deed to prove who owns the old library building. Dave asked if we were obligated to pay the money to the library if the building wasn't the libraries. Christina explained this is a moot point at this time.

Elizabeth mentioned that if we do sign a memorandum of understanding with Hebron, Mike would like the Select Board to appoint a liaison that is not a Library Trustee to be a go between Hebron and Groton.

Bob suggested letting people use any library they wanted and pay for the library cards. Elizabeth said we would need a town meeting for this.

The advantage would be the library services keep going. If we close it, we would have to vote to reopen it and set it all back up. Plus, we have to get rid of any money the library has and would be starting over but having memorandum with another town counts as the library so it would remain open. **Hearing no other comments or questions, Christina motioned to close the public hearing at 8:28pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Christina called meeting back to order at 8:29pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Groton Historical Society (GHS)- history found on Town Pound

Kathy Sylvester lives in Rumney but her family has been in Groton since the 1700s. She explained the information she was given and that she found in 1804 land was sold to William Roth which was 90 acres for \$400. In 1837 William died and property was sold to Asa George but it was now 200 acres. It mentioned all properties but never mentioned the Town Pound. She came to Town Clerk for old records and Ann stated they were at the State Library Archives. She did find some information which she presented to the Select Board that referenced the Town Pound and usage. Kathy explained that she will be going back to try to find more information.

Other things she found:

Rams running at large, to see if sheep can run on the common, build pound, etc.

Pam suggested that the Town Clerk investigate why the archive has them and why they cannot be here. These are the Towns records. We should also have copies here. The Board thought that the Library Archives took records after a certain time frame but would mention it to the Clerk.

Slim mentioned same warrant states each service man get \$1.00 and be minutemen.

It was reminded that the cleanup at the Town Pound is at 9am on 5/21/16 and volunteers are asked to meet at the property across from the Transfer Station.

Updated Tax Warrant

The Select Board signed an updated Abatement Application last week for Vintage Lands. However, we now need an updated Tax Warrant. **John motioned to sign the updated tax warrant for Vintage Lands, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

GHS request to use the Community Room

GHS requested to use the Community Room on Monday, May 30, 11am-2pm on Memorial Day for a service for Hebron and Groton residents. They also wanted to use it on September 11, from 2pm-4pm as Sally Mummy/Mary Todd Lincoln will explain how her life changed at Ford's Theater, which is a NH Humanities sponsored program. **Christina motioned to approve GHS to use for May 30 and September 11, John 2nd, so voted.**

Pam Hamel asked if anyone from the Select Board would like to talk on May 30. John will see if he can get the day off and if so he will do a speech. Christina mentioned if we have any flyers we will take them, put them on the website and put them on the Facebook page.

JP Pest Service Quotes

Sara explained that she called and left messages or sent emails to four places total. JP Pest Services was the only one to come out to look around and provide a free quote. Due to the mouse issue and the red squirrel issue, there are two different quotes because wildlife has to take care of the squirrel issue.

They provided a corrective action plan and a quarterly plan. The Select Board decided to go with the wildlife plan at this time for \$750.00. **Christina motioned to move forward with the wildlife plan agreement, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

All-ways Accessible Contract

The Town of Groton uses All-ways Accessible every year for our elevator inspections and maintenance. They have sent a new contract for 2016-2017, which is the same as 2015-2016. **John motioned to sign the 2016-2017 contract for All-Ways accessible, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Sara will contact Gary Eason about light repair for the elevator and tell him the Board would like it done this week.

Report of Cut- FORECO Map 2 Lots 27, 28 and 41

Robert Berti turned in a report of cut for Map 2 Lots 27, 28 and 41. The Select Board reviewed the report of cut and the amount is \$4,146.61. **Christina motioned to sign the report of cut and yield tax for Map 2 Lots 27, 28, and 41, John 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit- Map 7 Lot 55

Annie Tobine submitted a building permit for an enclosed deck off of the existing house. The Select Board reviewed the building permit and found no concerns. **Bob motioned to sign the building permit for Map 7 Lot 55, John 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Helmets

Christina mentioned that the Police Department did get the helmets as previously announced, but we thought we were getting 10 when in reality they gave us 25.

Building Committee

Christina explained that the Building Committee held their first meeting earlier. They weren't any final decisions on moving the Highway Department or Police Department yet. We will be meeting again at the property to look more at the location and define out next steps.

Joe Koslow asked why the Town would want to move the Police Department. It was explained that they could use a spot for housing the vehicles and there are some compliance issues with the current location, such as dealing with juveniles. The planning is at the very beginning stages.

Updates from Town Meeting

Christina explained that we have a lot of meetings coming up that we will be able to provide updates on some of the things that came up at Town Meeting.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Cemetery Committee updates

Elizabeth explained that most of the trees along the backside of the cemetery at the Town House was taken down and there is one more that needs to be taken down.

Elizabeth asked for future reference, if the Cemetery Trustees get work done by someone else, does it have to go out for bid and present insurance. The cemetery is not required to get bids and doesn't have to let the Town know but it is always good to get proof of insurance and keep the Town informed. Otto and Elizabeth found one grave near Campbell Road. She stated that there are three graves there and she is being advised that the Town owns the property, so she didn't know if she needed permission to access it and clean it up. It is owned by the Town so she is all set.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Gates

Pam Hamel asked that the gates that Iberdrola is donating be picked up. She would like someone to call her and make arrangements. Sara will let Glen know. Christina explained that Groton wind gifted the Town with these gates. Joe mentioned that the gates at the Transfer Station were worked on for the last two days.

Road Committee

Pam Hamel mentioned that there was a comment at Town Meeting about not closing the road when the construction starts. The Select Board made the decision to close the road last year. She wanted to say if it is better to close it should be done as it is always posted ahead of time so people have plenty of time to make arrangements.

Lights at Town House

Annie Tobine mentioned that the light in back is pointed at her house. When it is on, it is bright and shines at the house and it has been left on a few times. Christina explained that the back door should only be used for emergencies. Sara will put a note on the door that states DO NOT USE.

Elizabeth mentioned that when they leave at night she leaves the lights on until Otto is in the vehicle and then she has to go out in the dark. Christina explained that the outside light is on a timer and should be left on for the upper one facing the parking area. It was also explained to her that there is a light switch for the light that is near the handicap parking which is located in the hall area that can be used but should be shut off at the end of the day.

Clarification

Dave Leone pointed out that the Hazard Mitigation Plan states that Halls Brook Road was closed for two years but it was only 3 months.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 9:16pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant