

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
May 17, 2016

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

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to table the Work Session minutes of May 10, 2016 for next week since they were not in the folder, John 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of May 10, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building Permit- Map 5 Lot 98

Jon Freehling from 60 Forest Hills Road submitted a building permit that was tabled last week because we needed the PUC approval and septic approval numbers. We have received the updated information. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 5 Lot 98, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Building Permit- Map 5 Lot 1

Paul Catanzaro from 470 Sculptured Rocks Road submitted a building permit for the reconstruction of a cabin that had fire damage in 2015. It is for a 16x32 single story cabin that will not be heated or cooled and does not have a septic. **Bob motioned to sign the building permit for Map 5 Lot 1, John 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

North Groton Road project

The Road Committee submitted the following items for the Select to review:

1. Invitation to bid - No changes and the bid will be sent to the newspaper and out to prospective bidders.
2. Project specifications – no changes from the Road Committee. The Select Board discussed whether or not to close the road and agreed that the project would be much more efficient if

the road was closed. This will be added to the specs right before #3 that contractors are responsible for providing and posting the road closure signs.

3. The following deadlines were set:
 - This will be posted in the Newspaper May 26th
 - The site visit will be 9am on June 3rd
 - The proposals are due Thursdays June 16th by 4pm
 - The Select Board will open the proposals June 21st
 - The job will be awarded on July 5th
 - The job will have a start date of July 18th
4. Site Visit Log – no change. This is for the contractors to sign in and the Board agreed that nothing needs to be changed on this form.
5. On the Site Visit checklist we need to add Fletcher Road, Campbell Lane and detailed proposal to discuss at the site visit.
6. Sara will make sure all the closure notices are ready for the 5th as well.

Herbicide Notice

There was a notice that herbicide spraying would be happening, which was posted in the newspaper by New Hampshire Electric Coop (NHEC). We drafted a letter letting them know that the Town voted that spraying herbicides within Town limits is not allowed. The letter has to be changed to NHEC as it was sent previously to National Grid. **Christina motioned to sign the letter once amended, John 2nd, so voted.**

Tax Warrant

The tax warrant has been created for the spring billing and the bills will be due July 1st. **Christina motioned to sign the tax warrant for spring 2016, John 2nd, so voted.**

Container for recyclables

The storage container for electronics is being delivered June 1st. It will be set on posts and leveled out. The meeting with the Transfer Station to set up the prices and to complete the flyer is going to be on June 7th.

Record Books

Ruth explained that she picked up the record books that were stored at the State archives. She explained that we have them here in fireproof cabinets and are available to be viewed in the building only. Ruth also mentioned that these are available on microfiche at the State archives.

Betty asked if the Bloods ever put some records on the microfiche. John mentioned that Ernest Blood did put some things on microfiche and donated some old books to the Groton Historical Society.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Septic Design

Richard Gowen went over the new process for the septic designs with the electronic forms for the Department of Environmental Services (DES). He said that to be more efficient we should allow these to

come electronically and let the Administrative Assistant sign off on them. Christina mentioned we can talk about this later but did agree that since the process changed we should look at our process as well.

Dave Leone said originally the Health Officer was doing these and then it changed to the Select Board. The Select Board will think about if we need to have to sign these anymore or if Administrative Assistant would be able to approve. We will put this on the list to consider.

Sara will verify the information on the septic design and contact the Select Board to approve. **Christina motioned to sign the approval for construction once it is ready, John 2nd, so voted.**

Sara will also reach out to DES and see what the new process is.

Trimming Road

Dave Leone stated that the Highway Department was trimming and what they were trimming appeared to be the power company's responsibility. Christina thought Glen mentioned there was a reason that he was doing this so the Board will follow up with him.

Correction to minutes/statement made in previous meeting

Miles reference the approved minutes from 5/3/16, where his name was mentioned and he wanted to know if the minutes as listed were accurate. The Board agreed that they were. In those minutes it is written that *"With regards to the Atwell Orange Bridge, Dave wanted to clarify that even though former Select Board member Miles Sinclair said the town was told twice to replace the bridge; Dave wanted to make it clear that we were told it needed to be replaced not that we have to."* Miles stated that he never said any such thing. He said the only time he said anything about the bridge was this year at the Town Meeting when Dave brought up that the bridge had to be finished by 2010 according to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. For the 6 years that he was on the Board of Selectmen, never did the State correspond with the Town about the bridge and this never came up and the Town was never told that they have to replace it. Miles did some research on Monday and Tuesday and he was on the Board of Selectmen when the most recent Hazard Mitigation Plan indicated on page 95 that the bridge would be replaced in May 2016.

Miles would appreciate that the minutes be updated to reflect that he never said what was claimed. Christina asked if it is okay that this week's minutes will state that. He said yes.

Miles stated that the Select Board received a significant level of criticism at the Town Meeting from Dave Leone regarding the bridge. In the current plan and the plan from 2007, which was when Mr. Leone was a Selectman, it states on Page 80 rank 2-1 (3) *State engineer told EMD the bridge needed to be replaced by 2010.* This was presented previously that it had to be done in 2010. This was incorrect because it could have been completed according to this at any time up to and including 2010.

Miles asked Dave if he was on the Select Board from March 2005 through March 2008. Dave said that he isn't sure of the exact dates but that may be correct. Miles mentioned that in the most recent Town Report shows the Atwell Orange Brook Bridge Capital Reserve Fund was created in March of 2006. For three of the years that Mr. Leone would have been responsible for creating the budget and he had the chance of allocating the money for this but didn't. By year 2010 there was a total of \$25,000 in principal and less than \$1,000.00 in interest. Miles came on the Board in 2008 and the first budget he participated in was March of 2009 which is when the economy and housing market crashed. At that time the budget was slashed by 5% at Town meeting, which shows the people didn't want additional spending. Every

year including 2016 there has been \$5,000.00 put into this fund. With this year's appropriation it brings the total in this fund to \$56,000.00 with about \$55,000.00 in principal.

Every year the bridge has passed every inspection. There is no functional distinction between having to replace a bridge and needing to replace a bridge. Miles said from his perspective this hasn't been presented in a true light. He thinks it has been unfair what the Select Board has been subject to. He said at this time we still do not have the amount of funds needed to replace this bridge. Miles said he was the moderator starting in 2006 and then was on the Board and he doesn't ever remember anyone ever doing an amendment to increase the amount or anything else regarding this topic until this year. Miles said that all any of the Board members have done since then was the same thing that the people that created the reserve fund did themselves.

Dave said he was the one that put the warrant article together for the savings account for that bridge when he was Road Agent. He also stated that he was here for 14 months before the hazard mitigation was done and brought to the Board at that time and he was told that there were a lot of typos. Dave said that one of the changes was the date to complete the bridge and that was changed by the Select Board which was Miles Sinclair, Christina and Kyle Andrews. Miles stated that the date was changed but it was not done by the Select Board, it was done by the Hazard Mitigation Committee who had Kyle Andrews as the liaison. Dave said there is a list of people that signed off on it and it was the Select Board along with others. Dave said the date was changed after he attended a meeting.

Christina said that she thinks the date is a moot point at this time. We are going to be meeting on June 21st to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Plan with Dave. Christina thanked Miles for bringing this up and his concerns with how the Board was treated. John said he appreciates the clarification on both ends and we are moving forward with the bridge and the plan. Miles said he wants to clarify that the bridge was never red listed. The Board reported as of 2016, it is now red listed but doesn't mean it cannot be traveled. Everyone agreed that the bridge needs to be replaced. Bob wanted to add that he read the entire plan and that he is sure that everyone meant to meet the dates but things come up with more priority and sometimes deadlines cannot be met.

Christina thought that we questioned June about dates and that she mentioned the dates are not set in stone. Ron added that at that time the biggest concern was the loggers coming over and the weight was limited to an E2 bridge which is 80,000 pounds. Sara will follow up with the state to see where we stand with assistance for the bridge.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 8:14pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant