

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 27, 2016

In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, John Rescigno, Kyle Andrews and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of September 6, 2016 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session minutes of September 13, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of September 13, 2016 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

VISIT FROM CHARLIE CHANDLER, CANDIDATE FOR NH STATE SENATE:

Charlie thanked the Selectmen for allowing him to attend the meeting. He thinks it is important for us to know who he is and where he stands. His background is in state and local government for over 45 years. He served in the NH legislature in the 1990s with his brother and his Dad. He has served in many capacities such as the NH Transportation authority in the 1970's which is now part of the DOT; he served six years on the NH Ballot Law commission; was one of the founding members of NH Governor's Commission for Disability; he has been a selectman in Northfield as well as Warren now; he is a retired small Town attorney; he was hired to oversee the FRN; appointed to be an election monitor; served as a professor; serves as appointee to Cannon Mountain Advisory Commission; along with so much more that can be found at his website charliechandler.org.

He is married, has four children who live all over the country with one still in New Hampshire and has eight grandchildren. He is a Laconia Public Schools graduate along with being a UNH Graduate and Suffolk Law Graduate.

Charlie thinks it is important for a Select Board to see how comfortable he is with a state and local government. He is ready to support the Towns with anything they need and knows what it is like to be on the Select Board. He is ready to take on any issues the Town presents him with.

Charlie offered to field questions but there were no questions.

Charlie explained he was at our Groton Old Home Day. They brought their little smart car convertible. He said he goes to a lot of Old Home Days and he liked the atmosphere here and thought it was nice that there was food, fireworks, etc and it was all donations. He invited the Town to attend next years Old Home Day in Warren.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pest Issue

Currently it appears we have a mice issue in the basement. We thought this may be covered by the visit from JP Pest but they came out for the larger pests not mice. They did come back out to make sure this is what it was and they presented their notes. We do still have issues in the basement here. Slim mentioned that glue traps. Ruth said there is a do it yourself pest control. Helen mentioned Agway has a 6 pack of corn, they eat it and then they leave. We are worried that if they die inside they will smell and we don't know where it will be coming from. James Cross suggested setting traps out with nontoxic materials, find out where they are, then one day put poison watch for it. Also he said there is a fluorescent powder that you can follow where they live. The Select Board will think about it and talk about it at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Appointee for the Conservation Commission

Slim Spafford brought in his letter of request to be appointed to the Conservation Commission for the Select Board's approval. Christina explained that the Conservation Commission agreed to endorse him. **John motioned to appoint Slim Spafford to the Conservation Commission, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Contract with John Lyford

Each year John Lyford does our MS-5 reporting for the Department of Revenue. He is the cheapest around by a lot of money. This year's contract for our MS-535 is for \$4,161.00. There has been an issue with last year's audit. We have sent the clarification from John to the DRA. We are awaiting a response from the DRA.

Sara will look at getting prices from other auditors. We need to be clear with the other auditors that we only need them for the MS-5. **Christina motioned to table the contract with John Lyford until the next meeting, John 2nd, so voted.**

Building permit Map 5 Lot 134

Heath Matthews brought in a building permit for his property on Hammerhead Lane. He would like to build a 12x11 mud room off the back of the house. **Kyle motioned to sign the building permit for Map 5 Lot 134, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Building permit Map 5 Lot 90

Hallmark Home Improvements submitted a building permit for the property at 49 Forest Hills Road. They are requesting to build a 10x14 breezeway and a 20x24 garage that will not be heated or cooled. The home owner submitted the Private Road agreement form. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 5 Lot 90, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Building permit Map 5 Lot 94

Hallmark Home Improvements submitted a building permit for the property at 88 Forest Hills Road. They are requesting to build a 20x20 addition and a 24x24 free standing garage that will be heated and cooled. The home owner submitted the Private Road agreement form. **Christina motioned to sign the building permit for Map 5 Lot 94, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Building permit Map 6 Lot 52- foundation only

Dana Titus submitted a building permit for a foundation only. He will be building a house and a garage but he is waiting on the septic approval so is only requesting a permit to start the foundation while he waits. **Kyle motioned to sign the building permit for Map 6 Lot 52 foundation only, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Certificate of Final Completion/2016 North Groton Rd Project

D.A. White Excavating, LLC. completed the North Groton Road project on August 27, 2016 and the job has been completed due to all specifications. He submitted a certificate of final completion for the Select Board to sign. **Christina motioned to sign the building permit for Map 5 Lot 134, John 2nd, so voted.**

Sara will get Christina a copy of this for the Road Committee.

New 5 Year Assessors Agreement

Avitar submitted the 5 year Assessors Agreement as they do every 5 years. Christina explained that we need to do a determination for this and if we should go out for bid. The Select Board agrees that we should go out for bid.

Kyle mentioned in the past we only had two options which was one year and the 5 year. This time there is three. The letter and Christina explained that the utilities are the difference as this is now being separated out.

We will look to see what we have currently to see if we want a full measure and list. Sara will get this information to the Select Board and do an RFP. **Christina motioned to table until an RFP is done, John 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 2 Lot 110

The Town received an intent to cut for Map 2 Lot 110, property located at 182 River Road. John motioned to sign the intent to cut for Map 2 Lot 110, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

CPR/EAD Training

Christina mentioned that EJ asked if any residents are interested in a CPR/AED class. If there is enough interest then EJ will get a class going. If anyone is interested please contact EJ. Sara will ask EJ for the fees and will post the information on the website.

Warrant Articles Submission

Sara will be sending the Memo out to all committees and department heads this week stating that the deadline for warrant articles submissions is January 6, 2017.

NH Forest Divisions and Lands

There will be a Public Hearing on a Timber Sale on Sculptured Rocks Road. The Public hearing will be held here and once we get the date and more information we will be posting it here and on the website.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Road Committee

The Road Committee met and will be submitting some driveway permit guidelines and some suggestions regarding a bond for North Groton Road to the Select Board.

Cemetery

Elizabeth explained that they had the first annual cemetery cleaning. There were 8 people there and it was a great day. They used the D2 biological cleaning product which really cleaned up the stones. They provided the before and after pictures and the results were impressive. The ones they didn't scrub, they still sprayed the D2 biological cleaning product on and left it on. It rained the next day and cleaned up nicely as well. They are going to be doing this again next year.

Library

There is a book swap in the library. There is a bright sign so if residents want to bring in books and swap them they can do so.

Also, they have purchased a computer and it will be available for people to use. The new computer is being put together and this and the printer can be used at any time.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Regionalization Forum

Christina attended. There were 7 SB that attended. She will send her notes to the other SB. One thing they discussed was Towns going in on things to save money, such as insurance, etc. They may reach out to Sara to gather some information. The other thing they talked about was sharing some road agent things, such as machines, materials, etc. They will be getting the road agents together to have a forum to discuss what they could share for costs. IT will be scheduled for the end of the October and it will be during the day. It was a very informative session and will be having another one.

Basement items

Elizabeth mentioned there is a very old microwave under the stairs. Richard will pick it up when he comes tomorrow. Sara will ask him to bring it. There is also a set of table legs but no table to match. We will have Richard pick these too.

Joe Koslow asked if there are tires downstairs too for the PD. Sara will ask EJ about these.

Province Road

James Cross came to the Board about his property out on Province Road. He has an easement on it and the property is not posted. People visit the property for a mine that is there along with hiking. He is concerned because there is a problem with the class VI Road. There has been a gate at the end of the road in the past. The Class VI road goes about 1000ft and then stops. The road does get wet which can cause some issues. He has recently received a letter from NH Trout with concerns that the river is getting full materials that can be hazardous to the Trout. He thinks that trucks that are going up his road are causing the material from the road to go into the Cockermonth.

Another concern is that the bridge is there is not safe. He said that he took out his knife and put it through the bridge. He wishes the bridge would go away but some neighbors use it for logging.

The gate was taken away before and he wanted to replace it but the Select Board at the time told him no. He would like to put a gate at the end of the road and the Select Board explained this cannot be done. This past week, there was a log that was placed at the end of the class VI road that was removed. This is sensitive soil that he tries to preserve. He moved the log back. A few days later the log was then removed again. He has some thoughts of how to stop people from going up there. He doesn't think it makes sense to have public access for 1000ft that doesn't go anywhere. There are two alternatives that he presented. The first one is to do a warrant article to throw out the road. The second would be to change the road to a Town Hiking Trail. He is asking for some guidance as to what do we think he should do and what the Town can do to make this situation better.

Kyle said he would like to look into the option for the designation hiking trail. John agreed. Paul Gagnon from Society for protection of National Forests would be a good contact.

Kyle said we would need to look into why the 1000ft is designated as a class VI and if there are others that need the road to access their property. We want to make sure we do not land lock someone there. James said that his neighbors have deeded access through his properties.

Once we find out more information we can reach out to the Towns attorney. We need to know why we kept it like this as long as we have. James mentioned that Doctor Coolidge was gone back in 1920. James said that he has older minutes that have some of this information in it. If he can access them he will bring them in.

Elizabeth asked if the Town owns the bridge. It was explained that the Town does. Kyle also explained that the Town cannot put any money into the bridge since it is a class VI Road.

It was agreed to gather more information on this to see why we kept the 1000ft and what we would need to do to make this a hiking trail. We are not sure how long this will take but will try to do something before warrant articles have to be submitted.

Christina explained that he is able to do a petitioned warrant article if the Select Board is not able to move forward on our end.

Slim stated that Mr. Cross wrote the first Master Plan.

Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:13pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant