

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
April 18, 2017

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

Absent: John Rescigno

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of April 4, 2017 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session minutes of April 4, 2017 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of April 4, 2017 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

PRESENTATION FROM SEAN DOWNEY- GRANITE STATE POWER LINK (GSPL):

Granite State Power Link (GSPL) is a new transmission line that will deliver up to 1,200 megawatts of reliable, affordable and renewable energy to New England. It is expected to lower electricity costs by more than \$1 billion over 10 years. The line will go through the existing right-of-way (ROW) corridor. This ROW would not be expanded; it will remain the 7.5 miles that we currently have. There will be little or no impact to the view shed.

Kyle asked if this will be visually different for us at all. He explained that they anticipate a 20% chance of a change, which for Groton means that 4 out of 5 structures will remain the same but one may need to be replaced due to condition, age, or clearances. These may be about 20 feet higher but it isn't sure if these changes would have to take place in Groton. The lines would be converted from 230kv to 345kv which would be a change but nothing noticeable. Other Towns such as Littleton and Monroe will have changes to the ROW. GSPL will be approaching land owners individually for any changes to easements but will not be utilizing eminent domain.

They are looking at a 30 month construction phase. More than 1500 jobs will be created in NH during construction. There will be new property tax revenues for 24 NH communities. There will be substantial energy affordability assistance for NH residents. This will lower energy costs in NH \$154 million over 10 years and the number will change over the years.

Their plan for outreach and engagement is with local community leaders such as this meeting, state officials and involving the public. They are planning on doing door to door with project neighbors, one on one meetings with impacted parties, open houses in communities (hoping for May or June for our area), newsletters, website and email, a toll free project hotline and the news.

There is absolutely no cost to NH electric customers unless their electric utility voluntarily elects to purchase power from GSPL. The project schedule is to start with outreach, which began in March 2017, permitting and siting from fall 2017 to middle of 2020, construction middle of 2020 to fall 2022 and in service end of 2022.

If any questions regarding this project please contact Granite State Power link at any of the avenues below:
Phone 1-855-603-GPSL (4475)
Email info@granitestatepowerlink.com
Website: www.GraniteStatePowerLink.com

Christina mentioned that he stated they are expecting to lower regional electric costs by \$1 billion over ten years but on another slide you state that NH is not obligated to buy it so regionally you are not talking about NH, correct? Sean stated that he is not an energy economist and there are folks far better suited to answer this question than he is, but the power runs into the New England grid and through that will lower rates across the region, even if the NH utilities do not contract to purchase power off the line.

Christina asked what is considered New England grid. Sean explained it covers the 6 states.

Joe Koslow asked how different than Northern Pass. He explained they are totally separate companies and the two projects take two totally different routes. They are using the existing National Grid lines that are out there.

Christina asked if there will be actual pictures people can see. He said they will be having visual simulations for the Town but right now they don't know exactly how many structures will need to be replaced. For most it will only be a thicker conductor.

Kyle asked if there is any hazard to those living near the ROW, with that much more power running through. He said he is not an EMF expert but throughout the process they will have EMF experts available to talk about it.

Christina confirmed that he asked for places to hold the open house in May or June. Christina mentioned the only place we could recommend would be here if it is in Groton. It wouldn't be one meeting it would be stations set up so they can come in when it would work best and ask questions one on one. We are thinking we could combine it with other Towns such as Hebron, Wentworth and Rumney and we could host it here unless they want something more specific to them.

Sean mentioned that GSPL will be contacting abutters and will email us anything that goes out.

Sara will put the presentation on our website so residents have the opportunity to review it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Junkyard Properties

The Select Board reviewed the Junkyard List to decide which properties should be visited again this year.

Below are the properties referred to by their case numbers:

#1: Keep as yearly check

#2: Inactive list for two years; there hasn't been any change but the Board would like a drive by inspection#3: Keep as yearly check

#4: Keep on the inactive list

#5 & #6: Keep as yearly check; they currently have until May 31st to do some clean-up. The property is posted, but a review from the road can be done.

#7: Keep on the inactive list

#8: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#9: Keep on the inactive list

#10: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

- #11: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license
- #12: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license
- #13: Checked this year as we skipped last year
- #14-19: Keep on the inactive list
- #20: Check this year and if no issues move to the inactive list
- #21-23: Keep on the inactive list

The Select Board would like Ken Knowlton to come out the first week in June.

Requested information for PA-29 Elderly Exemption Application

The Town received an application for an elderly exemption for Map 1 Lot 40. Last meeting, it was explained that due to the asset limits, there is a simple IRA that puts him over the limit. The Select Board had asked Sara to reach out to him and ask for printed bank statements and a statement on the IRA. The resident brought this information in. Sara also reached out to the Department of Revenue (DRA) and it was explained since it is money he has access to it does need to be considered as an asset. **Christina motioned to deny the PA 29 Application for Map 1 Lot 40, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Transfer Station

Christina explained that the Transfer Station was closed this past weekend due to not having enough room in the containers and Richard Cross was ill. This week Ron Madan will open the Transfer Station on Wednesday and Jeremy Haney on Saturday but it will remain closed on Sunday.

Abatement Application and recommendation

The Select Board received recommendations from Avitar on four abatement applications that were submitted.

- The first one is for Map UTL Lot 000003. Avitar recommended this abatement request be denied. **Christina motioned to deny the abatement request for Map UTL Lot 000003, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**
- The second one is for Map 5 Lot 23-2. Avitar recommended this abatement request be denied. **Christina motioned to deny the abatement request for Map 5 Lot 23-2, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**
- The third one is for Map 6 Lot 62. Avitar recommended this abatement be processed for the \$2,400 value difference in their findings. It will be an adjustment of \$41.95. **Christina motioned to approve the abatement request for Map 6 Lot 62, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**
- The fourth one is for Map 5 Lot 22 and Map 5 Lot 23-1 as they have the same owner. Avitar recommended that the abatement request for Map 5 Lot 22 be processed for the \$5,600 value difference in their findings. Avitar recommended that the abatement request be denied for Map 5 Lot 23-1. **Christina motioned to approve the abatement request for Map 5 Lot 22, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**
Christina motioned to deny the abatement request for Map 5 Lot 23-1, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

PA-29 Two All Veterans Credit Applications

The Town received two applications for All Veteran's Credits.

- The first one is for Map 2 Lot 98. There were no questions. **Kyle motioned to approve the All Veterans Credit for Map 2 Lot 98, Christina 2nd, so voted.**
- The second one is for Map 5 Lot 26. There were no questions. This was approved in error and will be reviewed at the next Select Board meeting on May 2, 2017.

PA-29 Blind Exemption Application

The Town received a Blind Exemption Application for Map 7 Lot 38. There were no questions. **Christina motioned to approve the Blind Exemption for Map 7 Lot 38, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Federal Surplus Agreement

The Federal Surplus Agreement is good for three years and was last submitted previously on March 14, 2014. It is time for the Select Board to sign a new one. **Christina motioned to sign Federal Surplus Agreement, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Joe Koslow asked what it does. It was explained that it allows the Town to obtain any surplus government property if they are interested.

Disposal Agreement - 64 Fletcher Road

The owner of 64 Fletcher Road submitted a disposal agreement. Glen has reviewed it and has signed off on it. **Kyle motioned to sign the disposal agreement for 64 Fletcher Road, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Disposal Agreement - 28 Fletcher Road

The owner of 28 Fletcher Road submitted a disposal agreement. Glen has reviewed it and has signed off on it. **Christina motioned to sign the disposal agreement for 28 Fletcher Road, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Pemi-Baker Solid Waste appointment

Pemi-Baker Solid Waste sent a letter stating that it is time for the Town of Groton to appoint a representative to the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District which will take effect immediately and continue for three years, ending March 31, 2020. Christina motioned to table, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

RSA's that show not adopted

Ruth Millett, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, submitted a list of RSA's that have been adopted by the Town and there were two that were showing that they were not adopted.

- The first one is RSA 36-A:1 - Establish a Conservation Fund: The Town of Groton does have one but this doesn't show that it was adopted. Sara found in the Conservation Commission Bylaws when it was adopted and gave this information to Ruth.
- The second one is RSA 80:52-a - Prepayment of Taxes: The Town of Groton does accept the prepayment of taxes but it doesn't show this was adopted and we were unable to locate this information. Sara will reach out to New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) to see if we have to post this as a notice of public hearing in order to adopt.

Conservation Restriction Assessment Update

Green Acre Woodlands submitted a Conservation Restriction Assessment Update for Map 6 Lot 1-1. The amounts under the land categories had changed. **Christina motioned to sign the Conservation Restriction Assessment Update for Map 6 Lot 1-1, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Conservation Application Update

Green Acre Woodlands submitted two updated applications for Current Use.

- The first one is for Map 7 Lot 45. **John motioned to sign the Application for Current Use Update for Map 7 Lot 45, Christina 2nd, so voted.**
- The first one is for Map 7 Lot 46. **John motioned to sign the Application for Current Use Update for Map 7 Lot 46, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Christina believes that all three have to be recorded with Grafton County Registry of Deeds by the Town. They didn't drop off a payment for the recording. Sara will reach out Green Acre Woodlands.

Joe Koslow

The Board wanted to thank Joe Koslow for his service at the Transfer Station. A card was passed around for everyone to sign.

Emergency Management Deputy

The Select Board wanted to change the Emergency Management Deputy to the Police Chief, with Roger Thompson to remain the Emergency Management Director.

Chief Thompson was asked to consider the change as he is NIMS Certified. Christina explained that the Board believes it is a fairly inactive role. EJ will let Sara know and if he accepts she will reach out to the current deputy.

Fletcher Road

There is a section that has failed and has been like this for over two years. They were having a problem plowing as well. Christina feels that this needs to be a priority. Sara will tell Glen that this needs to be started and needs to be a priority.

River Road

Christina would like to reach out to the snowmobile club and ask them to not block the ditch line. Christina thinks we should visit the property to look over the exact issues because the understanding is that whatever the Baker Valley snowmobile club did with the bridge was causing the runoff etc. We should schedule a visit with the Public Works Director and the Board for May 16 at 4pm. Sara will let Glen know.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Receipt

The Select Board requested that Sara send a copy of the JBC receipt to all of the Select Board members.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Retention Committee

The next meeting is May 9th at 3:00pm.

Road Committee

The next Road Committee meeting is May 23rd at 6:00pm.

Department Head Meeting

The next Department Head meeting is May 9th at 4:00pm.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS:

Transfer Station Suggestions

Joe Koslow recommended that one of the Select Board members consider taking the Transfer Station Certification. The Select Board will talk about this with John. Joe also mentioned that he would like to recertify with the Department of Environmental Services (DES) and keep up to date with the classes.

Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:36pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant