

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
June 6, 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 7:02pm

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of May 16, 2017 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of May 16, 2017 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to table the Work Session minutes of May 30, 2017 until the next meeting, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to table the Non-Public Work Session minutes of May 30, 2017 until the next meeting, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

PA-29 Map 6 Lot 14

This application was originally submitted after the April 15th deadline but the Select Board stated they would review it for next tax year. At the time the application was submitted, it was missing the supporting documents . The resident has since supplied this information and does qualify. **Kyle motioned to approve the PA-29 for Map 6 Lot 14 for the next tax year, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

PA-29 Map 6 Lot 38

This application was originally submitted after the April 15th deadline but the Select Board stated they would review it for next tax year. At the time the application was submitted, it was missing the supporting documents. The resident has since supplied this information and does qualify. **Christina motioned to approve the PA-29 for Map 6 Lot 38 for the next tax year, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Response to Class VI Road Letter

Sara drafted letters to those that have previously maintained Class VI Roads to remind them to submit their changes to the Select Board for approval. Two residents have sent letters back to the Board with their plans for road maintenance. These letters were both for Old Rumney Road and will continue to maintain the road along with ditching, filling holes, leveling areas that may wash out due to rain. **Christina motioned to approve both the Class VI Road improvements letters for Old Rumney Road, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Sara will talk to Glen to have him check on the condition of the road now and document and complete this in the next few weeks. All documentation should be provided to Sara.

Intent to cut- Map 9 Lot 1

Foreco submitted an intent to cut for Map 9 Lot 1. This is for a 50 acre cut off of Groton Hollow Road. There was no need for a bond payment. **Kyle motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 9 Lot 1, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 9 Lots 2, 8, and 10

Foreco submitted an intent to cut for Map 9 Lots 2, 8 and 10. This is for a 120 acre cut off of Groton Hollow Road. There was no need for a bond payment. **Christina motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 9 Lots 2,8, and 10, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 10 Lot 31

Gordon Coursey & Son LLC submitted an intent to cut for Map 10 Lot 31. This is for a 200 acre cut off of Halls Brook Road. There was no need for a bond payment. **Kyle motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 10 Lot 31, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 5 Lot 28

R.C. McLucas Trucking submitted an intent to cut for Map 5 Lot 28. This is for a 27 acre cut off of Sculptured Rocks Road for the area that NH Division of Forest and Lands met with the Town on. The State did submit a letter regarding this and about the bond payment. They are up to date on the taxes so normally there would be no need for a bond payment but in this case they are going to be sending the payment in for the estimated \$4,157.06 because they are cutting on public lands via a timber interest. **Christina motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 5 Lot 28 conditional on the bond of \$4,157.06 being posted, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Forester Update

Kyle asked if we received the information back from the forester from Wentworth that offered services to help out with the Timber Tax and report of cuts. Sara explained we did receive his rates, which were emailed to the Select Board and in the review folder. Christina thinks we should reach out to at least one more person to compare rates and services.

Report of Cut/Yield Tax- Map 7 Lot 28

We have a logger that is doing a cut for a resident that we have been having some issues with since they did the cut. Originally they didn't even fill out an intent to cut because they were confused about the 10,000 board feet exemption and it appears they still are. Then they never turned in the report of cut and Sara had to contact them a few times to remind them. Then they sent in a report but combined both, what they did before April 1st and after, so the logger was asked to send it with just what was cut before April 1. The attached is the most recent we have received back but as far as the Town of Groton is aware it is not exempt because it was not used for the land owners own personal use.

Sara informed the Select Board that she sent this to Timber Department of the Department of Revenue for advice on how to proceed. Rick reached out and asked what the intent was. Sara talked to the owner and she said that the reason they hired someone to do the cut was to make money off of the property, to pay bills and the property taxes and such after their mother passed away. She confirmed it was not to build, not for their own use of firewood, was not to expand their land, it was not due to fear of them falling on the house, etc. She understood there would be a timber tax and I gave her the estimated amount and she was fine with that. Sara called our contact at the DRA and explained this and he suggested we move forward with the timber tax billing and the land owner I spoke with knows this will be coming. Sara will reach back out to the logger and inform. **Christina motioned to sign the report of cut yield certificate for Map 7 Lot 28, Kyle 2nd so voted.**

Assessing RFP

Sara created an Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Assessing services. The Town signed a one year contract with Avitar but would like to see what other companies may submit for a proposal. Usually we do a 5 year contract but since we did a 1 year contract with Avitar the RFP is for 4 years. Sara will put this online, in the paper and will send it out to Avitar, Commerford Nieder Perkins LLC, and will also look on the DRA website and send out to two more. Sara will change the deadline to Monday July 24th and we will review them on July 25th.

Driveway Concern

A resident sent an email with a concern about a driveway on North Groton Road. This came up in the past and we met with the owner and neighbors that felt that a culvert should have been installed for the driveway. We have received a lot of rain so it is causing problems. Kyle thinks a culvert should have been put in. At the time the Road Agent didn't see a need for a culvert when the driveway permit was approved. Christina thinks the Select Board should drive by before the next meeting. Sara will pull the driveway permit and the meeting minutes from the visit of the location. Sara will also reach out to NHMA to see if we can even require a driveway permit at this time.

PA-29 Map 5 Lot 47-2

A new resident submitted the PA-29 for her new property on Map 5 Lot 47-2. She knows she is after the deadline but didn't know if there were any exceptions since she just moved here. She understands that it will not take place for the last tax bill but was hoping for the next one that goes out. Christina explained that the deadline wasn't met so even though they moved here after the deadline, we can approve it now but it will not go into effect until next year. **Kyle motioned to approve the PA-29 for Map 5 Lot 47-2 for next year, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Groton Paved Road Warrant Article

Christina mentioned that Glen submitted proposals for reclaiming of North Groton Road (NGR). The Road Committee reviewed and discussed the proposals and with the money we have in the Groton Paved Road; from last year's section to the curve; this is a recommendation to reclaim to get something done to that section. It will be a maintenance issue but Road Committee thinks it would be better. This would need to get done soon. We received two quotes but they are not for the same work. This is 8500 square yards which will allow a larger portion for next year's project. There will be a section that will not be paved until next year. Recommendation is to dig down 12 inches, which would help get a jump start on next year's road project. The Road Committee also recommends moving forward with GMI.

There was some confusion as to who does the work, such as grading and crowning the road. We will talk about this next week when we have Glen here so we can get a better idea of what the project is.

Sara will tell Glen to put signs out about Motorcycles use caution, uneven roads out on North Groton Road, one in both directions. There should be one near where the bad area is. Sara will tell Glen that he needs to have this done by the end of the week.

Resignation

This wasn't announced before but our deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Ann Joyce had given her resignation and her last day was May 31, 2017. Ruth doesn't want to advertise until after August as she will not be here to train. This will be advertised when she gets back from vacation. The Town thanked Ann for everything. Ann recommended advertising in July because the background takes a while to come back and they can't start until then. Ruth will think about it and come up with a game plan. We will have more information at the June 20th meeting.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Driveway permits

Glen approved a few driveway permits. Sara will let Glen know that we have some concerns on the permits and we will talk about next week at the meeting with Glen.

Sculptured Rocks Concern

There was a concern about the road and that GPS is taking people that way. We will find out next week from Glen about what signs he ordered to put out there to avoid this.

Perambulation

The Town of Orange emailed and asked if there would be a cost to them when Groton does the perambulation of the Orange/Groton Town line. We should charge half the amount if they don't put a representative out. Sara will email them back.

NH Marathon

Christina explained that she signed the paperwork on the NH marathon. They run around Newfound Lake and go up Sculptured Rocks Road.

Cemeteries

Christina mentioned that the cemetery on NGR hasn't been done. Sara will reach back out to Elizabeth and explain that they will need to hire someone to do the mowing as we are unable to cover the work with the Highway Department.

Collapsed building letters

The deadlines were May 31, 2017 and it appears nothing has been done and we haven't heard from them. We will add this to the agenda on June 20th.

Memo on Park items

Sara will check with Glen and ask for an update on the items that were supposed to be done.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Records Retention Committee

The Retention Committee met and finalized the policy and the Select Board will adopt it at the Select Board meeting on June 20th meeting.

Building Committee

The Building Committee met with the two proposals today and will be meeting next week to hopefully make a decision to move forward. Christina explained that this does not mean we are starting the building, it just means we are picking somebody to move forward for Town Meeting. It was explained that Turnstone and CCI are the two companies.

OHD

Old Home Day will be Saturday August 5th so it will be earlier this year than it normally is. The Committee will be meeting again on June 27th at 5pm.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Police Department Concerns

Nick Blodgett wanted to come in and talk about some concerns he has regarding the Police Department because there are rumors as to why the new officer left. He also has some concerns regarding the lack of Police presence in the Town.

Regarding the officer, Nick stated that he doesn't know the stipulations as to why he is gone but we paid for a full time academy for him. He is concerned that we paid for the academy and now the officer is no longer working here. Christina stated she can elaborate some on this but there are things that cannot be discussed. She explained that she has realized that the Select Board made a mistake by sending the officer to the full time academy but they did have all good intentions and had hoped that the Town would pass the full time officer because of the COPS grant and it did not. Christina explained that the other mistake was that there was an agreement that a contract would be signed and this wasn't done before the officer attended the academy. After the academy he was terminated by the Select Board. It was explained that the hiring and firing of an employee is nonpublic information so the Select Board could not elaborate any more on the termination. Nick asked if there was an agreement for him to sign a contract and it was explained there was and that this was agreed upon in his offer letter. Nick said that this cost the Town the hours he put in, equipment, uniforms etc. Nick said he hopes that the Chief guided him to do what was right and stay and put in his hours for the Town. Nick said he knew this was going to happen once the officer got offered another job and left the Town high and dry.

Nick stated there are concerns about lack of police presence in the Town and that the townspeople rarely see the cruiser move from the Town office. It is a concern that people do not see the cruiser out on the road to patrol the roads. Everyone wants to see the cop car moving. EJ said that he has been on vacation the last few weeks and that there has been administrative work but he said that he gets out there when he can. Nick said if there is anyone that gets it that he gets it but there needs to be patrol. If there is a lot of paperwork Nick recommended that maybe there should be an Administrative Assistant for the Police Department. It would be nice to have someone out patrolling more and the Chiefs job is to do Police work so if he needs help we should get it for him. Nick said he wanted to come and say it to the Board and the Chief because he likes the Chief but he lives here and wants to state his concerns to the right people instead of talking around the Town which doesn't help the situation. Nick said it hasn't just been for the last two weeks it was longer than that that there hasn't been patrol. Christina asked EJ to think about what we can do.

Nick asked if we have any part time officers. We have a conditional offer out and are awaiting background check for someone who was a police officer before and we have it posted for part time help. Nick said to not just hire someone to have a warm body in the cruiser, that it should be good help. The State Police will cover when needed in the meantime.

Nick said we have lost some good officers and we should think about reaching out to them to see why. Christina did explain that we have and some of those losses were because of pay and we are working on being comparable with other towns.

It was agreed to cancel the Town Pound meeting on June 20th and to meet with EJ at 5:30pm regarding these concerns. The Select Board thanked Nick for coming in.

Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:35pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant