

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 19, 2017

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

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Work Session minutes of August 15, 2017 as written, John 2nd, so voted. Kyle abstained.

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Non-Public Work Session minutes from August 15, 2017 as written, John 2nd, so voted. Kyle abstained.

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes from August 15, 2017 as written, John 2nd, so voted. Kyle abstained.

Kyle motioned to table the Select Board Work Session minutes of September 5, 2017, John 2nd, so voted. Christina abstained. Christina will review the minutes for edits and submit to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Non-Public Work Session minutes from September 5, 2017 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Christina abstained.

John pointed out two amendments for the minutes – first page SB-8 should be SB-38 and last page SB should not be abbreviated but should be spelled out as Select Board. **John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes from September 5, 2017 as amended, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Christina abstained.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes

Christina inquired on the recommendation to change the speed limits on the gravel road section in the September minutes. She was concerned that this was being done without further discussion from the Board as the Select Board would need to approve any changes.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Board is supposed to review the proposed dates of the projects in the Hazard Mitigation Plan and comment whether or not the project dates have been met and then fill out the Concurrence Form. Kyle felt this should be done in a Work Session as there was too much to do in a Select Board meeting. The Board agreed and will move the Plan Review to a Work Session.

Coolidge Woods Road

The Board has been asked to review the section of Coolidge Woods Road that is a Class VI public access way for two concerns:

- What is the liability of the Town for the bridge that goes over the brook? – Legal has determined that there is no liability as the road is marked as a Class VI unmaintained road. The Town posts this section each year.
- Will the Board consider either making this section a private way by releasing the road or making the road a public hiking trail; both would have to be addressed at Town Meeting. The Board had asked Sara to pull deeds for abutting properties and to do a little research gathering. John feels that the Town shouldn't consider making a public road a private access. Kyle is still uncomfortable with not knowing who has deeded access as the deeds are hard to review and interpret. Christina felt the Board needed to review further and to also look at all properties on the map all the way out to Edgar Albert Road.

The Board would like to see a bigger map of the location to make a more informed decision on the abutters as there appears to be a couple of lots that may not have any other access to their properties. The Board would also like to reach out to the abutters for their opinion on the road status.

The Board needs to understand also if making this a hiking trail prohibits any vehicular access including logging and to also better understand how the limits are set, would they be set at Town meeting. John feels that you can't change the type of road it is and then change it back again depending on how you want to use the road that day. Christina believes all abutters have to approve the change. The Board will review the additional information and discuss at the second meeting in October.

Update on Pump Stations

Christina reported on behalf of Roger Thompson that there are two properties under consideration for pump stations; Tim Pilcher's property off of North Groton Road and Green Acre Woodlands property off of Halls Brook Road. Roger reports the next step for Tim's property is to have a pump test done and he is working on scheduling that, but he has not been able to meet with the representative of Green Acre Woodlands.

Christina recommended that the Board consider either a Memorandum of Understanding or an Easement agreement and that the Town reach out to the attorney to determine which option is better. The Board agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee of Trust Funds

Elizabeth Jespersen has taken the position of Deputy Town Clerk / Tax Collector and can no longer serve as the Trustee of Trust Funds, therefore, she has submitted her resignation. The position is open and the Board will take submissions of anyone interested in serving until the

end of the open term, which is approximately two years. The Board thanked Elizabeth for her service.

Forestry agreement

The Board reviewed a forestry agreement for Jordan King, who is a licensed forester, to review timber reports and cuts in the Town of Groton at \$40 per hour. **John motioned to approve the forestry agreement with Jordan King, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Spectacle Pond

There are two issues for the Board to consider with regard to Spectacle Pond and the boat ramp access and the recent concerns raised by the Spectacle Pond Associations water testing.

- Whether or not to post the ramp as no swimming? - The State regulations for their boat ramps do not allow swimming but this boat ramp is not regulated by the State. Previously a Select Board reviewed the location when there was an issue with vehicle access. The issue was corrected, but the Board did not want to eliminate swimming. Christina was concerned that if the Town posts it as no swimming, then you are posting something that becomes an enforcement issue.
- Whether or not to install a portable toilet? - The Board wasn't sure that the portable toilet would resolve the issue, but if considered then the toilet would need to be at minimum 33 feet away from the water and no further than 200 feet. Kyle would like to ask the Spectacle Pond Association to consider paying for a portion of the costs for a portable toilet.

After further discussion, the Board felt they needed to review the location more. The Board felt that we could post the test results when there is an issue with the testing, but overall were not ready to post as no swimming. In addition, the Board will look into the costs of the portable restroom and if the Spectacle Pond Association would consider paying for half the costs. The Board will look into the location for the portable restroom based upon the Department of Environmental Services guidelines.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Utility Concern – HB324

Christina would like the Board to consider sending a letter to the Committee that is hearing the bill for HB324. If this bill passes, then Towns will be forced to use the values for utilities as defined by the Department of Revenue (DRA). This could cause a large loss of value for Town's across the state. The Board agreed to have a general letter drafted.

School Bill

Kyle updated the public that the Town's school payment also increased by about \$25,000. This was due to an increase in Average Daily Membership of students and other factors in the budget, but is anticipated that the payment will be adjusted again in the beginning of the year.

SB38

Christina inquired if the Board made any decisions on the SB38 bill, which gave the Town a refund of approximately \$20K. The Board did accept the funds at a public meeting previously but no final decisions were made. Christina asked the Board to think about options. Some items

previously discussed – more money in the road project next year, apply the money toward the purchase of a piece of capital equipment, grinding more roadway, etc.

The Board agreed to look into the amounts in the Capital Reserve Funds, the deadlines for the USDA grant funding and the costs for buying a vehicle outright before making a final determination on the money.

Regional Public Health Member

Groton has been asked to appoint a member of the Town staff or Select Board to serve on the Central NH Regional Public Health Board. Christina is serving for the Town of Bristol and has agreed to serve for Groton instead of having someone else. The Board agreed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Cemetery Trustees

Sharon Nelson inquired on the status of the Town covering mowing. Last year the coverage decision was changed back and forth. Christina apologized for the change last year. The Board agreed that the Cemetery Trustees should hire on their own. The Highway staff will not be responsible for the cemeteries.

Elizabeth mentioned that Glen had done some tree work for the cemeteries and they were not advised about the billing and payment. The Board agreed that the payments should be authorized through the Trustees for any billings for the cemetery and will make sure that is being done for them in the future.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Ruth Millett inquired on a concern raised about a sign on River Road. It is believed that the sign is either in Dorchester or on the State portion of River Road. The Board agreed to reach out to the Dorchester Town Offices, but there was nothing we could do regarding replacing the sign.

Ruth Millett inquired on a contact number for Assessing questions. The Board agreed that all calls should be routed through Sara in the Select Board's Office. If she isn't able to answer the question or feels that the Assessor needs to answer it, then she can route the call accordingly.

Ruth Millett inquired on the new flag light. The Board is aware of the issues; lighted all day, not pointing directly to the flag, not as high on the building as anticipated. The Board will have Gary Easson contacted to address the concerns.

Robert Ellis inquired on the Bridge Project. He said he was disappointed that it wasn't getting done this year but was glad it wasn't getting done during the winter. The Board reported that the final Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) took some time to get finalized. Once that was done, then the permits were filed with the State and those permits take approximately 3 months for approvals. The bidding process will open in November/December and the bids will be reviewed and awarded at some point in January.

Robert Ellis inquired on the status of the Building Project. The Board reported that the last information they had was that the property was surveyed. The Board will reach out to inquire on any updates.

Elizabeth Jespersen reported that there was a possible leak in the basement. She saw water gathering in the basement near the entrance side of the building. The Board will have it looked into.

Elizabeth Jespersen inquired on disposing of the excess vacuums. The Board agreed and granted her permission to have Richard Cross pick them up and bring to the Transfer Station.

Slim Spafford inquired on trucks accessing the Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge. He felt that chip trucks weigh more than log trucks and was concerned with them using the bridge. Kyle stated that the bridge is limited to 80,000 pounds or less. If there is a concern, then the Department of Safety has the ability to weigh vehicles and those concerns would be directed through the Police Department.

Christina motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (b), and (c) at 6:10 pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to return to public session at 6:30 pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to seal all of the non-public minutes, John 2nd, so voted.

Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:21 pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christina Goodwin
Select Board Chair