

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
December 18, 2018

In attendance: John Rescigno, Kyle Andrews, Ron Madan and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant - AA)

Kyle called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

Town Fire Pond

In attendance: John Rescigno, Kyle Andrews, Ron Madan, Robert Ellis, Roger Thompson, Mike Ethier and Frank Harris.

This meeting was called to get everyone on the same page regarding what is needed for the fire pond and what our next steps should be. Tim Pilcher was not able to attend so no decisions were able to be made.

Mike Ethier explained that there are too many variables that we need to figure out before any work can happen. They thought they were going to use the material from the pond for the driveway but it appears that Tim wants the material. It is from his property so if he wants it then it should be left at that property for him to do what he wants with it. The Select Board asked Sara to reach out to him to see if he does want the material.

Mike said that most places in bigger cities require ponds to have fencing around them for liability reasons. Groton does not currently have a fence around the pond behind the garage or any other rivers, etc. It was agreed to look into if this will be needed or not.

The other variable is money. Since there are other unknown factors it is hard to come up with a quote. As of right now we have \$5,000.00 in grant money from the wind farm but we will need to get the other answers to know if we need more than that.

Mike asked why we aren't using a town owned property like across from Transfer Station. Kyle said he wouldn't be opposed to this. Kyle mentioned looking into if the Town still owns the small piece near Kevin Maas. Frank recommended we look at how much property we own at the dump, on the South side, which is the far right. We don't know how close we can be to the wells there. We would have to look into this and talk to DES or Suzanne Wall or Judd Newcomb. Another idea is the piece of property at the snowmobile trail near John Faucher's property.

It was agreed that at this time of year there isn't much we can do. Sara will look into getting answers on the fencing, material and look at some of the properties that were mentioned. For now, this will be on hold until the Spring. Sara will contact everyone once the next meeting is scheduled in the Spring.

Perambulation

Sara asked if the Select Board saw the email from Miles regarding the perambulation. Miles stated that as a result of persistent rains and snowfall throughout much of November and other limitations, they were not able to complete either the Groton/Rumney or Groton/Hebron perambulations. He was able to walk a portion and do some historical research. They will try again next fall and will plan on starting mid-October to avoid a similar situation.

Sara had asked Miles if he was going to submit time for the hours he has spent this year and he said that he will not be submitting any time this year and will not carry it over to next year as he is considering what he has done to be of a voluntary nature. The Select Board is okay with this.

Budget items for next meeting

Sara mentioned a few things for the Select Board to keep in mind for the next budget meeting which were:

- We will have to increase the grant line to cover the Hazard Mitigation Plan update since we have to pay and then will be reimbursed.
- We will have to increase the fire budget based on the meeting we attended with Hebron.

Flood Plain Management Program

Sara had sent the Select Board a copy of the Flood Plain permit application to review and decide if they are okay with using this going forward. **John motioned to adopt the Flood Plain Development Permit Application for Groton, NH with an effective date of December 18, 2018, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Also, Jennifer Gilbert who is the Flood Plain Management Program Coordinator, thought it would be helpful to meet and have a training session. What date would work best to plan this? Sara will send her our meeting dates in January and February and see what works best for her.

Deb Johnson wanted John to go over the Flood Plain ordinance. It is from 2007 and the Select Board is responsible to do a number of things regarding the Flood Plain. As of now, there is an updated version in 2018 that is the same. The Select Board is okay with moving forward with this.

Casey Kuplin Driveway

Sara received an email from the State for a driveway permit for Casey Kuplin. The Select Board said that Sara should reach out to them to make sure they know he doesn't have frontage and that he only has a right of way.

Police Department

Kyle mentioned that he thinks we should let the Sheriff's Department finish out this year but we should put it on hold and continue with State Police for emergencies. At this point we are not sure if we are getting our money worth and it is only 4 hours a week. John agreed. Ron thinks it is beneficial and he sees the Sheriff working hard while she is here but that is only 4 hours of an entire week. Sara will reach out to the Sheriffs Department and ask that they continue to the end for the year and meet with his new boss and let us know if they want to continue or not and if there are any changes and we can make a decision based on that.

Sara will also reach out to the State Police to see where the contract changes stand.

Sara mentioned that we should have a meeting on the future of the Police Department before town meeting. The attorney said since it is just a discussion it can be part of a Select Board meeting. It was agreed to put it on the agenda for the January 15th Select Board meeting. Sara will post it this week online, at the Transfer Station, at the Town House and we will mention it tonight.

Reminders

Sara reminded the Select Board of the following:

- Performance evaluations are due 1/1/19
- Sara is off next week. She will be coming in to do payroll only and is planning on coming in on Monday 12/24 and Monday 12/31 around 9:00am to do payroll but the office will be closed to the public.

Maps

Deb Johnson had sent an email which stated that she telephoned Avitar about the odd notch in the northern boundary of Groton. She knew nothing about it. She was told that they normally use the USGS boundary data from GRANIT, which is where she started. She provided a screen shot and wanted to note that it is not simply the notch that is in question, but also extensive boundary data along the eastern edge of Groton with Plymouth (see red Avitar boundary). She has a feeling that they have subsidiary mappers (Terramap?) who actually did the work, and they know more. Theoretically, the tax map was built using cross-referenced deed information to piece it all together. Her advice is for Groton to work with Avitar to get to the bottom of this when the next tax map update is due. It is well known in the Newfound area that the town political boundaries are incorrect and she ran into this with Hebron and Alexandria, and the southern border of Groton, on the watershed master plan. She said that Steve will remember that that Barnards pointed this out.

Sara will reach out to Avitar regarding the map concern.

Meeting with Bubba

- Bubba and Sara reached out to Senator Giuda regarding concerns with Sculptured Rocks Road. They wrote a letter which discussed that Groton is a small town with limited resources and how taxing Sculptured Rocks State Park is on our town road. Sculptured Rocks State Park is visited by tens of thousands of people each year. We are having a hard enough time taking care of the roads we have that are less traveled due to being a small town with limited funds. With Sculptured Rocks being a State Park, it was our hopes that there would be some way that the State could assist the Town with paving the one mile of road that leads to Sculptured Rocks State Park, whether that be doing the actual paving or providing funding. Since then he sent a letter to DOT. Bubba is meeting with a state engineer on January 9th so they can go over some ideas on best ways to maintain the road or if they can do some work or give us some money towards it.
- The Dodge is back and Charlie did the brakes for about half the cost of what Autoserv quoted.
- Bubba did get prices on mini excavators for a warrant article. It is coming in between \$70,000 and \$80,000 and comes with a mower head, special bucket, a thumb and a trailer. YanMar came in at the best price. He got three different quotes on it. Kyle said he thought if we are subbing out more work, we wouldn't need new equipment. Bubba said that we cannot sub out everything and it costs \$5000-\$6000 to rent a mower. Sara explained we have about \$55,000.00 in the heavy equipment capital reserve fund that we could use towards it and then either pay the rest or finance the rest.
- Kyle asked what the plan is for the six-wheeler. Bubba said we should look at trading it in. We don't need that big truck anymore since we do not do the state road and we had been putting a lot of money into. We could get another one ton with a wing that could do the same job. The Dodge isn't reliable so we should probably get rid of the Dodge before the six-wheeler.
- Bubba got a quote from Meredith Ford for a 1 ton with a 10ft plow, a sander. The Select Board said he can submit the information for a warrant article and we will have to decide what all we want to bring to the Town to vote on.
- North Groton Road is chipping up in two spots and Bubba talked to Bryant Paving about it. They said the driver may not have seen it. Both spots are about 8 inches wide and 2 feet long. They will fix it when they do the top coat.
- North Groton Road will be \$130,000 for the finish coat and gravel to edging to finish what was done last year. Bubba put in the warrant article for this.
- Bubba put in a warrant article to do shimming from Helens to Halls Brook. R&D paving said that is a good spot to do shimming and that would cost about \$130,000.00. Bubba put in a warrant article for this too.

Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 6:55pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant