

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2019

In Attendance: John Rescigno, Ron Madan, Tony Albert and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of August 6, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of August 6, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of August 6, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Darlene McPherson- 1214 North Groton Road

Darlene McPherson is the owner of 1214 North Groton Road. She requested to be put on the agenda to speak to the Select Board regarding the clean-up of her property. She said he has had some difficulties in trying to find Mr. Clark and she cannot remove any of the junk from the year because it is his personal property. She cannot afford the fines but isn't sure what she can do.

She has recently received the notice from the court for eviction and back payment of rent which she posted the notice last Thursday. She has tried to locate the family and she said he hasn't been there so she doesn't think he is still there. Many people in the audience and the Select Board stated they have seen him there every day. She said she was originally told she cannot go on the property but has since been told that since she is the property owner, she can go on it but cannot remove anything. She wanted the Select Board to help with this. John explained that the Select Board cannot do anything as they do not have the authority. John recommended that she continue working with the courts and maybe get an attorney.

A friend spoke up and was concerned about the fines that have been mentioned in the letters from the Town and she doesn't think Darlene should have pay them. John explained that she is the owner so she is responsible. Letters have been sent for over a year, even before any fines were discussed and there was no response to the Town. The Town has since had to get an attorney involved so the Town is accruing fees because of this. John mentioned that she should make it clear that any fines she accrues through the town will be the tenant's responsibility when she takes him to court. Darlene said that she is doing what she can do. John said the Town is glad that she contacted us and is working on it because this has been ignored and has been going on for well over a year.

She was concerned that if she can't pay the fines she will be arrested. John explained the fines haven't been charged yet. The process will continue and the Town will take the next step. If it is cleaned up before the next step happens, the Town may work with her on some of the fines. John thanked her for again for trying to get this cleaned up and for giving the town an update. Darlene said she has called Gilpatrick's but cannot

do anything right now. They also have a church that is willing to help them with the cleanup. John recommended they reach out to DES to see if there is anything they can do. Sara mentioned that the Town and residents have reached out to DES about this property so they are aware of the concerns. She mentioned that has reached out to welfare for concerns for the children but doesn't sound like the children are staying there right now.

Miles Sinclair- Perambulation Update

Miles started both the Hebron and Rumney perambulations in 2018 but due to getting snow early in 2018 he had to put it off until 2019. Since there two new members on the board and he wanted to make sure they are still supporting this. They all agreed that they support this work to continue.

He has been working with Paul Hazelton and he has been working with FORECO and there is a problem with the Hebron/Groton corner. In the history records there is no marker, there was just a tree. The last perambulation was done in 1961 but the person who did it only went as far as one corner and didn't go further. Also, the tree is now gone. With assistance of FORECO, and their maps, they should be able to get in the vicinity of where it is and mark a tree or something so that in the future, they know why this was done.

Miles was trying with Sara's help to get a representative from Rumney and he has gone to their Select Board meeting regarding this as well. Joe Chivell who is their Administrative Assistant sent email to Miles to see if he could represent their town as well and how much he would charge. Miles doesn't think it is appropriate because they should have their own representative. The Select Board agrees with this.

Miles explained to the audience members that he is doing this to save the Town money. We have tried to get professional to do these perambulations in the past and it was too costly. He previously has done Dorchester and Orange, which only cost the Town about \$400.00. This is a huge savings and does count as a perambulation as it is submitted to the State and kept on record.

James Bilodeau- Hardy Country Snowmobile Club

The Hardy Country Snowmobile Club is putting radios in their groomers and wanted the Town's permission to use their frequency. They were wondering if there was a repeater they could use. Tony said maybe they can get their own frequency but we wouldn't them on our frequency. If they got their own frequency we could discuss if they could use our repeater. We would have to check with Ossipee Mountain Electronics to see about this. James will look into the frequency and if he goes further with acquiring radios, he will come back to meet with the Select Board to discuss options.

James mentioned that FEMA is giving funding for Province Road snowmobile trail. He wanted to know if we are working on Province road right now. It was explained that we are not at this time because we do not have any money until we get FEMA funding. James said they will need to access the road to get to the trail but need to get material in there, about 40 loads of material. Bubba said they cannot do it with the road the way it is. James said they mend it enough to get 40 loads of truck material in there. It was agreed they would have to coordinate this with Bubba.

Pistol/revolver Licenses

The Town of Groton received two pistol/revolver license renewal applications. Sara sent them to the State Police to get the background check done and to get their approval. Both came back that the record was negative and the license could be issued. **John motioned to sign both of pistol/revolver licenses, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 1 Lot 13-1

The owner submitted a building permit for a 16x20 640 square foot home. They have the PUC approval and DES. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 1 Lot 13-1, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 5 Lot 18

The owner submitted a building permit for solar panels. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 5 Lot 18, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

MS-1

The Town of Groton is required to complete the MS-1, Summary Inventory of Valuation, every year. This is due September 1st and lists out the Town's values breaking down utilities, current use, etc. **John motioned to sign the MS-1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Oath of Office Form

At the August 6, 2019 Select Board meeting the Select Board appointed Pam Hamel as the Treasurer effective August 10, 2019. Since then Pam met with Ruth and took the Oath of Office. This form needs to be signed by the Select Board. **John motioned to sign the oath of office for Pam Hamel as Treasurer effective August 10, 2019, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Land Use Change Tax- Map 6 Lot 63-12

Avitar sent in a Land Use Change Tax for Map 6 Lot 63-12. This is a 5.15-acre parcel with all acres assessed in current use. As a result of a sale of this parcel this property is no longer contiguous with other property with sufficient acreage to qualify to remain in current use which makes the owners subject to the Land Use Change Tax. In this case, Avitar estimates the \$30,000.00 purchase price is indicative of the market value suggesting a land use change tax in the amount of \$3,000.00. **John motioned to sign the Land Use Change Tax for Map 6 Lot 63-12, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Land Use Change Tax- Map 6 Lot 22-1

Avitar sent in a Land Use Change Tax for Map 6 Lot 22-1. This is a 12.061-acre parcel with 11.061 acres assessed in current use. As a result of a map provided by the owners and a field review of the property, there is an additional acre that no longer qualifies to remain in current use due to the pending construction of a barn which makes the owners subject to the Land Use Change Tax. In this case, Avitar estimates the market value of this 1-acre area to be \$1,000.00, which makes the Land Use Change Tax \$100.00. **John motioned to sign the Land Use Change Tax for Map 6 Lot 22-1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Request for Groton Historical Society to use the Town House

The Groton Historical Society would like permission to use the Town House on Sunday, September 8, 2019 for a program rescheduled from last fall. Reenactor Evelyn Auger will portray Mary Baker Eddy and Linda Salatiello will be a reporter of the day, interviewing Eddy. The program will begin at 2:00pm in the large meeting room and they would like access to the kitchen as well. **John motioned to approve the Groton Historical Society to use the Town House on Sunday, September 8, 2019, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Primex- Contribution Assurance Program- Workers' Compensation

The Town received the forms from Primex regarding the Worker's Compensation contribution assurance program. This is the same as it has been in the past. **John motioned to sign the Primex- Contribution Assurance Program- Workers' Compensation, Tony 2nd so voted.**

Sara explained that we have not received the CAP for property and liability as of yet and there is no CAP for the unemployment.

Meeting with Homeland Security (HSEM)

John explained that HSEM met with the town to talk about our concerns. We are working as hard as we can to get this money so we can continue to work on the damages from the October 2017 storm. HSEM has had the money from FEMA since February and everyone including the Senator, the Select Board Sara, and Bubba are working hard on this.

Transfer Station

They have been working hard at the Transfer Station and the stain is coming out nice. Great job!

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- They are working on getting Sculptured Rocks Road to pre-July 11, 2019 storm condition so they can try to pave before winter. They are trying hard to make this happen.
- They are also working to get Edgar Albert Road back to pre-July 11, 2019 storm condition as well.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Old Home Day

Old Home Day was last Saturday, August 17th. Due to the weather the event was moved to the Town House. There was a live band named Horsepower. There was dancing, raffles, food, hayrides for the kids and a lot of fun. There was a good turnout. John wanted to thank everyone who donated towards this and to thank Avangrid for their donation. Avangrid donates every year and without their donation Old Home Day would not be possible. There was not enough money collected for fireworks this year but there should be enough money for fireworks next year. They did collect over \$1,200.00. Ron mentioned there would be more if people took their aluminum cans out of the trash and brought them into the Transfer Station as the Town gets money for these.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Status of Police Chief

Miles asked for the status of a new Police Chief. John explained that they extended an offer but nothing will be final until the background check, PT test, etc. is completed. The Sheriff's Department has started the background check.

Runner incident

Miles asked what the outcome of the runner who tore his shoe on Sculptured Rocks Road. John explained that while running he got his shoe caught on something sticking out of the ground and it ripped his shoe. The Town reached out to Primex and they looked into this and found that the town was not liable. The Town was not aware of this beforehand and took care of it immediately once they were made aware.

River Road Dam

Slim went to meeting in Dorchester on the River Road dam. He explained that all engineer studies are done and they know what they are going to do. Construction will start one year from now. Slim had asked who

would pay for River Road with the construction vehicles driving it and doing damage to the road. They have since mentioned that they will not be using River Road and will be creating a road.

Groton Historical Society Calendars

Slim mentioned that the Groton Historical Society created calendars for 2020 of all mines in Town. There are pictures of the mines and the calendars are \$5.00 each.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:45pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant