

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
January 14, 2020

**In attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert and Glenn Normandeau Executive Director Fish and Game
Absent: Ron Madan and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant - AA)**

John called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Glenn explained that he received a call from the Governor's office about a beaver dam on their property that was ready to give way. He explained he had walked Orange Road and was familiar with Atwell Brook. John then explained that the dam was not on their property. John said that he had spoken to Fish and Game the year before about the dam and they had said the land owner has the right to remove the beaver themselves. John then explained the brook that was of concern and on their property. John said there were three issues, the brook redirected itself and is now eroding the side of a cliff, there were numerous log jams that could pose an issue during high rain events and the brook needs to be dredged. Tony explained where the location of this area and how the brook was now eroding the bank of the hill. Tony expressed his concern for the hill giving way. Tony explained that an excavator could make its way into the brook and move the large boulders in order to redirect the brook down the path it took before the storm. John showed a picture of the area. Tony explained at the prior meeting with Fish and Game, The Army Corps of Engineers and DES all that was offered were permits. Tony stated the Town does not have the money to do the work. Glenn said the state has no money either. Glenn asked about the berm that was made. John explained the river brook through the bank. Tony said the berm needed to be made because all of the water was going down to Sculpture Rooks Rd which it washed out and that the water needed to be stopped so work could be done on the road making it passable. Tony said the road was now the brook. John said the current condition of the brook could potentially put some of the town residents in danger. John said first the brook needs to be redirected to its original path, clear the logs and finally dredge the brook. Tony said the brook needs to be maintained and expressed that we do not have the money. John said the State owns the land. Glenn explained that the land was bought with Federal money and there are many stipulations put on the property as to what the State can do with it. Tony once again stated that one day with an excavator could get a lot done and there was a clear path to the brook were the brook had changed its path. Tony stated that the brook needs to be cleaned and that we do not have the resources. John asked if the State had any money to put towards it. Glenn explained there were other roads on that property that were taken out by the storm as well and they were waiting on FEMA money. Glenn said there is a habitat fund to work on their properties but that money can only be used to better the habitat of the wild life. Tony asked about grant money and that we could work together on it. Glenn said he would think it over but since the land was purchased with Federal money it could pose a problem since there are only certain projects allowed to be done and most of them pertain to enhancing wildlife. If something was done to the property that was not allowed the money supplied by the Federal government would have to be paid back. Glenn suggested finding a National Guard Engineering Battalion that could use training in that area. Glenn said he is going to talk to his counterpart, the guy in charge of the National Guard in NH. Glenn said if it was

a year from now it could be budgeted in and money would be available for it. For now, Glenn is going to look into seeing if there were any programs or if the Governor had any money laying around.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 4:45pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

John Rescigno
Select Board Chair