

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
July 7, 2020

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

John called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Letter from Deb Johnson

At the last meeting the Select Board reviewed the letter Deb Johnson sent a letter on behalf of the Planning Board in response to the letter the Select Board sent dated April 9, 2020. The Planning Board invites discussion with the Select Board regarding the minutes and hiring of a minute taker/typist. The Planning Board has a Secretary now and they can follow the Select Board preferred process. At the last meeting the Select Board asked Sara to look into if the minutes have to be approved, etc. Sara had sent the Select Board a lot of information on meetings and the minutes of the meetings which shows it is not required that they have to be approved but it is a Town process that they are at the next meeting.

The Select Board feels there is no need for a meeting with the Planning Board regarding this at this time since the process has seemed to improve.

July 21, 2020 Select Board Meeting

Sara thought she was on vacation the week of the 21st but she is on vacation the week before and is back on Tuesday July 21st so we will have the meeting that day. The Planning Board and the ZBA can attend the MIT site visit on the 21st so we will all meet here at 5:00pm and then head to the MIT property.

Update on electricity at park

Gary Easson came on Tuesday 6/23/20 and got the key to the box at the park. When he dropped the key off, he explained that he was wrong and the outlets have not been tampered with or vandalized, they are just a new outlet with added safety features. There will be no cost to the Town for this.

John Faucher

John Faucher has been storing his TLC equipment on Town Property again. John asked the other Selectmen if they gave him permission. He was sent a letter in 2017 and again in 2018 about this and the letters clearly stated that he cannot park or store his equipment on Town owned property and if there is an emergency that results in this need, he is to contact the Select Board. Sara printed this letter for the Select Board to review. The Select Board thinks we should send the same letter again stating it will be towed if it left on Town property without Select Board approval as stated in those previous letters. Sara will send this letter from her on behalf of the Select Board like last time.

Conservation Commission meeting about the Bridge

The Conservation Commission requested to set up a meeting with the Selectmen and Bubba to discuss the bridge to the Pond. Slim asked the Select Board what they wish to happen with the bridge. John mentioned that since the bridge leads to the pond it would be nice to have it replaced. Slim asked about the timeline the Select Board would want that done. John mentioned that due to money we would have to wait until Town meeting in March and put in a warrant article for the Town to vote on the money to repair it. With the weather around here, that may not leave enough time to get the bridge done before the fishing derby. The Conservation Commission discussed this at the last meeting that they were going to help the Town fix the bridge. Slim said that the Conservation Fund money he thought was only to acquire conservation land and after research that the Town did it shows that the Town owns the land but in 2008 per a warrant article the

land was entrusted to the Conservation Commission. Slim mentioned when he came on the Planning Board there were talks about wanting to have a town forest in Groton but this was never done. Slim and Sherry own a piece of land next to their house and they want to donate it to the Town but it would be a wildlife preserve. Slim said that he has changed his mind about the bridge and that he talked to Sherry and he would like to use the money the Conservation Commission has for legal fees that will be associated with this donation of the land.

John thinks that before we acquire any more land that we should take care of what we have now such as the land behind the garage and the bridge that would go to it. Slim mentioned this would be a preserve for wild life, no logging, no hunting, etc. Slim said that it would be owned by the Conservation Commission, not the Town of Groton, and maintained by the Conservation Commission. There were concerns about it being a private road and the traffic this will increase on that private road. The other owners on that road will have to sign off on it. The Select Board thinks there is a lot more to this that Slim would have to look into and it is not a decision the Select Board would make right now.

Gina said that at the last meeting the Conservation Commission agreed that they wanted to help with the bridge so they wanted to have the meeting tonight to discuss the bridge. The Conservation Commission did not know anything about this land. She thought this meeting was to see what the best way to get the bridge done so it didn't delay the derby next year and since we don't know how the Town will vote on the warrant article. Slim said that he just decided this with Sherry last week which is why the Conservation Commission didn't know about this. Gina told Slim that he is the Chair but he cannot make decisions as a single person, the entire Commission has to vote on it and make a decision together. He said he talked to Sherry. Gina mentioned that Sherry is not on the Conservation Commission and cannot make decisions about the Conservation money.

John said that the Conservation obviously has to discuss his some more so they will discuss this as their meeting on Thursday and let the Select Board know what they decide regarding the bridge. If nothing is done it will go before the Town in March for a warrant article. The idea was presented that if the Conservation Commission uses its money to fix the bridge now that they could submit a warrant article to be replenished the funds. Gina felt that Slim should have cancelled this meeting tonight and discussed the idea of the land with the Conservation Commission in their meeting, not in the Select Board meeting. It was agreed that they would discuss the bridge at the next meeting and let the Select Board know what was decided.

Conservation Commission signing of permits for Sculptured Rocks Road

Sara mentioned to the Conservation Commission that we need the Conservation Commission to sign off on the permits when we submit it to qualify for the Minimum Expedited permit. Our Engineer Mike Vignale was hoping they could review the plans and then sign the permits. Sara brought the plans for review. Mike will have the permits ready for signature by Thursday (at the road pre-bid) so if we can get one of them to sign off at that time and have the Town Clerk sign them, we can submit the permits that day. The Conservation Commission voted to approve Slim to come in and sign the permits for the Sculptured Rocks Road project on Thursday, July 9th at 9:45am.

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba met with the Select Board to discuss the following items:

- Sara and Bubba mentioned to the Select Board that we are moving forward with the NBRC grant for Sculptured Rocks Road. This was put in the 6/30/20 edition of the paper and the site visit will be 7/9/20 at 10:00am. Mike will open the bids on 7/30/20 at the Town House at 12:00pm and then the Select Board should pick up their copies that day if possible so they can review them and be prepared to meet with Mike Vignale at the 8/4/2020 6:30pm work session and award the project at the

8/4/2020 Select Board meeting. With the site visit being 7/9/20 at 10:00am the Select Board office will be closed from about 9:45am until the site visit is over.

- The culverts are supposed to be starting the third week of July so we will check on this.
- The old library/town house was taken down and seed and stone has been put down.
- They are almost done with fixing the guardrail where the accident happened on North Groton Road. We are still waiting for the accident report. The guardrails we have are outdated. It is \$30 a foot. This is something we will have to look at. This doesn't include the safety ends which are \$3000 each. He said that it is depending on what the speed is for the road if you need the ends or not.
- Bubba looked into line painting as well. For 4 miles it would be \$7,200 and would have to be done every two years. It was agreed this isn't worth it.
- Mr. Crosby came in to see Bubba about the culvert situation and the driveway concern. His plan is to subdivide the land he just doesn't know if it will be this year or next year. He was saying that the "driveway" near the seasonal cottage was a log landing not a driveway. Bubba explained that there are cars that park there so it is a driveway. He asked that instead of spending money on the culvert could the money be used for a bridge on the property. The Select Board said no, it would be used for a culvert. The Select Board was torn on what to do. He either needs to submit a driveway permit for the seasonal camp that was never done and if this is done he wont get the culvert done until he subdivides or we just put in the culvert like we were supposed to 10 years ago and then tell them they cannot use the third driveway. The Select Board will think about this and discuss it at the next meeting. Sara will add this to the next work session agenda. The other question with this property is if there is running water at this property and what is being used for a toilet. The Town didn't think there is running water and isn't sure about a toilet but will reach out to the attorney to see what we can do to find out. There is someone living there year-round and it was supposed to be a seasonal camp. We already asked the attorney about this to see if there is anything we can do and the attorney said that unless your zoning ordinance distinguishes between seasonal and year-round residences, the town probably cannot pursue this issue. There's a supreme court case directly on point.
- The staining of the stage at the park is complete.
- There were some washouts from the last storm that they had to take care of.
- Bubba said there is heavy rain coming in Friday into Saturday. He is going to be out of Town Thursday into Friday late afternoon/night. They will be moving all of the equipment before then so there are no issues.
- Province Road is complete. We are trying to get FEMA to come out and do the inspection so we can get some money.
- Dave Leone mentioned that Dorchester was denied for the bridge out on Province Road for a second time so they are not going to do it. They are going to look into moving forward with a single lane bridge.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant