

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
September 23, 2020

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

John called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

Call with DES regarding junkyard concerns

The Select Board had a conference call with Laurel Pushee and Gardner Warr from DES, and Ken Knowlton from MRI, regarding the concerns with the junkyard on Bailey Hill Road.

The Town had previously forwarded DES the concerns from the resident regarding this property and all junkyard reports that were done by Ken Knowlton. Ken explained that this is a poorly situated junkyard and some of his concerns that he saw from his walk through was that there are too many cars, stacked on top of each other and you couldn't get through. He could barely walk through to see if there were other issues. He was afraid that there were some fire safety concerns and access concerns as well.

Laurel stated that DES hands are tied but with everything they have reviewed the can absolutely say that the Town can move forward and his license can be revoked if needed as he cannot operate under these conditions. DES said the Town has the right to go on the property to inspect it. Ken and Sara explained that they know what the Town can do as we have handled junkyard concerns in the past but wanted to reach out to DES first as we thought there were environmental concerns that they would want to review. Ken stated that he is knowledgeable with the DES green yards and feels this is bad and there are many issues so he didn't know how involved DES would want to be. Sara explained that Ken recommended a visit with DES and the Town and the Select Board agreed this would be a good idea so that we can all look at the issues together, we are all on the same page and can go from there.

Laurel and Gardner explained that with everything they have reviewed the Town is doing the right thing to move forward. The bylaws are solid, the ordinance is clear and they can do a cease and desist now but DES hands are tied due to authority. They said we could move forward with our attorney. John explained that we know we can move forward with our attorney, and we have in the past, but there are environmental concerns which is why we are reaching out to request the assistance from DES so that if it does go to court, we have all of our ducks in a row. John thinks we should all team up, do the inspection together to cover all bases and determine all violations on the property and go from there. If there are no DES concerns than the Town will just move forward on our end because the property is not in compliance.

Gardner said that Laurel cannot come out but he would be willing to but he cannot dig or break ground or do anything like that. He is there because the Town asked him to. It was agreed that the Rumney Fire Chief and the Groton Police Chief should be there as well.

The meeting was set for Monday, September 28, 2020 at 1:00pm. Everyone will meet at the Town House first and then go to the property from there.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:50pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant