

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2020

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

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of January 7, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of January 7, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of January 7, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of January 14, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting with Fish and Game

Glenn Normandeau from the Fish and Game met with the Select Board on January 14, 2020 regarding Atwell Orange Brook. The minutes from this meeting will be online this week. The big takeaway from that meeting is that 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.

Reminder- Public Hearing on the 2020 Proposed Budget and Warrant Articles

The Select Board wanted to remind everyone that the Public Hearing on the 2020 Proposed Budget and Warrant Articles is Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Town House. The Select Board meeting will commence immediately following the hearing. The snow date is Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at the same time and same location.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kevin Dennis from McClay Architects and Alan Molin from MIT- 1238 North Groton Road

Kevin Dennis works for McClay Architects and Alan Molin from MIT met with the Select Board for some clarification on a few things regarding a project they are planning on doing at 1238 North Groton Road. They are working on a project for MIT which includes building a bunk house. This is not ready to move ahead with construction but are trying to move ahead with some questions they have in order to submit a building permit and whatever else is needed. They provided a handout with their questions.

- Zoning Ordinance- the proposed bunkhouse will be classified per IBC as a R-1 occupancy and Hotel per NFPA, and house up to 50 occupants. Is this consistent with the Town of Groton's definition of "residential" per the Groton Zoning Ordinance? The Select Board explained that

this would have to go to the Planning Board and Zoning Board for clarification which we can send to them and follow up later. They may need to meet with the Planning Board. The Select Board had a few questions regarding this so they asked the following:

- How often is the camp utilized? Alan explained that the MIT Outing Club is for students and alumni. It is on the weekends mostly which bring about 50-75 people there who set up tents until the bunkhouse is ready. Once the bunkhouse is there it will not change in the frequency of people, just where they sleep.
- How many sleep in the building now? Alan explained they want the current building to be only used as a lounge and cooking in summer but no sleeping. However, in the winter about 10-20 people max sleep in there.
- Is there electricity? Alan said that there is. Tony mentioned that any new construction would need smoke/fire detection. Alan said they are planning on doing this with a sprinkler system.
- Will this be visible from road and how many stories? It will be further back than the building that is currently there and will be one story. They are looking around March for the schematic design and full construction design after.
- Where will they park? There is now a small u shape parking area for about 5 vehicles. They are hoping to make this bigger but they do car pool and are told not to park on the street. Bubba said they just need to pull in further.
- Plumbing- there are outhouses right now and water is carried in and boiled, there is no water there. Can they use the composting toilets? DES said this is permissible for hunting camps and off the grid cabins but they need the Town's interpretation of what a hunting camp or cabin is since there is a lot of occupants. This has been known as a cabin/camp but there is no clear definition of this. Tony said if showering would need something in place. Right now, they are trying for just composting toilets but no running water as they want this as rustic as possible to get them out of the city and into the woods. The Select Board said that this would also be a good question for the Planning Board.

The Select Board wrapped up explaining that the Town would have look into these questions by reaching out to the Planning Board. The Planning Board may want to meet with them for their own questions. Sara will send the handout to the Planning Board to see what their thoughts are.

Plymouth Court Jurisdictional Association (PCJA) letter

The attorney reviewed the information from the Town regarding the intent to withdraw from the PCJA. The attorney feels it is best for the Town to send the request and have the Select Board sign and send the letter. If there is a copy of the Bylaws somewhere that was signed by the selectmen (which is required under RSA 41-10-a) and an objection is made by the Association to Groton's notice that they are leaving, then we can discuss what process might be most compatible with the Association Bylaws given the absence of a voluntary disassociation procedure. Sara drafted the letter using the sample wording from the attorney. **John motioned to sign the Plymouth Court Jurisdictional Association letter, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit- Map 5 Lot 48-1

The owner submitted a building permit for a 26x26 log sided garage on their property located at 12 Beaver Pond Drive. This will not be heated or cooled. They already have a release form on file from when they built their house in 2017. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 5 Lot 48-1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Report of cut/yield certificate Map 5 Lot 143

This report of cut is for Map 5 Lot 143 on Sculptured Rocks Road for a cut of about 2.5 acres. The amount is \$582.14. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 5 Lot 143, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Class VI Road Letters- Old Rumney Road

Two residents sent letters to the Select Board with their plans for road maintenance for Old Rumney Road and will continue to maintain the road along with filling holes, leveling, repairing areas that may wash out due to the rain, etc. **John motioned to approve the Class VI Road improvements requests for Old Rumney Road, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Agreement for MS-535

The Town received the agreement from Melanson Heath for the MS-535. The fees are the same as last year. **John motioned to sign the agreement for the MS-535, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 2 Lot 48

The Town received an Intent to Cut for Map 2 Lot 48 for a 100-acre cut. There are no taxes owed on the property so a bond was not required and all information on the intent is correct. **John motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 2 Lot 48, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

U.S. Census Bureau- Boundary Validation Program (BVP)

The U.S. Census Bureau sent a letter explaining that they are now conducting the initial Boundary Validation Program (BVP). This is an opportunity to review the Census Bureau's boundary data to ensure they have the correct legal boundary, name, and status for our government. The Select Board reviewed the boundaries and everything was correct. **John motioned to sign the 2020 Initial Boundary Validation Program (BVP), Tony 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- The Dodge is still down but should be back tomorrow. The cost was a little more than we were quoted but still way under what Autoserv quoted.
- They have still been busy plowing and taking care of roads.
- Bubba has talked to Ron and he looks better and is planning on being at the Public Hearing.

Police Department

Chief Bagan explained that there is not much going on yet as he is still experiencing equipment delays.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Road Committee

Bubba mentioned that the Road Committee will not meet again until after town meeting.

Building Committee

Bubba mentioned that the next Building Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 6:00pm.

Cemetery

Slim mentioned that they are waiting to hear about the cemetery gate. Once they hear back, they will be putting it at the town shed.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Declaration of candidacy

Ruth reminded everyone that the declaration of candidacy begins tomorrow, January 22, 2020 and goes through January 31, 2020. There are a lot of open positions anyone wants to be on the ballot, they need to sign up during this time frame.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:28pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant