

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 4, 2020

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 8:00pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of January 21, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. Ron abstained.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of January 21, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. Ron abstained.

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of January 22, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. Ron abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

104 Sculptured Rocks Road

On January 7, 2020 the Select Board sent a letter to the property owners stating they are in violation and giving them 30 days to clean up the property. On January 22, 2020 they emailed the Select Board stating that they have inherited the property and are working hard to clean it up but due to the snow it is difficult to comply with the 30-day deadline. They are hoping to extend this to the end of summer. The Select Board agreed to grant an extension but will explain it needs to be cleaned up by July 1st. The Select Board asked Sara to send them a letter on behalf of the Select Board giving them the deadline of July 1st, 2020.

Intent to cut- road access

On the intent to cut there is an access road listed but we have never checked the road conditions before and after the logging to make sure there isn't any damage. The Select Board thought we should start this. We would give the Road Agent a copy of the intent when we sign them so he can check the town road before and after. Tony said there is a temporary road permit that the state uses so he thinks this is something we should adopt. Sara will look into what the State uses to see if we can come up to something for the town to use.

Building Permit- Map 7 Lot 52

The owner submitted a building permit for a 40x80 steel building for personal storage and work shop. They did submit the release of municipal liability form as well and the PUC approval. The Select Board is going to hand this to the Planning Board for review as there is going to be a Morton building for a wood shed. **John motioned to table the building permit for Map 7 Lot 52 until the Planning Board reviews it, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Rumney- Fire/EMS Contracts 2020-2021

The Fire Contract decreased by \$2,341.97. The Town of Rumney submitted a letter which explains there is an increase in the services for EMT which cover the purchases of a new heart monitor which will last fifteen years. The increase was \$3,546.25. **John motioned to sign the Rumney Fire and Emergency Services Agreements, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Groton Tow Contract- Police

The Police Chief created a tow contract for the Town to use. The Police Chief explained this is just a parameter to use to protect the consumer and the Town. This outlines what is expected for response and for cost. The Chief said this could be for plow issues, for other police related issues, etc. It would also cover if it was towed as evidence. John explained that we have had some issues with vehicles in the road and in the way of the plow and as of right now just talking to them or giving them the notice has worked but we may need to tow someday. The Select Board reviewed the contract and do not have any issues with it. The Select Board agreed we should send this to the attorney for review.

Perambulations- Rumney and Hebron

The Select Board had not had a chance to review the perambulations that Miles did for Rumney and Hebron. It was agreed that the Select Board will review them before the next meeting. Sara will send the narratives to the Town Clerk and the Secretary of the State once approved by the Select Board. **John motioned to table the perambulations for Rumney and Hebron until the next meeting, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Open positions

The open positions are:

SELECT PERSON

1 position for 3 years- Tony Albert

TREASURER

1 position for 3 years- Pamela Hamel

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

2 positions for 3 years- Deborah Johnson and Russell Carruth

CEMETERY TRUSTEE

1 position for 3 years- James Gaffey

LOCAL AUDITOR

1 position for 1 year- open

MODERATOR

1 position for 2 years- open

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND

2 positions for 3 years- Michele Lacriox

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

2 positions for 3 years- open

ZONING BOARD

3 positions for 3 years- open

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

1 position for 6 years- Gina Rescigno

Candidate night will be March 3, 2020 at the beginning of the Select Board Meeting.

Ken Gould

Sara mentioned that Ken Gould passed away that morning. He used to work at the Transfer Station and was on the Zoning Board.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Police Department

Chief Bagan explained that the equipment is installed and graphics are done. Mike reached out to OME to see if the radio will be ready so that can be installed and hopefully within a week or two

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- The Dodge is back and almost half of his maintenance budget was spent on this repair.
- The roads are in bad shape. Bubba has received complaints on the section of Sculptured Rocks Road so he put 14 yards down but it didn't do much. He doesn't want to put any more material down since it will be plowed up. People will have to slow down knowing the roads are bad. The warm then cold again weather is what is hurting the roads.
- Bubba ordered sand so he didn't run out before the roads are posted.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Building Committee

Bubba mentioned that the next Building Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 6:00pm. They didn't realize that it was the night of the elections. Tony said they can meet but shouldn't meet downstairs because of the elections but they can meet upstairs. It was agreed they will keep this and the Select Board will attend and they will meet upstairs.

Miles asked about the status of the building committee. John explained that they have been meeting and did some clearing of the land and are looking at where they can put the building and possibly building it into the bank. Bubba said that they have spent some money on these things but they are in a better place now. Mike Ethier has been doing some work over there and the Highway Department has to but they are trying to do it in phases. They are down to where the ledge is so they are close to knowing what they have to work with. The lower section is too wet to do anything in. They are thinking about putting the building into the bank. The problem is they found ledge and it is deeper than they thought but not as deep as they had hoped. The giant rock is actually sitting on top of the ledge right now. They are thinking the building will be 140 feet long and will be built into the bank. This will be adding the salt and sand shed into it because there are more things that have come up regarding this. There is something called fugitive dust which needs to be contained and sand needs to be covered at all times. It is better all-around to keep the sand stored inside is better to keep the sand in better condition so it doesn't get wet. Also, we use \$500-\$600 on plastic every year to keep this covered. Bubba said it is probably still a few years until this is done. John said the problem is the cost may just continue to go up every year. Bubba is hoping to have something to present to the people this year to move forward with something for Town meeting next year.

Bubba said all residents are welcome to attend the meetings and they are posted. The next meeting is at 6:00pm February 11, 2020.

Right to know law issue

Ruth said we have an issue with right to know law and the Planning Board. Someone is looking for minutes and they are not available for the entire year of 2019. We need them to be available. Ruth said we have to respond to someone within five days and she has already lost two days just trying to locate the minutes. Miles mentioned this has been an issue for a few years now regarding the Planning Board minutes. Ruth said that the Planning Board Chair was contacted but now will not be available for a few days since she is having surgery. Pam Hamel recommended that Ruth will reach out to Kristina. Ruth said she will contact her but this issue needs to be addressed. Ruth will have to either supply the information or explain how long it will take to get it. Miles said he

doesn't think that is an acceptable legal answer that we don't know when we will get them. Ruth agreed and said but she doesn't know when or how long this will take. The Select Board mentioned that it has been an issue and they have addressed this concern many times and has asked for the minutes on many different occasions. has been addressed many times. The Select Board has been asking for the minutes. It was agreed that Ruth would reach out to Kristina and see what happens.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Perambulation

Miles asked in the event that the perambulations are accepted he thinks that the perambulation non capital reserve fund is another fund that has money in it that we should look at moving to put towards better use. He doesn't know what the Select Board wants to do with this going forward but he doubts they will find another person that is willing to do this. He said that like Pam has mentioned before once have done what we have now done we shouldn't have to do it on a regular basis anymore.

Pam asked what is left to do for lines. Sara and Miles explained that they are all done. Miles did say that he has concerns with what was done with the Alexandria line and he will be looking into this in the fall and will submit his findings to the Select Board. Other than that, they have all been done.

Bubba asked how often they have to be done. Miles said the law says every 7 years forever but almost nobody does that. He said that when we first started talking about this there was concern that we didn't have the records but it turns out we do have most records in what is referred to as volume number 3 in the historical records that is not in the files we have but there are indications that it is at the state library in Concord if needed. Miles said not a lot of towns do this but he knows Ashland and Holderness do. Whenever he sees a marker now, he stops and looks because he is fascinated by the whole thing now. Some towns have medallions. Miles said that some of the terrain that you have to climb, slid down, etc. is difficult.

Bubba asked if we could do it every 10 or 20 years. Miles said the law states 7 but the costs to hire a professional is too costly. Bubba asked if Miles thinks we should keep half of the money in the perambulation fund for future costs but Miles said he would recommend to use all of the money for something else. He said we have all of the data we need. There was a concern that we didn't know where the Groton/Hebron corner was but with the assistance of Tom Hahn from Foreco, Miles himself and Paul Hazelton who is on the Hebron Select Board they were able to locate where it was. They don't know the exact location but they know the area based on the trees that were blazed by Alan Barnard and Tom Hahn in 1991 and there is a tree that that has 1951 carved into it. There was a survey that was attempted but the gentlemen that did it couldn't locate the corner but there are issues with how it was done. Franconia Paper Company used to have metal plates that they would nail into the trees and they have that at the Hebron/Groton/Plymouth Line and they actually found that plate. When Alan Barnard was doing the work, they actually left the two nails that were in the trees, that plate and some surveyors tape right there. There is a big stone that had been covered over with growth and moss but he was able to pull some of that back. He couldn't see engravings but he could see some paint. The plate had the date of 1966 on it and is specifically stamped "common corner of Groton and Hebron" so he thinks they are in the general vicinity. He doesn't think we should ever waste the time or money to have it professionally surveyed. If you can find someone willing to do it that is the best way to keep them maintained which would make it easier for the next person. The Rumney line was the easiest until the end of Groton Hollow Road. You go a certain distance and you are constantly climbing. It was very difficult and you didn't know where you were stepping and you could get injured. It was 6.9 miles long but the last stretch from Groton Hollow Road to the monument took him 5.5 hours and was less than a mile long, that is how difficult that area is. You are on the edge of ledge which gradually goes down from there. Paul Hazelton just came off of knee surgery but he did well too.

In Miles opinion, he thinks it is up to the Select Board about what they want to do with the perambulation fund but, he thinks we have what we need going forward. We know where the boundaries are, where the monuments are, we have pictures and GPS points so the only thing that would remain is reblazing the lines and having people walk them.

Pam stated that the properties are all private. The Town doesn't own anything on the border so she thinks that if the property owner builds or does a project it would be their responsibility to have it surveyed.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 8:40pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant