

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
June 1, 2021

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

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

Properties for sale voted in favor of at Town Meeting

There was a list of properties that were voted on to put up for sale at Town Meeting. The Select Board agreed we should put them up for sale asap. It was agreed to start with Peabody and Home and explain the properties and go from there.

Junkyard inspections

The junkyard inspections are scheduled to take place June 15th from 4pm to 7pm and June 22nd from 4pm to whenever they are completed. Sara sent letters on 5/20/21. She has created lists and gave the Select Board all copies of the junkyard ordinance.

Planning Board Meeting minutes

Deb Johnson and John had talked about the Planning Board meeting minutes and the process for this. Deb wanted the Select Board to discuss how the Planning Board will take minutes. Kristina is current taking minutes as the Vice Chair. She will eventually be taking Deb's position which will make it difficult for her to take minutes. No one wants to take minutes. The Select board did post the minute taker position and had no interest. It was brought up to record the minutes and type them after. There is also a program that will type the minutes off the recording. There were other ideas that were given.

The Select Board has looked into the recordings in the past and they can record the minutes and then once the minutes are approved, they can be deleted.

The Select Board agreed that the Planning Board should take their own minutes and they should record them and see how that works. If that doesn't work then they can look into hiring a minute taker out of their budget. If they want to order a recorder, we can do that for them. John will let them know at the next meeting.

Call with HSEM on Money from October 2017 storm

HSEM set up a meeting for Thursday, June 3rd at 1:00pm. This will be to discuss that money that is owed to the Town. FEMA is taking a while to finalize everything so HSEM would like to present an amount that they can give the Town so we don't have to wait for FEMA. This will just be the call to discuss this and then they would send documents over that the Select Board would have to review and sign so they will see the information. The Select Board is fine with just Sara and Bubba attending this call and they will review the documents when they are ready. Tony may try to come by if he can.

Update on assembly, gas and oil permits

Sara worked with Chief Coursey and updated the permits and looked for the RSA about public hearing. She also reached out to the attorney on it. One does need to be a public hearing so Sara sent the posting to the Newspaper and will post it at the Townhouse, Transfer Station and online. The Public Hearing is set for 6/15/21 at 7:00pm at the beginning of the Select Board meeting. Sara will let Chief Coursey know so he can plan on being here for the public hearing to introduce himself.

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba met with the Select Board to go over the following:

- Sara and Bubba had a call with Eric Law from USDA on Tuesday May 25, 2021. Sara and Bubba explained that the Town voted down the building and the bond which is why we emailed to see what we need to do since we are not using the grant money this year due to the building being voted down. Eric explained that the money is obligated for five years and as long as the Town shows they are still working on the building and efforts for funding then they will hold the money for the Town. If the Town withdraws from the grant it doesn't go to other towns, it goes back to the Treasury. He would like to keep the money with the Town and talk about the plan for support for more funding. He said that in the next year we will see a lot of opportunities for more funding for buildings/infrastructure. He feels this would be the wrong time to bail. With this grant waiting, if we get other money, since we already have a building plan and quote, we are shovel ready and ready to move forward with the next steps. We would already have the first few steps complete and have already done so much work to get where we are that he would like to keep moving forward. He understands we cannot control how the Town will vote on this and understands it would have to be a very good plan and costs and more grants in order to bring this before the Town again. There are some funds that will be available in the next few months for the Town to get and use as needed and some that will be available in 2022. Bubba said that we had more yes votes than last time so it is getting more people on board. Tony said that he knows that more people have moved into town and could be in favor of it. Things could change and we could be in a better place in a few years so if we give the grant money back now, we wouldn't benefit. Sara said it was a lot of time and paperwork to apply and we didn't think we would have brought it forward this time so we could bring it forward again so it would be better to keep the grant if we can for up to five years and see what other grants come forward and what other options are available. The Select Board agreed to keep the grant money for now and see what happens in the next few years. The Select Board agreed that we should not spend any more money on the building.
- The company did the mold test today and will have the results later on in the week.
- Bubba said the road work on Sculptured Rocks has begun. They did some loaming so far. They are supposed to be grinding end joints this week and then asphalt next week to end the Sculptured Rocks Road project/NBRC grant.
- Bubba wants to rent a mini excavator again so he can put some of the culverts in himself and then have Dave Leone help him with the others. He will also use this on Edgar Albert Road.
- He is looking at buying a plate compactor. Tony said to get a one ton and reversible, he said if you buy a smaller one it isn't worth it and they don't work as well.
- The Town Pond is as clean as they can get it. The last few floods have brought a lot of sentiment into the pond. Dave Leone said that when it was put in, it wasn't in a flood zone. Since it is a private pond, it should be able to get dug out. This is something that should be looked into.
- Dave Leone is supposed to be donating the hemlock for the bridge. Bubba thinks he talked to Charlie Coursey about it. John told Bubba to get an idea from Charlie when he will do it and see if Dave can get the hemlock before then.
- They cleaned up a tree that had broken and fell into the Town House parking lot.
- He is still working on prices for Bailey Hill and Edgar Albert to be graded.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:56pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant