

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
June 15, 2021

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

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of June 1, 2021 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of June 1, 2021 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

PUBLIC HEARING- ADOPTION OF THREE PERMITS (THE PERMIT TO OPERATE A PLACE OF ASSEMBLY, THE PERMIT TO INSTALL AND OPERATE LP AND/OR NAURAL GAS EQUIPMENT AND THE PERMIT TO INSTALL AND OPERATE OIL BURNING EQUIPMENT)

John called the Public Hearing on the adoption of three permits, the permit to operate a place of assembly, the permit to install and operate LP and/or natural gas equipment and the permit to install and operate oil burning equipment, to order at 7:01pm.

The Select Board explained that the purpose of the public hearing is for the adoption of the policy and permits for three permits which are the permit to operate a place of assembly, permit to install and operate LP and/or natural gas equipment and permit to install and operate oil burning equipment.

The purpose of this Policy is for the Town of Groton to have permits to Operate a Place of Assembly, Permits to Install and Operate LP and/or Natural Gas Equipment, and Permits to Install and Operate Oil Burning Equipment to ensure the safety of the residents, the installers and the Town and to make sure they are being installed correctly following the State Fire Codes (Saf-C 6012.3) as adopted by the State Fire Marshall. This will be done by being inspected by the Towns representative/designee who may also be the Fire Chief for another Town.

When a building permit is submitted and states that the building will be heated or cooled, or when someone wants to assemble a tent or other items at their property, it is required that a Permit to Operate a Place of Assembly, Permits to Install and Operate LP and/or Natural Gas Equipment, and Permits to Install and Operate Oil Burning Equipment are also filled out and submitted depending on which equipment will be installed and operated. The owner is responsible for reaching out to the Towns representative/designee which also may be the Fire Chief, to set up the inspection so the appropriate permit is filled out completely and signed at that time. The Towns representative/designee/Fire Chief will grant permission as described on the permit only once it has been inspected and is found to be in compliance with the State Fire Codes (Saf-C 6012.3) as adopted by the State Fire Marshall. If permission is not granted, the Towns representative/designee/Fire Chief will inform the owner/installer of what needs to be done in order for permission to be granted.

Tony said that this is a big push from the State for safety. Tony said he has done these in town but being a selectman, it is a conflict of interest so that is why it is best the Chief Coursey do these inspections. He will be doing them for the entire Town.

As of the date of this adoption, no gas, oil, heating equipment can be installed and operated and no assembly can take place in the Town of Groton without a permit.

John motioned to adopt the policy and permits to Operate a Place of Assembly, to Install and Operate LP and/or Natural Gas Equipment, and to Install and Operate Oil Burning Equipment, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Now that these have been adopted, Sara will reach out to the local gas and oil companies to let them know that these permits are now required.

John introduced Chief Coursey. Chief Coursey explained that he is the Fire Chief in Rumney and will be doing these inspections which is the same thing he has been doing in Rumney.

Chief Bagan asked if this includes wood stoves. Chief Coursey said not right now but if an insurance company requires it, they will do these inspections. Chief Coursey said if you have any questions or want to know more about the wood stove requirements, he has the information.

Hearing no more questions, John motioned to close the public hearing at 7:04pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mold Inspection Report- Town Garage

Due to concerns brought up at Town Meeting regarding the mold at the Town Garage, the Town hired a company, Indoor Doctors, to do a mold inspection. They did the mold inspection on Tuesday, June 1st and sent the report over on Thursday, June 3rd. They included a detailed report and gave the following information for the mold air sample results:

Location	Mold Level	Type
Oil Tank Room	Above Normal	Chaetomium
Main Garage	Above Normal	Chaetomium
Bathroom	Above Normal	Chaetomium
Loft	Normal	N/A
Storage Room	Severe	Cladosporium Alternaria
HVAC Room	Normal	N/A
Attic	Normal	N/A

Findings:

- The air quality in the storage room is unhealthy due to mold contamination. The air quality in the oil room, main garage, and bathroom, has been impacted by water damage mold spores.
- Professional remediation is recommended

They recommended to follow on corrective actions are further outlined in the report and to let them know how they can further help.

The Select Board reviewed the report and the results and decided that we are going to hire an outside company to come clean it. John explained that they recommended a purifier be installed but we will look into costs of this. The insurance doesn't cover any of this. With each storm we did take care of damage as it

happened and replaced the walls and whatever else was damaged. The mold upstairs is from a leaky roof on the building. John said this just shows again that this building needs to be replaced and at a new location.

DR 4355 Pre-FEMA Approval letter and Award Form

Sara, Bubba and Tony attended a call with the State and the State would like to propose paying the Town of Groton for the work completed under DR 4355, GP#44000 PW#203 that was included in the FEMA approved scope of work. This payment would be outside of the normal operating procedure of the State; however, given that FEMA is still processing the closeout request for this project, the State has made an exception in this case due to the anticipated delays in the FEMA closeout process caused by COVID and the financial need of the Town.

In order to process this request, the State is requiring that the Town review the letter and form, and sign and return the award conditions form. Please also note that this process is optional, and the Town is not required to accept this payment in advance of the FEMA final project approval and closeout.

Sara explained that this is from the October 2017 storm work and we have been waiting on this money for a long time and there are always delays or more information that FEMA needs, even though each time they make it sound like it will be the last thing. The State is trying to help by getting the Town the money they are owed. This amount is \$154,079.44. **John motioned to accept the payment in advance and sign the Pre-FEMA Approval Award letter, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic Approval- Map 6 Lot 79

Matt Barnard dropped off an updated local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 79, for a resident on Dodge Road. This was one that was signed at the last meeting and there was one minor change. All information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 79, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic Approval- Map 2 Lot 100

Deborah Parker dropped off a local septic approval for Map 2 Lot 100, for a resident on North Groton Road. All information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 2 Lot 100, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 6 Lot 35

The owner mailed in a building permit for a one room addition and an enclosed screen porch at their property located on 313 Spectacle Pond Road. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 6 Lot 35, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Letter of Support- Baker River Valley Snowmobile Club

The snowmobile club asked that the Town submit a letter of support of the Baker River Valley Snowmobile Club's grant application to the Recreational Trails Program to facilitate a trail extension between the Baker River Valley Snowmobile Club trails and the Hardy Country Snowmobile Club trails. This extension would run through the Province Road State Forest and connect the two trail systems. The snowmobile club sent the Town a copy of the letter of support from Senator Giuda that Sara used to draft a letter from the Town with the same information. **John motioned to sign the letter of support for the Baker River Valley Snowmobile Club, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Local Audit- MS-60

This is done annually by the local auditor and was done by Ann Joyce this year. There is nothing for the Select Board to sign, they just need to review it. This was submitted to the DRA.

Local Septic Approval- Map 6 Lot 63-4

Matt Barnard dropped off an updated local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 63-4, for a resident on Old Fields Road. All information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 63-4, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic Approval- Map 1 Lot 82

The owner dropped off an updated local septic approval for Map 1 Lot 82, for his property on Warren Lane. All information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 1 Lot 82, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Groton NH Community Page

John wanted to say that there is a lot of information on the Groton NH Community Page, along with other Facebook pages that isn't factual. People are putting questions on that page asking what the Town is doing about certain issues. This is not the Town page and the Town will not respond on this page. If residents have these questions they should come to the meeting, review prior meeting minutes or call the Town so they can get the facts about what is going on.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Transfer Station

The concrete slab work at the Transfer Station will be taking place the week beginning July 5th. During this week, the Transfer Station will only be taking regular trash and will not be taking construction debris, any furniture, metal, etc. This has been put online, on the bulletin board at the Town House, and on both Ruth and Sara's windows. Sara printed a notice to go on the Transfer Station bulletin board as well that they will put up tomorrow. Norm will be putting a sign.

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following

- They started the culvert work on River Road. The road remains open for the most part but it does close for about an hour and they do apologize for the inconvenience for that. They will be doing more culverts and are hoping to pave at the end of Summer.
- They will be doing some crack filling on North Groton Road and on Sculptured Rocks Road.
- Sculptured Rocks Road is done for the paving part. The Road is brand new from beginning to end now.

Police Department

Chief Bagan stated that Chief Austin donated their old phones, which still work, to the Groton Police Department as he needed new phones.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Old Home Day

A resident asked if Old Home Day would be taking place this year. John said that it will be taking place but the date hasn't been set yet but it will probably be in August. More information will be provided in the near future.

Fishing Derby

Bubba gave an update on the fishing derby since Slim wasn't here. He said the fishing derby went well. There was a lot of kids there and a lot of fish were caught but as far as he knew no one caught the tagged fish.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

1214 North Groton Road

Two residents came in concerned about the property at 1214 North Groton Road being a mess again. John explained that when the original court order for the clean-up was put together, it was supposed to have the stipulation that we can go back on the property to keep it clean. However, that was not on there so the Town is not able to go back on until we get another order in place, which is in the works. The Town made sure that this order will have the stipulation in there. At this time, the Town is back in court to get an order to clean it up and to continue to be able to clean up. As soon as the Town gets the new order and the okay then the property will be cleaned up. John mentioned that things are moving a little faster now that the courts have opened back up so hopefully, we will hear something soon.

A resident asked how long this will go on for as they are sure that the Town cannot continue to clean it up forever. John said that there is no way to know how long but there have been other issues with many things on that property and the Town is doing everything we can but it does take time. DES and other companies have been involved as well. Ruth stated that taxes are public information and they are behind on their taxes. John explained that once the Town is able to the property will be tax deeded if they do not pay the taxes so the Town could own the property and would take care of all issues then. Ruth said that if they do not come in to pay taxes it will be tax deeded around August of 2022.

The residents were happy to hear that something is being done about this. John thanked the residents for taking the time to come to the meeting to ask the questions and to get the answers right from the Select Board.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:29pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant