

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
May 17, 2022

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

Tony called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Joint Loss Safety Meetings

The Select Board met with Sara, Chief Bagan, Bubba and Norm at the park, the Highway Garage, the Transfer Station and the Town House to do the joint loss safety inspections. Sara will put in paper seeking quotes for numerous repairs at the town house.

Tony motioned to return to public session at 5:10pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Tony motioned to seal the non-public minutes, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Saras time off in June

Sara is off from Monday, June 20, 2022- Monday, June 27, 2022 for her Florida vacation. They are leaving late on Friday, June 17th. The Select Board agreed that Sara can do payroll on Thursday June 16th before she leaves. Most employees will have to submit their best guess of time by that Thursday but any other hours could be added on the following week when she does payroll when she gets back on Tuesday, June 28th.

Also, there is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st while she is gone. John is also on vacation at this time. The Select Board agreed not to meet that day and to only meet once in June, which will be on June 7th.

Health officer appointment form

At the last meeting the Select Board asked Sara to fill out the health officer appointment form for Dave Coursey. It has to be signed by the Select Board. **Tony motioned to sign the health officer appointment form, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Sara will have Dave come in to sign appointment form. It was agreed that Tony will get stipend for May and then it will be Dave.

Letter for EJ Thompson

EJ contacted the Town for another verification letter which stated the years he worked with the Town, his training and that he left in good standing. Sara used the wording from the letter they did which was similar in 2018. **John motioned to sign the verification letter for EJ, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Meeting request

A resident requested to schedule a meeting for the next meeting, June 7th. Sara asked if 6:00pm would work for the Select Board to meet with him. The Select Board agreed.

Flag Pole Update

Sara reached out to High Flying Flag Co to set up the installation of the new flag pole. They will be coming out on Friday. Bubba will be here and he put a stake where the flag pole should go in case he isn't here when they come. Sara will give them Bubba's phone number in case they need it.

Library PC- Dave Switaj email

Dave Switaj had emailed to see if we wanted to do anything with the Library PC or at least get it off our network. Sara asked the Select Board if they wanted it on there still or if we should check with the library trustees to see what their plan is for it. The Select Board agreed we should reach out to the Library Trustees.

Groton Wind Concern from Rumney resident

A Rumney resident sent an email to the Select Board with concerns about a generator at Groton Wind which he states is 185ft from his bedroom and runs at midnight 3-4 times a week. Sara emailed Avangrid/Groton Wind on Tuesday 5/10/22 to see if this information is correct and to see why there is a generator in that location and why it would run at night.

Avangrid/Groton Wind responded that they looked into the issue. The generator being referred to is their backup generator for their O & M building, similar to the backup generator that the Town has. It has been in place since 2012 and runs at 7 am on Tuesday mornings for about 20 minutes each week for the weekly self-test or when they lose power. A little while ago they had some work done on the generator and the technician failed to reset the self-test time. It appears as though the generator was coming on at mid-night for the self-test. They have changed that back to Tuesdays at 8 am.

Sara also reached out to Rumney to see when the resident bought the property and they bought the property in August 2018.

The Select Board agreed that this problem has been resolved by Groton Wind/Avangrid and asked Sara to reply to the Rumney residents' email with the information from Groton Wind.

Atwell Brook meeting- see email from Rebecca at NLRA

Rebecca from NLRA emailed to set up a zoom meeting for the work on Atwell Brook. They have the following dates available:

- Friday, 5/20 between 1pm and 3pm
- 5/23, 5/24, 5/31, 6/1 and 6/2- any time

The Select Board agreed that Wednesday June 1, 2022 around 1:00pm would work best. Sara will email Rebecca to make sure this works for them.

Also, Tony met with them on Friday at the site for their survey. He met with the engineer and went over what needs to be done. They are going to put a plan together to take care of the issues.

50 Blood Road

The owner of 50 Blood Road left a voicemail regarding the letter they received. They stated that they have only been doing cosmetic renovations that didn't need permits for the work that has been done. He also stated that the property does have a septic that has been inspected and is up to par. Sara will

call him back and ask for septic approval information and if he doesn't have it, she will look it up through the State.

Meeting with Bubba

The Select Board met with Bubba to discuss the following:

- Culvert Asset Management project: Back in 2020 The Town of Groton was working with DES on a culvert asset management update. The purpose is to develop guidance on how municipalities can better document their culvert conditions in the future and have the data to support applying for mitigation assistance after flood events. They emailed us to see if we are still interested. Sara emailed back that since then we have replaced almost all of the culverts in Town and asked if he would want to come back out to re-evaluate. He asked if this is a pilot the town would still like to participate in. We just have to let him know by Wednesday 5/18/22 so Sara told him she would have to check with the Select Board and Road Agent.
- Email from James Cross about Coolidge Woods Road: Sara sent the class VI road letter to everyone that abuts Class VI Roads in case they plan on doing road work. James Cross owns property on Coolidge Woods Road and emailed:
 - *Suggest you visit the site you reference in your 5/3/22 letter. At this point I think most reasonable people would conclude that now would be a good time to discontinue this "road". To protect fragile woodland ecosystems currently under a variety of conservation easements I do not anticipate any future work to make the track more usable by wheeled vehicles. Please update me on your plans in this regard.*

Mr. Cross emails every few years regarding this. In 2015 he went before the Town with a warrant article to make this a scenic road which failed 28-19. Then in 2016 and 2017 the Town went back and forth with him and reached out to NHMA, our attorney, etc. for guidance. In October of 2017, the Select Board decided that they didn't feel comfortable closing down the road so the Town chose not to move forward with his request. Sara sent him a letter dated 10/26/17 which stated this. The Select Board

- Email from North Country Council about Traffic Counts- NCC emailed to see if we have a need to do traffic counts in Town. It was agreed that we should request it for North Groton Road, the Town side, near the culvert that we want to replace. Tony asked if they could do Sculptured Rocks Road for before the State Park and after so we can compare the numbers to see how much traffic is actually for the State Park.
- Bubba said they will be doing road work on North Fletcher, Bailey Hill and Edgar Albert tuned up with Grader he reached out to Morrison. There are two culverts on Edgar Albert Road. The prices went up and just to do these culverts put him over budget by a little bit.
- They will also be hiring a contractor to do the road work on Blanchette Lane and Spectacle Pond Road this year.
- They fixed most of the stone check dams. There has been a lot of rain lately. He will point out that people need to clean out their driveway culverts. This is their responsibility.
- The backhoe is still looking like October or November.
- Bubba said we need to look into refurbishing the truck or replace it. Tony said frame is good, needs new dump body so he would rather refurbish it and get another 10 years out of it. Tony said we need to have a big truck for big projects. Bubba is bringing it forward now because everything is taking a while to order new ones if we were going to. John said he is also okay with refurbishing it. Bubba said we can put it before the Town.

- Bubba and Fred went to the class for mowing. He wanted to see what other towns are doing for renting them. Most towns are just buying mowers, not renting them. HP Fairfield rents mowers. Bubba is still looking into renting a mini excavator with the mulcher head. The guy that used to do a lot of renting of mowers out of Newport is selling all of his equipment. The small towns are buying some of these mowers. The Select Board asked Bubba to look into how much they are. We do have some money in the Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund even after the backhoe. Tony said it is important to concentrate on maintenance now that all the roads are done.

School Meeting

John mentioned that he went to the school meeting last night. There really aren't any changes since the last meeting. They need to get New Hampton and Bristol on our side. John said we need people from Groton, Hebron and Bridgewater to show their anger and concerns.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:55pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant