

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
August 9, 2022

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

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

Meeting with Carol Miller on Broadband

This meeting was postponed until next week, August 16, 2022 at 6:00pm.

John Faucher Request

John Faucher asked Ruth if the Town would reimburse him \$140.00 for the Town's portion of a registration. He registered the vehicle in December 2021 and then sold it a week later. The Select Board agreed that we do not issue refunds for this reason. People sell vehicles all of the time after they register them and if we did this for one person, we would have to do this for everyone. Sara will let Ruth know.

Email from Rumney resident regarding drainage concerns

A Rumney resident emailed some concerns about drainage on Groton Hollow Road. This is a private road so the Town wouldn't get involved in the road concerns or drainage, that would be a private civil matter between abutters on the road. There is a section that is maintained by the Town of Rumney and they sent Groton a copy of the letter that they sent to the Groton Wind Farm on 8/4/22.

The Select Board agreed to respond and explain that they met to discuss his concerns and have also been in contact with the Town of Rumney. The said to explain that the Town of Rumney did send a letter on August 4, 2022 to the Groton Wind Farm referencing the original drainage plan and requested that the drainage culverts and the shape of the road be corrected to eliminate the damage to the Town of Rumney's portion of the road. This should also help eliminate damages to the private section of the road as well. The Select Board stated that since the Town of Groton does not maintain any portion of the road, any other concerns he may have with the private section of the road, or with his property lines, are not matters that the Town would get involved in as they are private matters. The Select Board believes that Groton Wind will take care of the issues with the road once they receive the letter from the Town of Rumney, which should take care of his concerns.

Sara will email him all of this information tomorrow.

Crosby subdivision/property concerns

The Crosby's are looking to do a subdivision. The Planning Board met with the owner of the property on July 27, 2022. They currently have a house and a camp on the property. They are subdividing so the camp will be on its own lot and the house will be on its own lot. The house lot will be sold eventually, probably sooner than later. The camp lot had a building permit put in for a shed/seasonal camp (not heated or cooled, not lived in full time, etc.) originally in 2017 but someone is living there full time now so once subdivided that will be its own lot which he will own after it is subdivided.

It was agreed that they need to complete a new building permit for the camp because it is not a seasonal camp anymore, it is a primary residence which is heated and lived in full time. Our building permit requires a house to provide the PUC approval if it is heated and a DES Septic Approval. It was agreed that part of the agreement of the subdivision is that they have to have septic installed.

We reached out to our attorney to see if the Town can hold the money in “escrow” for the cost of the septic until the septic is installed since there is a concern that they will submit the plans and get the DES septic approval to install but then sell the house and move away without actually installing it. This is a unique situation that we have never come across before so Sara reached out to the attorney to see how we would go about this and, if this can be done, if the Town would be the ones to hold the money in escrow or if it would be the attorney that would need to do so. The attorney did provide feedback regarding this.

Also, there was another concern for this property which is they are now digging a hole next to the camp, and there are piles of wood there, so it appears more building may take place but we do not have any permits on file. The Select Board agreed that we need to contact them regarding this.

They did submit two driveway permits. One had already been submitted and approved in the past for the camp. Sara made copies of the original approval. The second one cannot be approved until the subdivision is approved and final because there cannot be three driveways on the property and they were already told this permit would be approved and culvert installed once the subdivision was complete.

The Select Board agreed that Sara should draft a letter to the owners regarding all of these concerns. It should include the request for a new building permit for the camp, ask if new construction is taking place, mention the request for the money to be held in escrow and explain the driveway permit will be approved once the subdivision is approved and final. Sara will have this letter ready for the Select Board to sign at the meeting next week.

Building Committee Meeting

Tony talked to some of the people interested in being on the building committee. They can do almost any day around 7:00pm. The Select Board agreed to see if they can meet next Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 7:30pm, after the Select Board meeting. Sara will text Casey, Heath, Jeremy and Bubba to see if they can meet and will email John Faucher to let him know as well.

Nails on North Groton Road

A resident emailed a concern about nails on North Groton Road. He said that while running on North Groton Road between Dodge Road and Spectacle Pond Road, he found two large piles of nails spread across the side of the road. Some nails were on the pavement and some were spread out in pull-off areas. Total, he picked up 39 nails. He is not sure if there's more or not, but thought maybe the town might have someone who could walk sections of the road and see if they find any more. His fiancé had to have her tire patched because of a nail the other day and he found one matching the one they pulled from the tire so he is assuming this came from North Groton Road. If there's any more piles the size of the ones he picked up, more people are definitely going to end up getting nails in their tires. Seems like a lot to him to be accidental so he said if anyone from the town thinks this could be malicious, he does have a bag with all the nails if they want them. Tony said he also picked up a bunch of nails off North Groton Road near Forest Hills.

The Select Board agreed that Sara should email him back and tell him that more nails have been cleaned up and that the Select Board doesn't believe it is malicious but they will keep an eye out.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant