

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
May 16, 2023

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

Carol met with the Select Board to provide an update on Broadband.

1. Review NHEC Presentation
 - Sara went over the quotes the Town received for our departments. John asked if the Transfer Station and Highway Department could be on the same plan since they will be right across the street from each other. Carol was not sure but said we could look into it. She said for internet we may be able to and use a wireless extender for the Transfer Station but she wasn't sure how the phone would work.
 - Carol went over the mapping and stats that were done for Groton. 83.8% are currently being served. There are 519 locations and 435 are being served, 53 are unserved and 31 are underserved.
 - We will need to watch once they are installing to make sure no one is being missed and to look out for those with long driveways, etc.
2. Finish compiling discounting program information on ACP
 - Due to their research, it appears that 118 are eligible to receive the discount which is a \$30/month subsidy. The resident themselves would have to apply through the carrier when the time allows.
3. Next steps
 - Carol will follow up with NHEC on a few questions she had.
 - We will meet again next month.

FEMA Meetings

Monday 5/22/23 at 10am is a meeting with FEMA. Sara and Bubba will meet with FEMA to go over the December 2022 storm damages. After that meeting, we would like to go out to take pictures of the damages on all roads, including Province Road if the Select Board agrees. The Select Board agreed that Sara and Bubba should take these pictures and they are okay with Sara closing the office on Monday starting at the time of the meeting until the site visits are done. They agreed Fred should go as well.

Bubba

Bubba did agree to assist the Town with some consulting as needed especially for the December 2022 storm. Sara and Bubba had their first meeting on Wednesday 5/10/23 to fill out the initial damage report for the December 2022 storm and had another meeting on Monday 5/15/23 via the phone with FEMA. The next meeting will be 5/22/23 at 10am as stated above.

Parking at Town House

At the last meeting the Select Board asked Sara to reach out to the attorneys regarding liability when people park at the Town House and if we should create a parking permit and a sign. The attorney agreed we should do a permit and a sign but also recommended that we reach out to Primex as they are our liability insurance. Sara did reach out and their response was:

"I agree with Laura's assessment that it is unlikely there would be liability for the Town allowing residents to park on Town property. I think this is especially true if there is waiver language or a disclaimer of liability on the parking permit as suggested by Laura and it is drafted by Laura. The most often source of liability we see is if a member knew there was a potential hazard such as ice falling often a building or a diseased tree and failed to mitigate for that known hazard when allowing people to park near it. If a resident claimed the Town was responsible for damage to their vehicles, you would need to file a claim with Primex so we could investigate further."

It was agreed to have Laura work on the wording. We can also order a sign at that time that says no parking without a permit from the town and it should say park at your own risk. We will order this once the waiver/permit is created in case there is specific wording we should use.

Building

At the last meeting the Select Board asked Sara to email back to see if there is any way we can speed this up to send it out for bid before mid-June. They emailed back that reached out to the civil engineer and mid-June is already an aggressive timeline for them given their workload and they also will be providing surveying, which on some recent projects have taken 6 months to a year so mid-June is the earliest. It was agreed that Sara will send a text to the building committee to give them an update.

Erosion on bank on North Groton Road

John wanted to discuss the erosion on the bank of the ditch on North Groton Road between 1610 and 1631 North Groton Road. There is another spot at the end of the road that we can look at. This is from the storm damages so Sara will make sure they take pictures when they go out on Monday.

Letter to Dorchester Road Agent

Tony asked Sara to draft a letter to the Dorchester Road Agent stating that the Town agrees to provide one 6-wheeler of salt to Dorchester every year. Sara drafted this letter and added that this will be done every year as long as Dorchester is still doing the winter maintenance of River Road and Groton is still doing the winter maintenance of Cheever Road. **John motioned to sign the letter to the Dorchester Road Agent, Tony 2nd, so voted.** Sara will scan and email to Brian and have him sign it and send it back to us.

Fred's vacation

Fred will be on vacation from June 13th-June 16th for his usual time off. He will come in Monday the 12th but then will be off the remainder of the week.

1047 North Groton Road

We have not received any response to the letter we sent about the driveway/parking lot at 1047 North Groton Road. The Select Board agreed to send a second letter and send it certified. **John motioned to sign the 2nd letter to 1047 North Groton Road, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant