

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
April 2, 2024

In attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert, Ron Madan and Sara Smith (Town Administrator)

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

Bids for next meeting

Sara reminded the Select Board that the bids for the building are to be opened at tonight's Select Board meeting. USDA and the Architect have to review these bids to make sure they are qualified bids and the architect will provide recommendation. This means the Select Board cannot make a decision tonight. They can open them, state who the bids are from and how much. Then we will have to table the decision until the architect reviews and provides recommendation.

The Select Board agreed we will have to see what the costs come in at and make a decision on how to move forward from there.

Transfer Station Facility Closure Report

Norm created and updated a policy for the facility closure for the Transfer Station. Sara wrote it up as a Town Policy. **John motioned to sign the Transfer Station Facility Closure Report, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Compactor with Converter

Sara said that she had reached out to Amber at Casella to let her know the compactor passed and to see what the next steps would be. She said she wanted to make sure the quote is still good and the correct price. She called Sara back and the quote is still good. The next step is that she will send the invoice over and as soon as it is paid, they will order it which takes about 6-8 weeks. She said the company they are order it and all the equipment from will be the ones installing it because they are actually closer to us.

Sara said she knows they usually wait for a lot of the bigger items until after July when more taxes come in but she wanted to know when the Select Board would like her to send the check so that we can get this ordered since it takes about 6-8 weeks. The Select Board said to order it now if we have enough money. Sara said there should be plenty of money in the other account that we can transfer over. She will let the Treasurer know.

Revised Reports of cut/yield certificate 23-193-10-T

At the last meeting, the Select Board signed received a report of cut from for Map 7 Lot 11. This was for a 25-acre cut on Victorias Mountain Way. The amount of the tax was \$2,478.57. We noticed an error on the spreadsheet after it was sent which changed the costs. The revised amount of the tax is \$2,024.50. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 7 Lot 11, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Letter from Mourning Dove Holdings, LLC regarding Map 2 Lot 123

The Town received a letter from Edward Schmid at Mourning Dove Holdings, LLC following up on Map 2 Lot 123. They had sent a letter last year offering to buy the property. We sent a letter back explaining that at that time, the property was currently under agreement. This agreement allows the potential buyer 24 months, from April 19, 2022, to purchase the property. The letter we received now from Mourning Dove Holdings, LLC states that he was told March of 2024 is when the purchaser had to buy the property by and since he hasn't seen a transfer of the property, he would like to make an offer. This is not the correct date that is referenced. The agreement and the letter we sent back in 2023 to Mourning Dove Holdings LLC

stated that they have 24 months from April 19, 2022 which would be April 19, 2024 so the original purchase agreement is still in effect until this date. The Select Board agreed that if the original purchaser doesn't pay by then, they can look at other offers at that time but not until then. Sara created a letter stating that information. **John motioned to sign the response letter to Mourning Dove Holdings, LLC, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Planning Board Minutes

John stated that we reached out to our attorney to see what can be done about the Planning Board minutes since the Planning Board is not approving the minutes at the meetings and the last approved minutes we received to post online was in April of 2023. This has been almost a year since this has been done.

The attorney stated that there is no requirement that any board approve any minutes, it's just the general practice. She also stated that RSA 676:3 provides that:

II. Whenever a local land use board votes to approve or disapprove an application or deny a motion for rehearing, the minutes of the meeting at which such vote is taken, including the written decision containing the reasons therefor and all conditions of approval, shall be placed on file in the board's office and shall be made available for public inspection within 5 business days of such vote. Boards in towns that do not have an office of the board that has regular business hours shall file copies of their decisions with the town clerk.

That being said, RSA 91-A:2 now provides:

II-b. (a) If a public body maintains an Internet website or contracts with a third party to maintain an Internet website on its behalf, it shall either post its approved minutes in a consistent and reasonably accessible location on the website or post and maintain a notice on the website stating where the minutes may be reviewed and copies requested.

The planning board needs to be complying with both provisions.

The Select Board agreed to create the policy based on the following information:

- A draft of the minutes should be made available within 5 days of the meeting.
- The draft should be sent to the Select Board office so that they can be put in the minute's binder for review by the public.
- The minutes should be approved at the next meeting.
- The approved minutes should be sent to the Select Board office so that these final approved minutes can replace the draft minutes in the minute binder and be placed online.

Sara will have this ready for the Select Board to review and sign at the next meeting.

Steering Committee

John mentioned that they had another meeting even though there is not a lot they can do until Hebron votes in May. They did decide that the students will vote on the mascot. They also discussed the school's name and letting the Towns people submit ideas and vote on it. Another meeting

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Town Administrator