

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2024

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 8:47pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of January 9, 2024 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of January 9, 2024 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of January 23, 2024 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of January 23, 2024 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Candidates Night Information

Candidate night will be March 5, 2024 at the beginning of the Select Board Meeting.

The open positions are:

- SELECT PERSON 1 position for 3 years- John Rescigno
- TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR 1 position for 3 years- Ruth Millett
- MODERATOR 1 position for 2 years- open
- TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND 1 position for 3 years- open
- PLANNING BOARD 2 positions for 3 years- Forrest Blake, David Labar, Michael Sheehan
- CEMETERY TRUSTEE 1 positions for 1 year- open
- SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST 1 position for 6 years- Pamela Hamel
- TOWN AUDITOR for 1 year- Ann Joyce

Local septic approval- Map 7 Lot 17

The septic designer mailed in a Septic Plan and local approval for Map 7 Lot 17. All the information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 7 Lot 17, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Report of Excavated Material- Map 5 Lot 47G

Mike Ethier submitted his report of excavated material for tax years April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. This report was for 2030 cubic yards of gravel and 2786 cubic yards of sand/fill and 252 cubic yards of loam, totaling 5068 cubic yards. The amount of tax is \$101.36. **John motioned to sign the excavation tax for Map 5 Lot 47G, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to Excavate- Map 5 Lot 47G

Mike Ethier submitted an intent to excavate for the tax year of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 for his property on Map 5 Lot 47G. He submitted payment for the \$100.00 fee. The intent of for 3000 cubic yards of gravel, 4000 cubic yards of sand/fill and 100 cubic yards of loam, totaling 7100 cubic yards.

Baker River Name Change Feedback

The Select Board received an email that a NH resident has asked the US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) to consider changing the name of the Baker River and its tributaries. The proposal would replace "Baker" with "Asquamchumauke," reportedly the Abenaki name for the river meaning "crooked river from high places," "the place of the mountain waters," or "salmon-spawning place."

The BGN does not vote on any proposal until the local communities' recommendations are known. The BGN is tasked with reviewing all proposals it receives. The Baker River and its tributaries flow through nine Towns in Grafton County and the BGN is seeking input from all nine Towns about this proposal. The names that would be changed and the relevant Towns are:

- [Baker River](#) (Plymouth, Rumney, Wentworth, Warren, Benton, Woodstock)
- [East Branch Baker River](#) (Warren, Woodstock)
- [South Branch Baker River](#) (Wentworth, Dorchester, Groton, Orange)
- [South Branch Baker River Reservoir](#) (Dorchester, Groton) [please note that if this reservoir is known by a different name locally, the BGN could consider that name]

BGN has asked that the Select Board discuss this and then we let them know if the Town of Groton supports or opposes the proposed change of "Baker" to "Asquamchumauke" or not.

The Select Board all agreed that they oppose this change. Sara will send an email to let them know.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Local septic approval- Map 6 Lot 31-1

The septic designer mailed in a Septic Plan and local approval for Map 6 Lot 31-1. All the information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 31-1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following with the Select Board

- He mentioned that he had previously talked to the Selectmen about working with the resident on River Road about the ditching and cutting trees. He asked the Selectmen if they approve him meeting with the Forester tomorrow regarding this to see if we need a variance or not. The Select Board approved this.
- Dorchester is going forward with the bridge replacement. He heard that they found a 100% grant. There are concerns for Groton because this would increase the traffic. He suggests that our Select Board meet with Dorchester Select Board regarding this. Sara will reach out to them to see when this would be happening and if the two Select Boards could meet on this.

David Darlington asked if it is a class VI road. Bubba explained that it currently is a Class V seasonally maintained road, although there have been talks about possibly changing this to a Class VI Road in the future.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 8:59pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant