

July 3, 2014 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Nathan Puffer

Building Committee Chair: Kitty Diggins, Treasurer: Roberta Dana, Fire Warden: Wade Johnson, Town Clerk: Linda Nunn, Road Commissioner: Brent Smith, Town Residents: Colleen Darling, Dave Darling

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Peter reported on the volunteer work that took place on the Gazebo at the Memorial Park that looked so wonderful. Dave Sanville wanted to complete the work by July 4th in honor of all Veterans. Dave provided the paint and both Dave and Wayne Ashford painted both the Gazebo and the park benches. Wayne also purchased and installed the hanging baskets. It was a true team effort as Steve Ashford mowed & weed wacked the area (and plans on continuing to provide the mowing through the summer) and John Ashford purchased and installed the American Flag and buntings. The Board expressed its deep thanks for all of the work completed by Dave, Wayne, Steve, and John and how great it looked in the center of our Community!!!!

Peter moved, Nathan seconded and the motion passed unanimously to pay Chief Bogie \$1,500 for burying the water line by allocating \$1,000 from the old pump house and \$500 from the propane line items in the Field & Parks budget.

Colleen expressed her concern that she believes that the property line for her family runs right next to the back of the Community Building at an angle across to the Fire Station. She believes that the well that was drilled for the Community Building is on the family property and the fill that has been removed is from family property. Dave recommended finding the old property maps and starting from the neighbors property work back to the Community Building to establish the lines. The Board agreed that it was a good idea to have Dave do some research & site work and then all can get back together to discuss.

Nathan moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to support a request from Nathan Homchick & Neko Cose to use the Puffer Ball field on July 4th, 2014.

A complaint from the residents of Clarks Landing was reviewed about Bill Herbert's chickens being a problem. The Board asked Linda to have the Animal Control Officer review and take the proper action.

Wade provided an update in that the Fire Department has unanimously decided to contract with Dingee Machine for the new fire engine. It will be a Freightliner with a plastic body. Since the company does their own leasing Wade would like Roberta to participate in the negotiations'. Peter mentioned that Dean Page was against the proposed burn ordinance and wondered what Wade thoughts were. Wade thought a referendum at Town meeting might be a good way to get feedback and then make a decision.

Kitty reported that the building committee and Nathan had met with Terry Murphy (Architect) to review the roof structure of the Community Building. They are looking for solutions that will strengthen the roof to allow more insulation to be installed. Nathan reviewed how the roof and support beams are constructed with Howe style beams combined with steel rods. More work will take place to identify the desired solution. Kitty also reported that they will be issuing RFP's for the installation of roof gutters and painting the roof. In other general discussion on the Community Building, it was agreed that the

furnace should be left off during the summer to save on fuel oil and it was noted that the 30 year old refrigerator is not working.

Kitty also reported that grievances are over and that there will be one coming back for an appeal.

Roberta presented a grant anticipation note from Union Bank for \$70,000 at a .84 rate. This note would be paid back with \$68,000 from FEMA & State and the remaining \$2,000 being worked on by Shauna (VAOT Engineer). Nathan moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the grant anticipation note from Union Bank. Roberta also presented a tax anticipation note from Union Bank for \$300,000 at a .84 rate. Nathan moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the tax anticipation note from Union Bank. Roberta presented the Financial Management questionnaire for the Board to review. The Board asked for a copy of the previous years questionnaire and agreed to discuss further at the next Board meeting.

Roberta reported that she had just received the Education rate from the State. For non-resident it is 1.5093 (last year it was 1.3783). For Homestead it is 1.5899 (last year it was 1.4312). Roberta also reported that in the final bill that was passed this year the position of Collector of Current Taxes was not eliminated but the Town voters have the choice of electing someone or having the board appoint or assign the duty of current tax collector.

Linda reported that she will be providing a warrant at the next meeting for dogs that are not licensed.

Brent reported that Chief Bogie will be starting the Dam removal (on Wells River across from Town Highway Garage) this next week. The excess material will be taken to the Town pit and crushed for use on Town roads. Brent also expressed his concern on the amount of effort that he and Phillip are putting into hauling fill from the memory wall project behind the Community Building. It is taking a lot more time than Brent expected and he is concerned about the time it is taking away from their working on Town roads. Brent would like to know how much more work remains. Peter agreed to come back with an estimate of how much more work is required to complete the project. Brent also expressed a concern that he had requested that an item be deleted from an earlier set of Board minutes and it was not deleted. Peter agreed to bring a copy of Brent's request to the next Board meeting so it could be discussed in more detail.

A general discussion took place on how to proceed with the potential logging of the Town property at the old town dump site. Peter agreed to contact Harry Chandler (Town Tree Warden) to ask Harry to come to the next Board meeting to provide his recommendations.

Peter made a recommendation to change the PO process to entrust the Department heads to process PO with two exceptions; if the expense is over \$2,500 it needs to go to bid or if it is from a reserve fund that it takes the majority of the Board to approve. Roberta is not happy with the current process with only one Board member signature on PO's and warrants. Roberta feels that there should be more oversight by the board not less as they are the legislative body of the town and responsible for all town funds. General discussion took place on use of Budget vs Actual reports, appropriate level of reviews and what other organizations in our region are doing. It was agreed to table to a future meeting and in the meantime obtain feedback from all Department heads and other communities around our area.

Discussion took place on what to do about the poor condition of the Salt Shed and the Storage building behind the Highway garage. It was agreed to get feedback from other members of the Community and anyone else that would be willing to help and discuss at a future Board meeting.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously that the Groton Select Board endorse and authorize as town functions the Groton Community Club annual chicken pie supper along with the day-long Fall Foliage Festival activities to be held on Saturday, October 4, 2014, such endorsement and authorization to include all preparatory activities prior to October 4, 2014 and give permission for the use of the Groton Community Building and grounds for these activities.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the June 24, 2014 Board minutes. Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the June 19, 2014 Board minutes.

Peter moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to close the meeting (at 9:33 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon