

September 4, 2014 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Nathan Puffer

Visitors: Ruby Tinkham, Stephen Viviano, Jack Maloney, Treasurer: Roberta Dana, Town Clerk: Linda Nunn, Road Commissioner: Brent Smith, Building Committee Chair: Kitty Diggins

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Ruby Tinkham reviewed several concerns of their family. The bridge screen in the brook is getting plugged up and is causing a problem with the flow of water in the brook. She is also worried about the large stones in the brook and is particularly bothered by the noise on her street going by her home. It is not quiet anymore, people are driving too fast and the vehicles have loud mufflers. She also is concerned about the steep bank near the stump dump. The Board agreed to have Jim Downing (Town Constable) stop to see her to determine how to best address the concerns on the street. Brent reported that the steep bank use to have guard rails however they were pulled out by vandals. Brent will work to re install them. The Board thanked Ruby for coming in and providing her report.

Steve Viviano reported that his driveway by the sidewalk at 1218 Scott Highway has a hump that scrapes the bottom of all cars that enter. He noted that trucks can pass over it OK. Brent agreed to look at the problem and provide recommendations to consider to solve the problem. A general discussion took place on the need to pave all the sidewalks in town and that this problem might be solved with paving and grading potentially taking place.

Jack Maloney reported that he is leading the Lake Groton Association effort to contain the Bladderwort that is infesting the lake. It is not an invasive species however is expanding significantly and needs to be contained. The association would like to use the town property near the dam as a location to haul the Bladderwort (it is very heavy) out of the water and let it dry out to naturally decay. Jack noted that it is not an environmental problem. Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the use of Town land by the Lake Groton Association for the removal of Bladderwort.

Linda reported that Craig Powers determined that the two circulators (for a total cost of \$400.) on the Community Building heating system needed to be replaced. Gary moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the installation of the two circulators at a total cost of \$400.

Linda provided the only minutes she could find (dated Aug 18, 1981) that might reference the maintaining of Heath Hill Road as per Keith Truesdale's letter. It was not clear from the minutes that any agreement was in place. Brent's interpretation is that Heath Hill Road is not a Spring road, that it is officially an "untraveled class 4 road" which means it is not maintained. The consensus of the Board was to send an explanation of the status, along with the town ordinance, to Mr. Truesdale and that the town would follow the town ordinance on untraveled class 4 roads and decline to work on the road.

The Board reviewed a request from Ron Rhodes, North Country River Steward, (Ron coordinated the Dam removal on the Wells River near the Highway garage earlier this year) requesting access via town land to the dam behind the Baptist Church. He has the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service lined up to do the engineering and design. Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to grant access to the dam though town property and to work with Brent to identify the proper location to use. It

was also noted that Green Mountain Power owns close to 4 acres in this area and they might consider donating the land to the Town.

The status of the Patricia Grant dog complaint was reviewed. Linda has not yet sent the letter out but will be sure to do so this week. The Board also reviewed the letter prepared by Gary to be sent to the Grant family.

Kitty and Nathan reported on their meeting with Nicole Crum, DeWolfe Engineering Associates, Inc. to review the status of the Community Building roof. Nicole is proposing that their company conduct an analysis of the roof at a cost of \$1,500 to \$2,000. The next step after the analysis is completed would be to engineer/propose solutions and they do not feel this step can be considered until the analysis is completed. Peter moved, Gary seconded and the motion passed unanimously to support this request going to the Building Committee for their review & comments and then authorize Nathan proceed with the analysis if supported by the Building Committee

Kitty reviewed with the Board a free energy savings kit that she received from Efficiency Vermont. Kitty will see if additional kits can be obtained.

Brent reported that the Powder Spring Road bridge project is coming along good and that they are doing a good job. Roadside mowing is complete (they covered over 90% of the town roads) and the contract has been approved by Brent to pay the invoice.

Peter reported that Shawn Crown had requested support for the town to work on North County road/Harv Orr Road. Brent agreed to contact Shawn to determine how to best address Shawn's concerns.

Nathan reported that Chis Emerson wants an extension (the current approval expired on Sept 1) to his committed completion date for his logging operation on town property at the old dump site. Gary moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to extend the completion date to November 1, 2014.

Peter moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting (at 8:37 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon