

Town Of Groton, Vermont – Selectboard Minutes, September 3, 2015 (approved)

The duly warned meeting of the Groton Selectboard of September 3, 2015 was held at the Groton Community Building, 1476 Scott Highway.

Attendance for the meeting included: Robert Farquharson, Linda Farquharson, Daniel Robinson, H. Paul Berlejung, Dorothy Knott, Wade Johnson Sr, Linda Nunn, Brent Smith, Lisa Hart, and Rodney Rood.

The Following Selectboard Members were in attendance: Peter Lyon, Andrew Dorsett, and Mary Grant

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Updates and adjustments to the agenda:

Update on the Memory Wall added to item 13 of the agenda.

Board Appointments:

Daniel Robinson appointed as the Selectboard Secretary, Andrew Dorsett made the motion, Mary Grant seconded, Selectboard voted unanimously in favor.

Tim Daily was appointed to the Ancient Roads/Recreation Trails Committee, Andrew Dorsett made the motion, Peter Lyon seconded and the Selectboard voted unanimously in favor.

Larry Luppi appointed to the Building Committee, Mary Grant Moved, Andrew Dorsett Seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Andrew Dorsett gave a brief overview to the Selectboard and all in attendance the purpose of mapping and maintaining record of ancient roads/recreation trails.

Peter Lyon reported that Stan Pierce and Bill Kane, as volunteers, are leading a project to install power to the flag pole on the island in front of the Methodist Church. That project will start shortly.

The Select Board recognizes John Ashford for his donation of flowers for the gazebo.

Update on Stump Dump fire:

Brent Smith reported that the fire appears to be out. He has received no complaints to date and the Selectboard indicated they not received any as well. Wade Johnson indicated that it falls under the Fire Warden to monitor the stump dump. Brent Smith spoke about closing the stump dump and transferring brush and scrap wood to East Ryegate recycling center until a solution could be found. The State is working on shutting down stump dumps throughout the state and it is better to have a solution in place before that happens. Peter Lyon said the Selectboard would like to see Groton's closed and perhaps should warn a special meeting to get input from the town. Wade Johnson also said that at times unauthorized materials may have been put in the stump dump without the Town's knowledge. A new area should be found to collect brush/stumps/scrap wood and fence it in and have a gated entry. There was a discussion of what to do with the materials after they were collected and the suggestion of contracting a grinder/chipper. Cost and environmental impact was raised as a concern as well as what permits would be required. Brent Smith indicated he would coordinate with East Ryegate recycle center for residents with modest amounts of material until a solution is found.

Andrew Dorsett inquired as to who the primary users were, Wade Johnson answered that it was mostly loggers and residents doing property clean-up. The issue was tabled until more information is obtained and a special meeting can be warned.

Review of Salt Purchase:

Selectboard presented the estimates for winter road salt. There were two estimates submitted, Cargill and American Rock Salt. Cargill provided an estimate of \$80.56 per ton, which is the State contract price, and American Rock Salt provided an estimate of \$79.83. When asked about amount generally used during the winter season, Brent Smith stated that the town uses approximately 100 ton and they place an order for 150 ton to ensure that they have the extra available for snowier than usual winters. There is no penalty for not purchasing the overage. Andrew Dorsett asked if there had ever been any delivery issues, Brent Smith said no and that they have purchased from both companies in the past without issue. Andrew Dorsett moved that the Selectboard accept American Rock Salt's estimate, Mary Grant seconded and the Selectboard voted unanimously in favor.

Review of Sand Purchase:

Selectboard presented the bids for purchase of sand for the upcoming winter season. Bids were submitted by Chief Crushing & Excavating and Sidney Smith Trucking. Chief Crushing & Excavating submitted a bid for \$1.95 per yard screening and \$2.35 per yard trucking. Chief indicated that the Town can do trucking at their discretion to lower the trucking cost. Sidney Smith Trucking submitted a bid for \$2.00 Screening and \$2.50 Trucking. Andrew Dorsett made a motion to select Chief Crushing & Excavating. Mary Grant seconded. Brent Smith stated that the town has used Chief in the past and trucking their own sand, when time permits, has saved the town money. The Motion was adjusted to allow the town to do as much trucking as possible. The Selectboard voted unanimously in favor.

Review/Approve Resolution for Harv Orr Road:

The Selectboard reviewed a resolution relating to work on Harv Orr Road by volunteers. H. Paul Berlijung told the Selectboard that they should talk to Shawn Crown for additional information. The Selectboard will be asking Paul Giuliani to critique the language in the resolution and perhaps add more detail to scope of work and liability issues between the volunteers and the town. The Selectboard would also like to see a work plan and diagrams/sketches of the work to be done. Pending these changes and another review, the Selectboard will take up the resolution at a future meeting. Peter Lyon will notify Jim Langloise of the Selectboard's decision.

Open and review of bids for repairs of the North end of Ricker Mills Road:

Bids for the North end of Ricker Mills Road were opened and reviewed by the Selectboard. Three bids were submitted. Chief Crushing & Excavation Option #1 \$35,929.00 and Option #2 \$30,662.50, G & N Excavation Inc. \$43,400.00, and Robert Farquaharson for \$34,163.50 Mary Grant Moved to accept the Bid submitted by Robert Farquaharson, Peter Lyon seconded; the board opened the floor to discussion. Rodney Rood began with concerns that he would not be able to move his trucks through from one end of Ricker Mills road to the other. He has no way of turning a truck around and needs to be able to enter one end and depart through the other end of Ricker Mills Road. It was suggested that his trucks enter from the upper side and travel down-grade and exit the lower end so as not to tear up the pavement. Mary Grant suggested that maybe a special meeting should be warned to get input from residents along Ricker Mills Road. Dorothy Knott questioned why the town could dictate traffic flow for vehicles on one road and not the rest.

Peter Lyon answered that was determined on size of vehicle and road condition and this was to preserve the pavement. Rodney Rood said he wanted the bid awarded, however wanted to be sure that his trucks would be allowed on the whole road. He and Brent Smith assured the Selectboard that Ricker Mills Road had a substantial enough sub-base for the heavy traffic. Mary Grant said that most businesses with heavy trucks have them positioned off the roads during the worst part of the spring season to prevent

damage to the roads. More discussion followed explaining the work to be completed. Andrew Dorsett asked about a statute of liability for damage. Mary Grant said there is one in place. Rodney Rood stated that he will monitor and repair any damage his truck cause to the road. The Selectboard voted on the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Ancient Roads/Recreation Trail Status:

Andrew Dorsett expanded on his earlier comments.

NVDA Meeting Update:

Peter Lyon briefed NVDA Annual Meeting is on the same day as the next select board meeting and suggested to have the Selectboard meeting moved to September 24th at 7:00 pm. All members are available and agreed on the date change. Peter Lyon continued briefing the agenda and brought up the availability of funding to establish a Park and Ride in the town. Commuters already use a portion of the Community Building parking lot. The funding would include paving, lighting and signage. Andrew Dorsett made a motion to allow Peter Lyon to discuss a possible location with the Building committee. Peter Lyon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Peter Lyon asked Brent Smith if he was aware of the new storm water mitigation regulations. Brent Smith said he was aware and had begun establishing the paper trail required for all projects relating to storm water. He also indicated that it was difficult to track projects separating mitigation from maintenance. Peter also brought briefed the availability of a municipal planning grant. Mary Grant said the Planning Commission is preparing the paperwork and she will talk to Allison Rowe about a consultant. Andrew made a motion to allow Mary Grant to work with the Planning Commission on the grant application, Peter Lyon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

Monthly Budget Review:

Treasurer Lisa Hart handed Selectboard members her monthly budget printout. The Selectboard reviewed department budgets with her and all departments are currently working within their budget. Linda Nunn added that her department will be within budget after she shifts funds from Elections to the Town Clerks office to balance her assistant clerk expenses.

Memory Wall Update:

Peter Lyon has spoken with Paul Giuliani and he has recommended that the project go forward. Peter Lyon also recommends having Otterman mark the corner to keep project from crossing a property line. Peter Lyon will donate his earnings from his position on the Selectboard (\$1200) to pay for another load of decorative blocks. He will also ask the Harv Orr Road volunteers about supporting the project with workers and equipment. Fred Grant will be hauling the decorative blocks from the manufacturer in Mid-NH as a donation. Mary Grant made the motion to proceed to hire a contractor at a cost not to exceed \$2500, Andrew Dorsett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approve Board Minutes:

August 20, 2015 Motion to approve Peter Lyon, Andrew Dorsett Seconded, Motion Passed, and Mary Grant abstained.

August 25, 2015 Motion to approve Peter Lyon, Andrew Dorsett Seconded, Motion Passed, and Mary Grant abstained.

August 28, 2015 Motion to approve Peter Lyon, Mary Grant Seconded, Motion Passed, and Andrew Dorsett abstained.

Treasurer Office/Salt Shed Update:

Contractor for both projects is the same. Lisa Hart asked which was going to be done first and asked that her office be done before the Salt Shed. Peter Lyon stated that both projects must be completed by December 31st.

Round table:

Lisa Hart stated that the Town's BJ membership card needed to be renewed. She needs a letter from the Selectboard appointing her as the primary card holder. The consensus of the board was to provide her with the letter.

Lisa Hart stated that she needs direction for preparing for budget work with the Selectboard. Peter Lyon said that the Selectboard will set aside time during the next meeting to help her set up those preparations.

Lisa Hart asked if the Fall Foliage Committee could ask vendor to stay longer after the parade. By the time the BMU students in the parade come back and the vendors have all left. Mary Grant said it is up to the vendors and the committee has no control.

Brent Smith said that the Better Roads Program has been taken over by the AOT. They would be sending a bus load of engineers and AOT personnel to look at Groton roads on September 14th.

Lisa Hart said she is still looking for audit packets. Dan Robinson said he will look through his folder from his time as Town Auditor to see if there is anything there that would help.

The Selectboard also discussed the process of conducting an independent audit. Lisa Hart indicated that we should get the request for bids out because time is running short to use the money set aside to complete an audit.

Andrew Dorsett asked who was responsible for the upkeep of Levi Pond Road. Brent Smith answered that Levi Pond Road was actually a right of way and it is not the town's responsibility.

Andrew Dorsett made a motion to compensate the Selectboard Secretary \$65 per meeting, Mary Grant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Peter Lyon said the east end town sign needs to be mowed. Brent Smith said that Don's mower was in the shop and Blackmount is working on it. Perhaps Deb Jurist could be approached to fill in until Don's mower is back. Peter Lyon also said that the Community building signs and flower beds are in need of some upkeep. Mary Grant suggested that perhaps Tracey Puffer's senior class could help out to earn some community service points. Linda Nunn said that they could also ask the Cub Scouts.

Select Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.