

Town of Groton, Vermont - Selectboard Minutes September 15, 2016 (approved)

Attendance for the meeting included: Lisa Hart, Carrie Peters, Mark Gleicher, Deb Jurist, Diane Farquharson, Linda Nunn, Debra Johnson and Laurine Grant.

Selectboard Members in attendance: Mary Grant, Wade Johnson, Sr. and Andrew Dorsett

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Review/Approval of September 1, 2016 minutes. Wade made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections made, Mary seconded and motion passed.

Financials put on hold until Andrew Dorsett shows up.

Diane Farquharson from the Red Tea Kettle is hoping to have her first annual Family Scarecrow contest on Saturday, September 24th from 2 pm - 4 pm. Diane has been in contact with Diane Kreis and Peter Lyon about this contest. There was some discussion. Mary stated that Peter Lyon from the Community Club is in charge of Fall Foliage Day. All the Town of Groton does is hold the insurance for it. Diane Farquharson needs to get permission from Peter Lyon and not the selectboard.

Wade made a motion that they can place the scarecrows on the town property, Mary seconded and motion passed.

Mark Gleicher asked about the ATV issue. Wade said that Jim is working with the town of Barnet on this issue. He is also talking with Danny Hale from the state. Jim Downing is suppose to get back with the selectboard in the near future.

Laurine Grant wants to know what the town's plans are concerning the water situation and digging in the parking lot. She was told there was a paper requesting her to sign off on any further work as the water is coming from her basement. She said that she is not signing anything until she knows what was going to be done and the complete plan is presented.

#### Prayer Issue

Mary said that a new prayer resolution has been presented. At the last meeting, the resolution that was in the 2015 Groton Town Report was rescinded. In the future there will be a special Town meeting some time before the March town meeting to vote on a new article. There was much discussion on this issue of prayer. Wade said we have to have something to start with at the special Town meeting and it can be amended at that time. Mark Gleicher is going to write his own article and will be giving it to the secretary of the Selectboard. There could be two articles at this special meeting to vote on. Then this issue was tabled. Wade said that the town needs to get legal advice on this issue to make sure the town is doing the right thing with two articles written on prayer. Linda is going to be calling the Secretary of the State on this issue.

## Zoning Issues

Brad Houghton was not present. At the last meeting, Brad and Andrew were going to get together to review the zoning regulations concerning junk/clutter on people's property that are becoming an issue. Andrew will be contacting Brad to get together.

## Financials/Budget Update

Lisa said that all budgets should be at 67%. There was some discussion. Mary asked Lisa to contact VLCT and find out if it is okay for the Selectboard to move money from specific reserve fund accounts. Would the Engineering and planning process be part of the community building improvement reserves. Andrew to ask the CPA-Glenna Pound, and have her write the correct process for reserve funds.

Lisa said that Kitty came in and worked 2 1/2 hours with Clear Water Filtration Co. and would like to get paid for it. In the past she volunteered her time so Lisa stated she wasn't sure what rate to pay her. Mary stated that the office has workman's compensation issue's now so Kitty is actually not authorized to do this maintenance work. Mary said that volunteering to do the work you are not authorized to do, should not be done any more due to the liability of the town. If something breaks down, you need to call the proper person in to do the jobs. There was much discussion. Andrew said that Kitty should be paid at the rate she is getting now as a Lister. The selectboard said that Office Staff should not do work outside of their job description, the correct people should be notified to fix the item at hand. Linda Nunn has been asked earlier in the year to be the overseer of the maintenance of the building. So if something needs to be fixed, Linda needs to contact somebody to fix the problem. If it is a big emergency, Linda will contact all the selectboard members. Linda said that in the furnace room there is a leak maybe a blow off pipe that looks like it is leaking so Powers needs to be called to fix it.

Lisa said that a letter has been received from the Rest & Relax (people who clean the buildings) requesting an increase in their wages from \$45 to \$55 per week. Rest & Relax stated that they have been the same price for 10 years and now with all the events going on there is much more cleaning to do. There was much discussion on this. Wade made a motion to have a revised contract from October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 with the new \$55 rate and with a new proof of Insurance, Andrew seconded and motion passed.

There was a discussion about the trash box and if we should get a dumpster and a recycling one as well. There has been garbage put in that is not from the town and the garbage is loose, messy garbage. So it was suggested there needs to be a lock on the trash box. Linda stated that in the past we had locked it but then we have to give keys out to the cleaners, trash pickup people and any department that needs to put trash in the box. It didn't work before so don't think it will work now. Lisa stated that Kitty has been taking the recycling.

Lisa stated that she has been asked to open a new account for the Library. They want a new account in the Merchants Bank for the use of their annual appeal fundraiser. Andrew made a motion to open the

new pay pal account in the Merchants bank for the Library, Wade seconded and the motion passed. Lisa said there is a no fees with the account.

#### Library

Mary said that the Library is still in the negotiating process with our lawyer on the amounts for which to obtain the library building.

#### Health Officer

Danny Webster has accepted the position as Health Officer as of October 1, 2016. A letter needs to go to Rural Edge telling them it is not the town's responsibility concerning the chicken running loose on their property. Andrew needs to check on the pollution/well and needs to notify the state. The town hasn't received a letter from Barbara Johns on her issue with her well. Linda has received a complaint about chickens at the Bistro Restaurant which are in the road and in the Groton Garage. The landowner, Chuck Gallagher, needs to be notified about this issue.

Yellow Building - Linda got an email from Nationwide Postal saying they believe it will be done by the end of the month and before our fall foliage day. The dumpster was removed due to other peoples garbage being put in it. The email also said by Monday, Sept. 19th we will have answers.

Andrew made a motion to delegate Linda to receive emails on Act 250 and relay to the appropriate municipal entity, Wade seconded, and motion passed.

As of next year, Linda said that the Animal Control person is thinking about retiring in June. We need to be looking for a replacement if she does retire.

#### Meeting place for selectboard meeting

There was a discussion on having the gym closed down on the first and third Thursday's when the Selectboard Meetings are going on from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Wade said it is disrespectful for the board and people coming to the meetings to have all the noise during the meetings. People who come to the meetings can't hear what is going on. Andrew made a motion to have the gym vacant on the first and third Thursdays of the month for the Selectboard Meetings, Wade seconded and motion passed.

#### Chicken Pie Seating

Wade said that 220 people is the capacity for the Community Building which the Fire Marshal has issued where the Chicken Pie Supper is located. He said it was too late for this year but needs to be addressed before next years' Chicken Pie Supper. Mary said they are probably about over by 20 people. The number of people working and eating at the supper need to be checked out. The Selectboard Secretary is to send a letter to Peter Lyon stating this issue and that everybody in the room including the servers are counted.

Nathan Puffer - ROW/solar  
No new information.

Town Report Preparation  
No new information

#### Personnel Policy

Lisa handed out folders to the selectboard members with all the information for the Personnel Policies so they can be looked over before the special meeting on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at 9:30 am.

The secretary is to look for the prices that Dan Robinson got on the camera for the Community Building and bring to next meeting.

Andrew made a motion to authorize Brent to use town equipment to use materials and stones for drainage for the wall project and other activities as needed, Wade seconded and motion passed.

#### Agenda for next Meeting

Meeting Called to order

Review/Approve Minutes

Financials/Budget Update

Department Updates - Highway, Zoning, Library, Health Officer (have Danny Webster come to meeting), and Town Clerk

Prayer Issue

Nathan Puffer - ROW/solar

Open to Public

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjourn

A motion was made by Wade at 8:25 pm to adjourn to meeting, Andrew seconded and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Johnson  
Selectboard Secretary

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Mary Grant (Chair)

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Andrew Dorsett

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Wade Johnson, Sr.