

Town of Groton, Vermont - Select board Minutes Feb. 22, 2018 (approved)

Select board Members in Attendance: Deborah Jurist, Wade Johnson, Sr. and Mary Grant

Attendance for the meeting included: Debra Johnson, Lisa Hart, Carrie Peters, Mark Shallberg, Mary Ellen Boyce, Barbara Johns, Lise Shallberg, Brent Smith, Jim Cilley, and Dorothy Knott.

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Deborah moved to approve the minutes of February 1, 2018, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Adjustments to agenda are that Mary had a discussion with Brian Emerson, a Newbury Select Board member about having one Zoning Administrator for the three towns which are Newbury, Groton and Ryegate. The Zoning Administrator would need to be qualified for the job. The Select Board thought this was a good idea so Mary is going to contact Brian Emerson and get a time to discuss this further. Wade also brought up that he had some questions on the RR Bed. Mary said that the Select Board needs to have an Executive Session to discuss information Mary discussed with the lawyer. Things that can't be discussed in executive session will be brought up when the RR Bed is discussed. Mary also updated the Select Board and said Trish from Rural Edge is getting done on Feb. 28 due to medical issues and a new person is taking her place. Mary said the lease for the library needs to be done before she leaves.

Health Officer - Dan Webster - septic issue at library

Dan Webster had left a written copy of the septic issue at the library for each Select Board member last Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018. The septic issue has been taken care of and Dan now has contact with a maintenance person at Rural Edge if there are issues in the future.

Executive Session

The Select Board went into Executive Session at 6:38 PM with a motion made by Deborah to discuss what Mary discussed with the Gavin, the lawyer, Wade seconded and motion passed. Deborah made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:02 PM, with no action taken, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Wade discussed some questions about the RR Bed. One question is what type of ordinance is the RR Bed going to be? Deborah said the draft of the ordinance is on the Groton website along with the minutes of all the RR Bed Committee meetings. The second question is that a couple of weeks ago at the Dick Page Ride In a vehicle got stuck on the RR Bed and the State Police gave this person a ticket with a fine as in the winter months the RR Bed is a VAST snowmobile trail. Wade said there needs to be clarity on the rules of the RR Bed.

Highway Dept/Brent Smith

Brent said Minard Hill (by Frank & Janice Page on Brock Rd) project has been engineered and ready to go out to bid soon. The Select Board wants to meet with the engineer before this is put out to bid. The Town of Groton got the Better Back Roads Grant for the work on Goodfellow Rd.

Brent mentioned that Don Pinette was upset with the work that was done on Railroad Street. He said the water is going onto his brother's property. Brent discussed this situation with Donald Pinette. Brent told the Select Board that Phillip Palmer will be out of work for an extended period of time due to having a medical issue. Jim Downing and Harold Hatch are filling in for Phillip Palmer only when needed. Brent also said that there have some rutting on some roads and have hauled some gravel to fix them.

Library - cleaning

Mark Shallberg met with the Library Trustees on Feb. 12th and discussed the cleaning of the Library. Mark said he would continue to clean the library until they find someone else. The following items were discussed: tracking in of winter salt, exit door not working, cleaning supplies (which will be supplied by the town). The 2nd floor doorway is being blocked by the Tenant's stuff and this in violation of the Insurance. Kristian Connelly is going to contact Rural Edge about those issues. Mark said some changes are going to be made. The librarian is cleaning up at the end of the night which is making a big difference. Some different rugs are going to be brought in and changed out once a month. The Select Board thanked Mark for his good job taking care of this library cleaning issue. Mark Shallberg was asked to bring a job description of his maintenance job to the next Select Board meeting and will review what is needed to post for a Cleaning person for Library and CB/Gym.

Fire Dept/disposal of old Rescue Unit

Dorothy Knott said the old rescue unit has been advertised in a few places. Only one person is interested for \$100. Deborah made a motion that the Fire Dept move forward and get rid of the Old Rescue Unit for \$100, Wade seconded and motion passed.

CEDC/Lisa - review the set up and structure of committee

Lisa asked if the composition of the members on the CEDC Committee can be adjusted. Originally the committee was made up of one person from each department. Now there are a few people from the community who are interested in joining CEDC. Does the Select Board need to adjust the original makeup of the Committee? Mary said no, that she doesn't think it needs to be adjusted and the public can be brought in. Mary said the CEDC is not limited to just members of the departments, other people can join. Dorothy spoke up and said Shaun Stetson has resigned from the CEDC for the member from the Fire Dept and Brent Abare is going to take his place.

Select Board Committee Voting

Deborah spoke to Gavin Reid about the issue of the conflict of people on the RR Bed Committee that could benefit from the RR Bed Ordinance. Gavin's opinion was that the ordinance is only a draft and has to go to the lawyer, state, Select Board and to the voters. Wade had asked VLCT about this issue and their lawyers said the same thing as Gavin Reid did.

Financials

Lisa said she received the money for the sale of the FD Trailer and asked what account the money should be deposited into? Dorothy said they decided to put the money in the Equipment Reserve Fund along with the pending sale of the Old Rescue Unit for \$100.00.

Lisa informed the Select Board that Charter Communications went up \$5 per month (\$60.00 annually). Lisa worked with Glenna and she has a template document to use for the bid proposal on the town audit. Lisa has it revised for Groton and will wait until the budget is passed at town meeting, then it will be reviewed by the Select Board and put out to bid.

Lisa said the Town Report had been mailed and received to town's people last week. The volunteer Fire Dept had sent in a write up on their goals and what was done for fund raising which was missed in the Town Report. Lisa apologized to the Fire Dept for this error. Lisa will make handouts for the Town Meeting. There were a couple of other small mistakes found that will be corrected as well.

Lisa mentioned that the town banners are here. Lisa thanked Mark Shallberg and Brent Smith for putting one of them up.

Lisa mentioned that the Delinquent tax process that has been in place for almost a year now is working very smoothly. General Fund is receiving this Delinquent tax money once received, no wait time.

Open to Public & Other Business

Barbara Johns spoke up with two issues that she has with the RR Bed Committee. One of them is the draft of the ordinance on the Groton website is confusing because there are many parts that have not been worked on by the committee. This issue was discussed. Wade said the committee needs to come to the next Select Board meeting to get issues resolved so the committee can move forward. Barbara's second question is about the letter that was sent out from the RR Bed Committee going to non-abutters. Wade said the issue needs to be discussed at the next RR Bed Committee meeting. Mary said the Select Board needs to review the process.

Lisa mentioned the letter that was sent in November 2017 to the Bernier Property (location - 1070 Scott Hwy) needs to be followed up on, as no changes have been made to the torn down building as you enter town.

A letter was received from Shaun Stetson from the Fire Dept saying he is resigning from the CEDC.

Sign Orders & Open Mail

There were no orders to sign. Mail was opened.

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on March 1, 2018

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes of Feb. 22, 2018

Adjustments to Agenda

Health Officer

Executive Session

RR Bed Committee

Highway/Brent Smith - Bids for Milnard Hill Project, Date to meet with engineer, Branch Brook Rd

Library - lease and cleaning plan
Mark Shallberg - job description for Maintenance
Adm. Assistant/Lise Shallberg - Updates
Financials - Preparation for Town Meeting, policy sick time
Open to Public & Other business & Actions Taken
Sign Orders & Open Mail
Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on March 15, 2018
Adjourn

Deborah made a motion at 8:10 PM to adjourn, Wade seconded and motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra Johnson
Select Board Secretary

Mary Grant, Chair

Wade Johnson, Sr.

Deborah Jurist