

Town of Groton, Vermont – Select Board Minutes of September 20, 2018 (approved)

Select Board Members in Attendance: Wade Johnson, Sr., Deborah Jurist and Aaron Smith

Attendance for the meeting included: Debra Johnson, Lisa Hart, Carrie Peters, Lise Shallberg, Mark Shallberg, Brent Smith, Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb, Michael Nahmias, Dorothy L. Knott, Kitty Diggins, Joseph Ferris, Jean Denson, Bill Paton, Brent Abare, Mary Berlejung and Mark Gleicher

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

Aaron made a motion to accept the Sept. 6, 2018 minutes with corrections, Wade seconded, motion passed.

Wade went over the notes that the secretary wrote on the Railroad Bed Ordinance Forum meeting on Sept. 14, 2018.

Adjustments to Agenda

There was an adjustment to move the Railroad Bed Ordinance and the Civil Ordinance below the Board of Directors from the Groton Community Meal Site.

Highway/Brent Smith – RFP's for mowing, gravel & winter sand

One bid was received for mowing. The bid was from Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing, Inc. from West Topsham, VT. He will be paid per hour.

Deborah made a motion to accept the bid from Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing, Inc on the road side mowing, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Two bids were received on crushing the gravel. The first bid was received from Chief Crushing & Excavation (Chief Bogie) from Ryegate, VT for 5000 yards at \$5.23 a yard. The second bid was received from McCullough Crushing from Middlesex for 1 ¼ gravel for \$5.15.

Brent will ask Chief Bogie on the size of his gravel before a decision is made.

Since it is three weeks to the next Select Board meeting, the Select Board decided to choose a board member to decide on the bids for the crushing of the gravel.

Aaron made a motion for Wade Johnson to be appointed to approve the bid on the crushing of gravel, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

Two bids were received on the winter screening of the sand. The sand will be used from the Ricker Pit. The first one was received from Sydney Smith from East Topsham, VT for 2000 yds at \$2.50 for hauling and \$2.50 to screen and load it. The second bid is from Chief Crushing & Excavation (Chief Bogie) from Ryegate for \$2.35 a yard to screen and \$2.55 to shove and screen.

Aaron made a motion to accept the bid from Chief Crushing & Excavation (Chief Bogie) for hauling winter sand, Deborah seconded, motion passed.

Two bids were received on the paving. The first one was from Blaktop Paving from West Lebanon, NH at \$84.03 per ton. Second bid was from Green Mountain Paving from East Barre, VT at \$96.50 per ton. Deborah made a motion to accept the bid from Blaktop Paving, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Brent mentioned that the Town of Groton has been getting winter sand from the Ricker's Pit for at least 20 years. Brent would like to pay them in advance so they can pay their taxes. The Town of Groton pays for Topsham's share of the sand, then Groton invoices Topsham. The total amount for the sand is \$5500. This will be the last year getting sand from the Ricker Pit. Brent said the cost of the sand will increase next year.

Deborah made a motion to prepay the sand for a maximum of \$5500 to the Ricker's, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

Brent said they are working on their Better Roads Project. Once we get some rain, the town crew will be doing some grading.

Admin. Asst./Lise - update

All of the Rural Edge Apartments in Groton will be having an onsite inspection on September 24, 2018. The zoning permits were handed out to the Select Board members. There was discussion if the zoning permits have been checked once they are completed. The Select Board would like Dan Webster and Brad Houghton to come to the next Select Board meeting to discuss this issue.

The speed sign is back and is in operation on Minard Hill Road.

The Select Board signed thank you letters to Diane Kreis and Gary Lamberton for their contributions for the AED.

Financials/Lisa – reserve accounts

Lisa mentioned that Don Bliss has paid off his loan with the town.

A date was set for Saturday, Nov. 17 to have the budget talks with each department in town.

Lisa said the batteries and pads came for the AED. Derick Curtis put it together and Mark Shallberg installed it in the Community Building.

A bill was received from Robco for the moving of the bell. The Select Board decided to take the \$2150 from the general fund to pay Robco.

A letter was received from Green Up VT for \$100 for appropriations for this year.

Lisa said it is time for the VLCT PACIF renewal. There was a discussion on what the value of the bell is. Since 2009, the bell, monument and building's value had been lumped together. These items need to each have values put on them.

Lisa is going to make some phone calls to try to get what the value may be on the bell.

Lisa and Linda have checked the number of chairs and tables in the gym. There are 184 chairs and one broken one. There are 44 tables. Lisa suggested the town purchase 25 chairs. It will cost \$330 for 25 chairs. Mark Shallberg asked where all the chairs were. Mark said there were enough chairs for the supper last year. The Select Board would like to see how much money has been received for the renting and how much the chairs are going to cost and discuss further if the town will rent out the chairs and tables. There will be a discussion at the next Select Board meeting on whether or not to continue to rent out tables and chairs since some of the chairs are missing.

Wade brought up a discussion on the Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund and the Emergency Service Vehicle Fund. Wade will take these two reserve funds and discuss with the Fire/FAST.

Maintenance/Mark – update on Veteran’s Memorial park, bell and railing

Mark met with Joe and Kelly Dennis about where to put the bell. They would like to see it half way between the town sign and the building.

There was much discussion on where to put the bell.

Lise went over the research she did on the ownership of the bell.

Mark suggested the town sign be moved in front of the building and to install the bell with a message board sign over what is now the garden. Mark Shallberg along with Aaron Smith will meet and discuss this plan with the Dennis’s.

Deborah made a motion to have the bell and a message board installed where the current flower bed is now and have the sign go up on the building, Aaron seconded, motion passed.

There is no news on the railing. Mark said the Veteran’s Park needs a load of sand and a couple days of work to straighten things out.

Carrie Peters will contact Tracy Puffer from BMU to see if the students could work on the playground.

Joe Ferris – access to property on the Railroad Bed

Joe Ferris has owned his property for 8 years that abuts the Railroad Bed. Mr. Ferris is in the process of selling his property. The buyer would like to build a driveway on the Railroad Bed so they can exit the property. The recommendation from the Select Board is for Joe Ferris to suggest the buyer go to State Forest and Parks and discuss this issue with them to see if the State will allow the driveway to be built.

Michael Nahmias – from the Agency of Natural Resources in Montpelier, VT

Michael Nahmias works with the State Geologist who works with the Agency of Natural Resources. The State Geologist is working on a Quadrangle Map of the state of Vermont and would like approval to work on this in Groton. They can find all sorts of things such as a sand deposit. They want the support from the Groton Select Board to go ahead with the mapping. This information can be incorporated in the town maps and be used in the town plan. They will need assistance from town personnel such as listers or town clerk to help them. The information found does go on the website for the state. They do provide maps to the town. The program would to start the summer of 2019.

The Select Board supports the project but would like someone to come and explain the program more and if there is any cost to the program. Dorothy Knott, who is a lister, asked a question of how much time they would have to work with them on the project and how long the project will take.

Board of Directors from the Groton Community Meal Site

Bill Paton read a statement from the Groton Lunches with Friends which will be attached to the minutes. The Groton Methodist Church will be used for the Groton Community Meal Site which has passed inspection. Mr. Paton would like the Select Board’s blessing to approve the reestablishing of a Groton Senior Meal Site. Mr. Paton also asked for some financial help from the town to start the program back up. Mr. Paton went over all the things they need to have before they start up the program. Mr. Paton said in the past Groton gave approximately \$1200 a year from 1987-2001 for the senior meals. Mr. Paton would like to know what the group needs to do be put in the budget for next year. The person from the Council on Aging said that Groton is an underserved area. She said the state will refund \$2.85 for a meal and \$3.18 for Meals on Wheels. The group does have some donors but they need to have the

501C3 before they will donate. The group is in process of getting their 501C3. She said a place is needed for a place for people to come and chat, play games, is cheerful and a place for people to go.

The Select Board has given their approval for the Groton Community Meals to start back up but at this time there is no money to be appropriated. The lunches are planned to be on Thursdays at noon. There are 5 people on the board and about about 20 people to be volunteers. The next meeting of the Groton Lunches with Friends is on Sept. 27th at 11 am. Jean Denson is the person to contact if you are interested in volunteering. It was stated that this Groton Lunches with Friends is going to be a Groton Community effort not a Methodist effort.

Brent spoke up and said it has been a policy in the past to allow the highway department when asked to sand the town churches parking lots.

Railroad Bed Ordinance

A response was received from Gavin Reid on the changes that town residents wanted to be added to the Railroad Bed Ordinance from the meeting. There was a short discussion on the changes being made to the ordinance. Deborah Jurist will make the changes to the ordinance.

Civil Ordinance

Brent Smith had talked to the Chad Whitehead, the St. Johnsbury manager about their Civil Ordinance. Mr. Whitehead had a suggestion which seems to be worth following up on. Brent will contact Mr. Whitehead and ask that he email a copy of the ordinance that St. Johnsbury has and give it to Lise Shallberg.

Act 46 update

The update on the last School Board meeting is that on the status of the BMU school deed to find out who owns the school. The Executive Committee at BMU no longer exists.

Open to Public & Other Business

Lisa mentioned that the Recreation Committee is having a fundraiser spaghetti dinner on Oct. 25, 2018 at the Groton Community Building for the Washington Electric meeting.

Lisa mentioned that the Groton librarian has resigned; her last day will be next Wednesday. The trustees are in the process of looking for a new librarian.

Sign Orders

The orders were signed

Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Oct. 11, 2018

Meeting called to order

Review/Approve Minutes of Sept. 20, 2018

Adjustments to Agenda

Department Updates:

Highway/Brent Smith

Admin. Asst./Lise – updates

Financial/Lisa – reserve accounts

Maintenance/Mark – update on Bell

Zoning Administrators – Brad Houghton and Dan Webster, checking zoning permits when completed

Todd Robinson – Director of Emergency Services, Woodsville Ambulance
Discussion on chairs and tables in Community Building
Railroad Bed Ordinance
Civil Ordinance
Act 46 update
Open to Public & Other Business
Sign Orders
Set Agenda for next Select Board meeting on Oct. 18, 2018
Adjourn
To Do List: Trustees – new librarian, elevator; PACIF; Cilley Property

The Select Board decided to have the October Select Board meetings on Thursday, October 11th and 18th, 2018.

Deborah made a motion at 9:48 to adjourn, Wade seconded, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Johnson
SB Secretary

Wade Johnson, Sr., Chair

Deborah Jurist

Aaron Smith