

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES AUGUST 29, 2011
APPROVED**

Present: Anna Eliot, Chairman; George Dillon, Jr., Vice Chairman; Peter Cunningham, Clerk; Joshua A. Degen, Stuart M. Schulman

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Ms. Eliot called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Eliot announced that the Economic Development Committee, along with help from Deluxe Co. have produced a glossy map for residents indicating local businesses. Ms. Eliot stated that the map will be available at Town Hall and other areas throughout Town.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad briefly commented on the recent Tropical Storm and the outstanding work done by Police, Fire, Highway, Water, GELD and Emergency Management.
2. Mr. Haddad stated that enclosed was an email from the Historic Commission concerning the Groton Inn and the demolition order issued by the Building Commissioner this past week. [*Documents 1-Email From HDC dated 8-25-11 re Inn*] The HDC is requesting the support and cooperation of the various town departments to continue their efforts in working with Mr. Pergantis to preserve the remaining structurally sound portions of the Inn. Patricia Hardy, representing the HDC listed those members of the HDC to the Board and their backgrounds. Ms. Hardy then proceeded to read a letter into the record (revised letter). [*Documents 2-Letter From HDC dated 8-29-11 re Inn*]

PUBLIC HEARING-EARTH REMOVAL-MAP 242, PARCEL 9

Mr. Cunningham moved to open the Public Meeting and to enter discussion at the conclusion of the HDC discussion on the Inn. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Hearing continued.

Ms. Hardy continued by stating that the façade of the Inn should be maintained and asked the Board for support to achieve this. Mr. Dillon asked Ms. Hardy what the HDC was specifically asking the Board of Selectmen for. Ms. Hardy replied that the HDC wanted help in changing the order until the HDC could work with Mr. Pergantis or to modify the Demolition order. Mr. Cunningham noted that it was private property and that some people were denied entry by Mr. Pergantis due to insurance and liability. Mr. Cunningham added that it would take deep pockets to restore the building and that the Building Inspector made a decision based on public safety.

Ms. Schulman was curious as to how more time would help the situation and if Ms. Hardy had a date certain ending time. Mr. Schulman added that the Board of Selectmen had no say over the demolition order. Mr. Degen stated that Mr. Pergantis had 45 days from the issuance of the demolition order to appeal and that the HDC did have some time to speak with Mr. Pergantis. Ms. Eliot stated that continued effort should be made to explore issue. Ms. Sartini suggested the possibility of removing pieces of the inn that has historical significance.

EARTH REMOVAL PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED

Mr. Haddad read the legal notice and Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector's Memo regarding Robert Black's earth removal operation that exists on Assessor's Map 242, Parcel 9. [*Documents 3-Legal Notice & Memo*]

Mr. Guigere, of the Conservation Commission stated that the tree line was close to the 100foot buffer and recommend Mr. Black investigate the tree line. Mr. Cunningham read the conditions of the permit. Mr. Dillon asked if the conditions needed to be modified to include not burying stumps. Mr. Haddad stated that he would take a look into the stump issue.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the earth removal permit for Robert Black to expire September 8, 2011. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

SQUANNACOOK RIVER DAM-STATUS REPORT

Ton Delaney, DPW Director stated that the town owns the dam and there is some money for maintenance on the dam. Mr. Dillon noted two concerns with the dam: 1. The spill way and 2. The dam inspections. Mr. Delaney described what he could do to fix the spillway. Mr. Delaney added that there are no structural concerns with the dam it was just maintenance. Mr. Cunningham asked about the Shirley side of the dam and if there has been any effort to date to take down the dam. Mr. Delaney stated that there was more than enough money to take the dam down but you would lose Mill Pond and it may affect Shirley wells. Mr. Degen suggested reengaging Shirley to share in the maintenance costs of the dam. Mr. Haddad stated that he would look into options for the dam and approach Shirley.

2011 FALL TOWN MEETING-FIRST DRAFT OF WARRANT

Article 6: Mr. Haddad stated that he and Mr. Bulger, IT Manager are recommending a warrant article to create a new Desktop Support Specialist position in the IT Department. A copy of the proposed job description was distributed. The position has been graded as a Grade 5 position with a starting salary of \$16.71 per hour. This position will be a part time 19 hour per week position and would not be entitled to any benefits. [*Documents 4-Draft Job Description*]

Mr. Bulger thanked Steve Webber and Jim Dishington for their efforts. Mr. Bulger explained that the position would cover day to day IT functions. Mr. Haddad stated that the primary goal is to make the infrastructure better and continue to move forward. Mr. Schulman asked if there was anything that quantified what adding a new person would do to IT. Mr. Bulger stated that he is working on a summary and that the new position would free up his time to focus on larger projects.

Article 1: Mr. Haddad stated that there were two water bills from prior year.

Article 2: Mr. Haddad noted that this was a standard article.

Article 3: Mr. Haddad stated that no money would be taken out of stabilization and that there is a healthy balance.

Article 4: Mr. Haddad would report more on this article and Article 3 once free cash has been certified.

Article 5: Mr. Haddad stated that the Board would have to decide to offset the tax rate.

Article 8: Mr. Haddad stated that there were more questions regarding this article on Hazel Grove Park.

Article 9: Mr. Haddad stated that the design for Tarbell is being finalized.

Article 10: Mr. Haddad stated that this was dependent if and when any RFP's are received.

Article 11, 12, and 13: Mr. Haddad noted that these three article are regarding Lost Lake. Mr. Degen asked about the \$350k for an Environmental Impact Report. The Board needed a clearer picture for Article 13. Mr. Haddad stated that he would have someone come in on the 9-12-11 selectmen's meeting to discuss Article 13.

Article 14: Mr. Haddad stated that this article was requested by the Great Pond Advisory Committee. The committee is looking for funds to conduct a survey. Mr. Haddad stated that they would be presenting at the public hearing on 9-19.

Article 15: This is a water easement article.

Article 16: This is a planning Board article.

Article 17 and 18: These articles are for sewer connections.

Article 19: Mr. Haddad stated that this article was to for the disbanded personnel board.

Article 20 and 21: Mr. Haddad noted that these article related to the revision of the Dog bylaws.

Other Articles: Mr. Haddad explained that dispatch may receive a grant for software and now the town is without equipment. The Town will find out prior to Town meeting if the Town receives a grant. Another article may be to build the fire station on Station Ave., pending work done prior to town meeting.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT CONINTUED

3. Mr. Haddad stated that enclosed is a letter from the Local Election Districts Commission notifying the Board that they have approved the board's submission re-dividing the Town of Groton into precincts. The effective date of these new precincts is December 31, 2011. [*Documents 5-Letter from District Review Commission*]
4. Mr. Haddad reported that he has successfully concluded negotiations with the Groton Patrolmen's Association on a new collective bargaining agreement. The following are the changes to the agreement:
 - Three year agreement covering July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014
 - No cost of living adjustment in FY12
 - Wage reopener for FY13 and FY14 to negotiate wages only
 - All references to the rank Sergeant removed from the contract
 - Clothing allowance increased from \$1,000 to \$1,200
 - All longevity levels increased by \$100
 - A fund of \$6,000 set aside to pay stipends for specialty positions established by the Chief of Police
 - A \$20 per shift stipend paid to any patrolman who serves as the Officer in Charge (this will take place when there is no Sergeant assigned to the shift)
 - New wording to address the assigning of overtime between the patrolmen's Union and the Superior Officers Union

Mr. Haddad stated that it was a good contract for both the Town and the Union. Mr. Haddad added that at this point the FY12 Police Department Budget has a sufficient budget to fund this contract in FY12. The main goal was to keep salaries level funded and we were able to achieve that goal.

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the Groton Patrolmen's Association contract. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

TRANSFER OF LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION-DISCUSSION

Mr. Degen asked about the property titled Brownloaf and if the Conservation Commission was interested in this property. Mr. Degen also noted that discussion with the Conservation Commission regarding a land swap needed to occur after 134 Main Street has been settled. Mr. Haddad stated that it was vital not to tie 134 Main Street and the Brownloaf property together and the Board of Selectmen agreed.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Degen reported that he attended the Design review meeting of 134 Main Street and believes the project is heading in the right direction. Mr. Degen also attended the Conservation Commission meeting on 134 Main Street, as well as the Affordable Housing Trust meeting. Mr. Schulman also attended the Affordable Housing Trust meeting. Mr. Cunningham reported that he attended the Conservation Commission meeting. Mr. Dillon mentioned the Labor Day Muster on September 5th. Ms. Eliot reported that she attended the Conservation Commission meeting, the Board of Health and the Affordable Housing Trust meetings.

MINUTES

*Mr. Dillon moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 15, 2011. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried 1 abstention). [*Documents 5-Draft Minutes 8-15-11*]*

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn at 9:20pm. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Peter Cunningham, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 9-12-11