

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES DECEMBER 19, 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.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify his appointment of a Westford Officer as a Special Police officer for Groton.
Mr. Cunningham moved to approve George Higgins, Westford Officer as a Groton Special Police Officer to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
2. Mr. Haddad gave the Board an update on litigation regarding John Rooney case. The Federal case closed but the state case continues and a settlement has been offered. The board needed to decide if it wanted to settle the case or continue. Mr. Degen wanted more discussion on the matter and wanted to speak to counsel directly. Mr. Cunningham suggested an Executive Session to discuss possible strategy. Mr. Haddad stated that he would schedule an Executive Session with Counsel on the issue to discuss strategy and possible settlement.
3. Mr. Haddad stated that at the last meeting the Town Accountant Valerie Jenkins provided the Board with updated financial policies. The Board requested a final draft of the policies and to ask the Finance Committee to approve them before the Board votes to adopt them. [Document 1- Final Financial Policies] The Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the Financial Policies at their regularly scheduled meeting on December 13, 2011. They made one minor change to paragraph 9 of the General Financial Guidelines as follows:
"The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee shall review the financial policies annually, seeking input from financial staff and advisors." Mr. Dillon stated that the policies drafted in 2004 have served the Town well over the years.
Mr. Cunningham moved to adopt the Financial Policies for the Town of Groton, Debt Management and Investment Policies. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS

Mr. Dillon moved and Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried

Groton Convenience, dba Groton General Store, located at 871 Boston Road

Vimuben Patel, Manager

Wine & Malt Package Store License & CVL

Hours of Operation Daily 7am – 12am. License to expire December 31, 2012

In Tax Title

Contingent on Receipt of Quarterly Tax Payment and Certificate of Insurance

Mr. Cunningham moved and Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried

Nine West Main Properties Inc., dba Clover Farm Market, located at 9 West Main Street

Janice Hurst, Manager

Wine & Malt Package Store License, CVL & Entertainment License

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 8:30am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm; Licenses to expire December 31, 2012.

Contingent on Liquor License FEE & Certificate of Insurance

Mr. Cunningham moved and Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried

Blackbird Café, located at 491 Main Street, Unit E

Catherine Kenney, Manager

CVL

Hours of Operation: Daily 6am-6pm. License to expire December 31, 2012

Contingent on Certificate of Insurance

Mr. Cunningham moved and Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried

Rivercourt Residences, located at 8 West Main Street

Richard J. Kendall, Manager

CVL

Seating Capacity 75; Hours of Operation Sat –Sun, twenty four hours a day. License to expire December 31, 2012

Mr. Cunningham moved and Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried

Bruno Ferreira, dba Bruno's Pizzeria, located at 195 Main Street

Bruno Ferreiro, Manager

CVL

Seating Capacity 16; Hours of Operation Daily 9:30am to 8:30pm. License to expire December 31, 2012.

Mr. Schulman moved and Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried

Groton Wellness Center, dba Groton Wellness Center Bistro, located 495 Main Street

Karen Zimmerman, Manager

CVL

Seating Capacity 10, patient use only; Hours of Operation Mon – Thurs 8am to 6pm; Fri 8am to 5pm Sat 9am to 4pm. License to expire December 31, 2012.

Mr. Cunningham moved and Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried

Seven Hills Extended Care Inc., dba Seven Hills Pediatric Ctr, located at 22 Hillside Ave.

Holly Jarek, Manager

CVL

Hours of Operation Daily twenty four hours. License to expire December 31, 2012.

Mr. Cunningham moved and Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried

Groton Exchange, Inc. located at 318 Main Street.

Paul Palmer, Manager

CVL

Hours of Operation Monday –Sunday 6am-10pm. License to expire December 31, 2012.

Contingent on Certificate of Insurance

STEVE BOCZENOWSKI-PROJECT INTERFACE UPDATE

Mr. Boczenowski began by stating that his organization TAGS is contracted with Project INTERFACE for two years, which will provide services to Groton. Mr. Boczenowski gave a brief history of Project INTERFACE and how it worked in other local communities. The service will start in January 2012. Mr. Boczenowski thanked the Board for their support.

ATTORNEY ROBERT COLLINS-CHAPTER 61A NOTICE OF INTENT

Mr. Haddad noted that the Planning Board and Conservation Commission discussed this matter and recommended that the Board of selectmen waive their rights of first refusal. Mr. Haddad reported that there is \$5,350 in back taxes. Mr. Collins explained where the land was near H&V and noted that it was approximately 33 acres.

Mr. Cunningham moved to waive right of first refusal for property for H&V. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

GREENWAY COMMITTEE

David Manugian, member of the Greenway Committee discussed the possible replacement of Fitch’s Bridge and was looking for guidance from the selectmen. Mr. Manugian stated that there are a few options but are looking for the most cost effective way to replace the bridge. Mr. Manugian stated that for a precast bridge it could cost somewhere around \$600k. Mr. Cunningham asked if there was any salvage value for the old bridge. Mr. Manugian stated that it was made of steel and there could be some salvage value. Mr. Dillon asked if the Greenway Committee has had any discussions with the CPC. Mr. Manugian wanted some feedback from the Board before going forward. Mr. Dillon stated that the CPC had limited funds available. Mr. Degen asked if that a bridge was replaced would they use the prevailing wage rates. Mr. Manugian stated that prevailing wages would be used. Mr. Degen asked about funding through state funds. Mr. Manugian stated that he is currently seeking alternative forms of funding. Ms. Eliot asked who would own the bridge if the project was competed? Mr. Manugian replied that the Town would own the bridge. Mr. Schulman suggested talking to the CPC. Mr. Dillon thanked Mr. Manugian for his efforts.

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

[Document 2-Statement 12-19-11] Ms. Eliot read her statement into the record. Mr. Haddad welcomed the investigation and stated that at its conclusion he would be exonerated. Ms. Eliot stated that she and Mr. Cunningham have met with the investigator and the decision was to go outside the area so there would be no relationship with the Town. The investigation should be concluded by the end of January. Mr. Dillon asked how the investigator was found. Ms. Eliot stated that Town Counsel recommended the investigator. Mr. Dillon asked if a scope has been defined. Ms. Eliot stated that a scope has been designed. Mr. Cunningham explained that the investigation would alleviate concerns from the public. Mr. Dillon asked if there was potential for the investigation to broaden if new information surfaced. Mr. Degen asked for the investigator to investigate his part in the issue given his feelings that he was not portrayed well. Mr. Cunningham stated that both issues Mr. Dillon and Mr. Degen would be addressed through a timeline of events and that both would get a chance to speak to the investigator.

Mr. Cunningham moved to enter into agreement with Billingsgate Associates of Wellsfleet. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mark Presti asked how information would be given to the community. Mr. Cunningham stated that primary responsibility is to make sure there was no abuse of Town services. Mr. Degen suggested that the Board update its Policies and Procedures for reporting grievances. Mr. Cunningham expressed his concerns with the local chat line and that one cannot govern to the listserve. Ms. Bouvier asked Mr. Presti if he was a resident of Groton. Mr. Presti replied that he was a registered voter of Groton; Ms. Bovier challenged that claim.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Dillon reported that he has attended various budget meetings over the past week and that Department Heads have done a great job. Mr. Schulman attended the Affordable Housing Trust along with Mr. Degen and gave a brief update on 134 Main Street. Mr. Degen stated that there is a signed MOU of \$400k that has been executed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schulman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned

Approved: _____
Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk

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

Date Approved: 1-23-12