

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OCTOBER 7, 2013
APPROVED**

Present: Peter S. Cunningham, Chairman; Anna Eliot, Clerk; Stuart M. Schulman; John G. Petropoulos

Absent: Josh Degen, Vice Chairman

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mr. Cunningham said that he attended the Council on Aging board meeting that morning. A couple of topics mentioned were the annual flu clinic which was going to be held at the senior center on October 10th at 10am and the fuel assistance program. He encouraged people who were able to donate to the fuel assistance program to send a check to the Friends of the Groton Elders.
2. Mr. Petropoulos said that he attended the MMA training over the weekend and added that he would have office hours on Wed. between 630-730pm.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that town meeting warrants were mailed on Friday and urged people to read them as they contained a lot of information. He added that the Planning Board, at their last meeting, voted to withdraw article 17.
2. Mr. Haddad said that a position at the police department had been recently added and posted. The Payroll Grant Coordinator position would be a 15 hour per week position, would oversee payroll and overtime and the overall expenses of the department. The position was posted internally and would be a union position. The search committee consisted of Chief Palma, Suzanne Loverin and Mr. Haddad. He said that they had one internal applicant. Mr. Haddad said that he would like to appoint Joan Tallent, who was retiring as the Assistant Tax Collector/Treasurer in April 2014 and asked the Board to ratify the appointment. *Mr. Schulman moved to affirm the appointment by the Town Manager of Joan Tallent as the Payroll Grant Coordinator. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*
3. Mr. Petropoulos asked for an update on Squannacook Hall. Mr. Haddad said that the Town had hired Dan Wolfe of David Ross Associates who conducted a survey which confirmed that lot lines. He said that the Board of Health was discussing the bedroom capacity that evening. Mr. Cunningham asked if the survey results were shared with the church next door. Mr. Haddad said that he would share the survey results.

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION – REVIEW PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 154 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GROTON

Daniel Barton said that the goal of the proposed amendments was to try to realign Groton's bylaw with Chapter 40C (the Commonwealth's regulations). Mr. Barton explained some of the proposed changes. Mr. Collins said that much of the wording was pulled directly from Chapter 40C as well as case law. Ms. Eliot said that she attended the public hearing the week before. She said that the HDC has had jurisdiction under Chapter 40C all along and was only codifying this in their own bylaw. She thought the changes should make things clearer for the applicants. Mr. Barton said that the changes would allow them to discuss things like screening with the applicants. Screening from things like sheds, signs and satellite dishes. Mr. Haddad said that any changes were also subject to approval by the Attorney General. Mr. Haddad asked the Board if they wanted to take a position or if they wanted to wait until town meeting. Mr. Cunningham said that he was willing to wait until town meeting. The public hearing would not be closed until the following week. He added that he would support the changes. Ms. Eliot said that she would like to point out the level of detail and expertise that had gone into the proposed changes. *Mr. Schulman, Ms. Eliot and Mr. Petropoulos voted to support the changes and the article. Mr. Cunningham said that he would wait until town meeting.*

CONSIDER ACCEPTING THE LAYOUTS OF COW POND BROOK ROAD AND RIDGEWOOD AVE

Mr. Cunningham read the public hearing notice. *Mr. Schulman moved to open the public hearing. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

1. Cow Pond Brook Road - Mr. Collins said that a survey had been done in 1976 and again in 2000. He said that the survey done in 1976 and recorded at the Registry of Deeds shows strips of land along the entire

roadway. The 2000 survey plan no longer showed these strips. He said that the existence of the strips of land fell through the cracks and needed to be corrected. He said that anyone who lived on Cow Brook Pond Road didn't really have frontage because the town owned strips of land were not shown on the survey plan of 2000. He said that if the Board approved the layout plan, they would be correcting an error of history.

2. Ridgewood Ave – Mr. Collins said that the current approved plan was done 85 years old and does not reflect what is on the ground today. He said that the road currently goes through Mr. Doyle's property. He said that the revised plan would show where the road is actually laid out and will correct an accident of history. Mr. Haddad said that Town Counsel had signed off on this plan revision.

Mr. Schulman moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham said that he would entertain a motion to alter the right of way for Cow Pond Brook Road by incorporating into the right of way the land owned by the Town of Groton shown as "No Access Easement" on a plan recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan 1044 of 1976, and to recommend that the relocated right of way be accepted as a town way. Ms. Eliot moved the motion. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eliot moved to relocate the portion of the right of way for Ridgewood Avenue which crosses the property known as 61 Ridgewood Avenue, Assessors' Parcels 122-62 and 122-69, as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Groton, Massachusetts Prepared for: Thomas R. Doyle" dated September 11, 2013 and prepared by Ducharme & Dillis Civil Design Group, Inc., and to recommend that the relocated right of way be accepted as a town way. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked if the Board wanted to take a position on the road layouts. Mr. Schulman, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Petropoulos and Ms. Eliot were all in favor of supporting the road layouts.

MINUTES

Mr. Petropoulos moved to accept the regular session minutes of September 23, 2013. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Eliot moved to accept the regular session minutes of September 26, 2013. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, with Mr. Schulman abstaining. Roll Call: Eliot-aye; Cunningham-aye; Petropoulos-aye.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Eliot said that the speed limit signs on Farmers Row at Groton School were approved with the condition of a one year review. She said that she would like to bring the discussion back for that review. Mr. Petropoulos asked if a speed survey had been done and if not it might be good to do one now to see if the signs are working to control speed. Mr. Cunningham said they could ask the MRPC to do that for them. Mr. Haddad said that he would put it on a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Eliot moved to adjourn at 8:08pm. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Anna Eliot, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 11/4/13