

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES JUNE 9, 2015
APPROVED**

Present: John G. Petropoulos, Chair; Anna Eliot, Vice Chair; Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; Joshua A. Degen, Member

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

Mr. Petropoulos called to order at 4:30pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cunningham said that he was the GELD liaison and wanted to provide the Board with an update on the solar project. He said GELD entered into a contract with Solar City based on a response to an RFP which had fallen apart. He said Solar City upped the cost by \$1M. He said they have now gone with Emesco the number two bid. The PILOT payment is the same. Mr. Haddad said that the lease was also going to stay the same. Mr. Cunningham said that another issue they were working to rectify was their dump. He said that even though the dump was closed and had been closed they never received closure letter from DEP in 2004. DEP recognizes that there was an oversight on their part and should be rectifying this shortly. Mr. Petropoulos asked if there were any practical changes. Mr. Cunningham said "no." Mr. Petropoulos asked if this delayed them. Mr. Cunningham said it did a little but thought the lease language was good. He said that DEP realized they made an error and would rectify this soon. Emesco had experience with this. Mr. Haddad said that templates are being used. Mr. Cunningham said that there was no loss in their legal investment and was a real benefit to GELD in the end.

Mr. Degen said that Sargisson Beach opened on Memorial Day. He said the hours were posted at the beach and on the Town's website. He said that the CPC approved wall restoration project was complete. He said that as part of an Eagle Scout project the stairs were complete. He said there would be a formal dedication in July.

Ms. Eliot said that the Prescott Committee would be meeting at 7pm that night.

Mr. Petropoulos said that GELD's building was now open. Mr. Cunningham added that the paving needed to be done but the offices are open.

Mr. Petropoulos said that the northern route was still preferred route of the Pipeline. He said that the Committee met the day before and hoped they were going north because of opposition we levied adding that the communities to Groton's north were now doing the same thing. He said that there was something they could do such as consider sending a letter; something he would update them with at a later date. Mr. Schulman said that the Pipeline Coalition now has Peabody involved and would meet following Monday. He said that New Hampshire was the favored route because there were a lot of power lines there already. He said it was actually a longer route and also more expensive. Mr. Petropoulos said that agreements with property owners have already been made on the New Hampshire route for compressor stations along the way.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that SEIU 888 Highway/Transfer Station/Water Employees Union contract needed to be ratified. He said that Town Meeting had already approved the funding. He said that this contract was for 2% a year for 3 years, they agreed to amend and clean up the performance incentive program to include no merit increase for meeting the expectations of the job. He said this contract clarified

how water department employees are compensated for call backs and increased winter call back hours by \$10 longevity in the 3rd year. Mr. Haddad said that the FY16 cost was \$20K, the FY17 cost was \$11K and the FY18 cost was \$16K for a total contract cost of \$56K. Mr. Haddad thanked SEIU 888 for working so closely with the Town and asked the Board to consider ratifying the contract. Mr. Schulman asked if this was the last contract to be ratified. Mr. Haddad said that it was adding that the Board had met in Executive Session and signed off on this at that time. He said that they had been waiting on the Union to bring it forward for ratification.

Mr. Cunningham moved to ratify the contract between the Town of Groton and SEIU 888 Highway/Transfer Station/Water Department which would be in effect from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Haddad said that the Sargisson Beach Committee had requested that he appoint Jordan Dorff of 6 Englewood Avenue, Groton as the Park Ranger. He said that Mr. Dorff just graduated from Groton Dunstable Regional High School and would be attending the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the Fall. He said that this was a great summer job adding that the last Park Ranger had worked for the Town for four years. He said that Mr. Dorff had done a great job with his interview and asked the Board to ratify the appointment. Mr. Cunningham asked if Mr. Dorff would also be monitoring the parking. Mr. Degen said that the Park Ranger would monitor the parking lot, the path and the beach, rake, pick up trash and any other debris, among other things the lifeguards would not do.

Mr. Cunningham moved to affirm the appointment of the Town Manager of Jordan Dorff as the Park Ranger effective today, June 9, 2015. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mr. Haddad said that the Groton Garden Club had won both a state and national award for its civic beautification project at the Groton Historical Society also known as the Boutwell House. He said that they received a certificate of merit for outstanding civic development from the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts and a silver plated tray for civic achievement from the National Garden Clubs. He said that he would like to congratulate them on their outstanding efforts and their national recognition. Ms. Eliot said that there was also collaboration from the Friends of the Trees, CPC funds, the Highway Department and a lot of town residents and departments. She said there would be a celebration this summer. Mr. Cunningham suggested that a proclamation be created for the celebration.
4. Mr. Haddad said that they were in the process of sending out letters to the local businesses later this week to see what their feelings are towards one hour parking on Main Street. He said that he would bring it back to the Board for discussion at a future meeting.
5. Mr. Haddad said that he was in receipt of a proposed charge from Mr. Lathrop for the Invasive Species Control Meeting and was scheduled for discussion at their June 22nd meeting.
6. Mr. Haddad said that the Town's fireworks were scheduled for dusk on July 6th. He said that that was a regular meeting night of the Board and asked if they wanted to meet earlier in the evening so that people may attend the fireworks and suggested a 5pm meeting time. Mr. Petropoulos asked if they could start at 5:30pm. Mr. Haddad added that he had been approached by someone who wondered if it was possible for the Board to start their meetings earlier during the summer months. He said that

any scheduled public hearing would take place toward the end of the meeting. Mr. Degen said that 6pm would work much better for him and had no problem starting earlier. Mr. Petropoulos asked if they could take a week or two to think about it and see what the public had to say.

WEBSITE DOMAIN NAME CHANGE

Mr. Haddad said that IT Director Mike Chiasson had come to him a while ago and asked if switching the Town's domain name from townofgroton.org to GrotonMA.gov was something they could consider. He said that the reasoning was because they are a government entity and not an organization which made more sense to be a .gov.

Mr. Chiasson said that they had acquired the GrotonMA.gov domain name and was currently being tested behind the scenes. Mr. Chiasson said that a .gov domain name would give visitors to the site more trust knowing that they were who they said they were. He said that it would help prevent cyber squatters from holding the domain name hostage using whitehouse.gov and whitehouse.com as an example of cybersquatting. He said that the Town would retain the .org domain name for an indefinite period of time at an annual cost of approximately \$10. He said that they would set up redirects on their existing URL's for each website page. He said that people searching for townofgroton.org would be redirected to GrotonMA.gov. He said that current town email address would also remain in effect for an indefinite period of time and each person's inbox would be configured for both. When the .gov setup was completed, replies to emails would come from the .gov and be the default sender. Mr. Chiasson said that they would reach out to others and ask that they manually update our links to help our presence, such as State and Federal websites, Wikipedia, etc.

Ms. Eliot asked if achieved material would be able to be found and read. Mr. Chiasson said "yes" adding that nothing would change. Ms. Eliot asked what company would host the domain. Mr. Chiasson said that they would host it themselves right now which would allow them to manage it. Mr. Cunningham said that he thought the .gov made sense. Mr. Chiasson added that it was a rigorous process for them to go through to obtain the .gov name. Mr. Schulman asked if it had been implemented. Mr. Chiasson said that the domain name was theirs but had not been implemented yet. They were still performing tests. Mr. Haddad said that they wanted to announce this tonight adding that it had generated a lot of debate earlier that day. Mr. Schulman said that a lot of the opinions being provided were true a few years ago but not now. Mr. Chiasson agreed that some good points had been made. Mr. Petropoulos said that it was great that this generated so much discussion adding it allowed them to address it.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Haddad offered the following appointments for the Board's consideration:

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Affordable Housing Trust, 2 year term

Joshua Degen
David Wilder

By-Law Review & Study Committee, 1 year term

Michael Bouchard
Mark W. Haddad
Peter Cunningham
Jay Prager

Community Preservation Committee, 3 year term

Richard Hewitt (BOS)

Conservation Commission, 3 year term

Marshall Giguere
Rena Swezey
John Smigelski

Council on Aging, 3 year term

Edward Wenzell
George Faircloth
Richard Marton

Economic Development Committee, 1 year term

Anna Eliot
Michael Rasmussen
Russell Burke
Gregory Troughton
Art Prest

Mr. Haddad said that Gineane Haberlin had asked not to be reappointed to Community Preservation Committee which would leave a vacancy.

Mr. Cunningham moved to make the appointments as recommended by the Town Manager. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Mr. Degen said that he would like to abstain on the portion where he was being appointed. The Board said they saw no conflict in him voting. The Motion carried unanimously.

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Finance Committee, 3 year term

Gary Green
Mark Bacon
Norman "Bud" Robertson

Housing Partnership, 1 year term

Peter Cunningham
Carolyn Perkins

Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee, 1 year term

Michael Rosa
Thomas Orcutt
Mark Deuger
Susan Horowitz
Jack Petropoulos
Art Prest

Lowell Regional Transit Authority, 1 year term

Joshua Degen

MBTA Advisory Committee, 1 year term

Joshua Degen

Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee, 1 year term

David Manugian

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, 1 year term

Mark Haddad

Personnel Board, 3 year term

Mary Jennings

Scholarship Committee, 3 year term

Alberta Erickson

Jeannie Erickson

Mr. Cunningham moved to make appointments as read. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad said that he was asked to discuss the Military Community Covenant separately. Mr. Cunningham said that the Committee had been somewhat inactive for some time adding that the Military doesn't release information too often and it was hard for them to reach out to the Veteran's because of this. He said there was very little need or call for covenant. Ms. Eliot said it was important to identify that they had this available to the veterans in the event something was needed. Mr. Cunningham said that he agreed adding that Bob Johnson, the Town's Veterans Service Agent was the primary contact and saw no harm in maintaining the Covenant. Mr. Haddad asked if they wanted to reduce the number of members to five whereas there were always multiple vacancies. The Board agreed.

Ms. Eliot moved to amend the Charge of the Military Community Covenant to five. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Ms. Eliot added an effective date of July 1, 2015. Mr. Cunningham amended the motion to include approving the appointments of himself, Anna Eliot, Peter Braudis and Robert Johnson for one year terms. Mr. Schulman seconded the amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

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Underground Utility Committee, 1 year

Anna Eliot

R. Thomas Delaney, Jr.

Ellen Cummings (Verizon Rep)

William Sahini (Charter Rep)

Kevin Kelley

2 Vacancies

Zoning Board of Appeals

Mark Mulligan, 3 year term

Bruce Easom, 1 year term as alternate

Alberta Erickson, 1 year term as alternate

Sustainability Committee, 1 year term

Carl Canner

Chris Christie

Carl Flowers

Leo Laverdure

Michael Roberts

Patricia Kahorl

Bruce Easom

Alison D. Peterson

Tennessee Gas Pipeline, 1 year term

Peter Cunningham

Kevin Kelly

Jack Petropoulos

Dennis Eklof

John Llodra
Steele McCurdy
Peter Morrison
Takashi Tada, as alternate
1 School Committee Representative Vacancy

Mr. Cunningham moved to make the appointments as read. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1 in favor with Mr. Degen opposed.

Mr. Degen said that he was forced to vote against all read because he was opposed to one appointment. He asked if the ZBA could be broken out and revoted.

Mr. Cunningham moved to rescind the previous motion. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham moved to make the appointments as read to the Sustainability Commission, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Committee, and Underground Utility Committee. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad said that he had been asked to leave out the appointment of Town Counsel and deferred to Mr. Schulman. Mr. Schulman said that he had not been thrilled with Kopelman and Paige over the past year and thought they should discuss looking around adding he couldn't be specific of his concerns. Mr. Petropoulos agreed it was worth a discussion. Ms. Eliot said that it was good to go through the exercise every so often. Mr. Cunningham said that they could go out to bid but timing was on their side. Mr. Haddad said that they could continue the contract. Mr. Degen suggested extending the contract for three months and reach out to others.

Mr. Degen moved to extend Town Counsel services to Kopelman and Paige through September 15, 2015. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham moved to ask the Town Manager to draft a Request for Proposal for Town Counsel services. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad said that Alberta Erickson and Bruce Easom were seeking reappointment to their one year teams as alternates on the ZBA and asked that Board to consider making those appointments.

Mr. Cunningham moved to make the appointments of Alberta Erickson and Bruce Easom as one year alternates to the ZBA. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cunningham rescinded his motion and moved to appoint to ZBA Mark Mulligan for a three year term, Alberta Erickson and Bruce Easom to one year terms as Alternates. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1 in favor with Mr. Degen opposed.

Mr. Haddad said that he had a couple of additional Town Manager appointments and asked the Board to consider ratifying them.

Election Worker, 1 year term

Jack Balonis

Agricultural Commission, 3 year term

Gineane Haberlin

Mr. Haddad said that he would like the Board to rescind the vote of an appointment he made last week. Sean O'Neill has decided that he does not have enough time to attend many of the Agricultural Commission meetings and would like to be appointed as an alternate instead. The Commission has recommended that Gineane Haberlin be appointed in his place to a three year term.

Groton Country Club Staff

Haley Dupell – Pro Shop

William Goddard, IV - Lifeguard

Connor Gardner – Staff – Golf

Jared Magno - Lifeguard

Kyle Gardner – Staff – Golf

Julie Baker - Lifeguard

Garrett Ready – Staff – Golf

Chelsea Nolan - Asst. Aquatics Director

Mr. Degen moved to ratify the appointments of the Town Manager as read and described. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to approve the presented list of Executive Session meeting minutes and not release them.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of March 16, 2015 – Part 1, March 16, 2015 – Part 2, April 6, 2015 and May 14, 2015 and not release any of them. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion.

Mr. Degen said that he was unsure as to why the March 16, 2015 minutes, Parts 1 and 2 could not be released. Mr. Haddad said that they dealt with personnel matters. Mr. Degen said that he and another Selectman had waived their rights. Ms. Eliot said that they were not the only ones mentioned. Mr. Petropoulos asked if they could redact the citizen portion. Ms. Eliot said that they could request an opinion from Town Counsel. Mr. Haddad suggested approving the minutes and hold off on the release of them until they receive the opinion from Town Counsel.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Executive Session minutes read earlier and not release. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of March 16, 2015, March 30, 2015, April 2, 2015, April 6, 2015, April 13, 2015, April 21, 2015, April 27, 2015, May 4, 2015 and May 11, 2015. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad said that their next meeting would be on June 22nd at 6pm and their July 6th meeting would be starting at 5:30pm so that people may attend the fireworks.

Mr. Degen moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:38pm. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____

Stuart Schulman, Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,

Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 7/6/15