

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES AUGUST 8, 2016
APPROVED**

BOS Members Present: John G. Petropoulos, Chair; Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; Anna Eliot, Member

Absent: Barry Pease; Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager

Also Present: Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Mr. Petropoulos called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Degen explained how they were not able to fund the lifeguards at Sargisson Beach this year with the failure of the override even though it was a great resource and had seen an increase in users this year. He said that he had been working with the Town Manager to see about receiving private funding from residents. He said that they had received generous donations from Bob Kiley, Ebi Masalehdan, David Moulton, Val Prest, and Art Prest with an additional commitment which would carry them through Labor Day. He said that they were still \$4,500 short if they wanted to have lifeguards from Memorial Day through July 1 of next year. He asked people to consider donating and thanked those again that had donated. ;

Mr. Cunningham said that they had just come from a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new solar field on Cow Pond Brook Road. He said that GELD had already seen help during peak hours.

Chief McCurdy said that he was present to recognize two citizens. He said that Mike Bourassa, an employee at Seven Hills, recognized on July 27th that a fire had broken out in the control room at the facility. He said that Mr. Bourassa worked to extinguish the fire with minimal smoke and fire damage. Chief McCurdy said that on behalf of himself and the Police Chief and the entire Town of Groton, he commended Mr. Bourassa for his actions on July 27th.

Chief McCurdy said that he also wanted to recognize Steve Gordon. He said that Mr. Gordon, also an employee at Seven Hills, noticed that there was a patient and staff member trapped in the elevator adjacent to the room that was on fire. He said that Mr. Gordon pried open the elevator door and rescued them. He said that the dedication of the staff at Seven Hills needed to be recognized. Mr. Degen thanked the Chief for bringing these commendations forward adding it was very admirable of these individuals to perform these acts.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Petropoulos said that they had been asked to approve one final agreement on the solar field. Mr. Cunningham said that he saw the correspondence between the Town, Ameresco and the Attorneys and spoke to the Town Manager about this. He said that this was a financing mechanism and thought they should sign off on it. Mr. Degen said that he spoke to TM and agreed with Mr. Cunningham. He said that this was a financing mechanism and it changed nothing in the previous agreements. Ms. Eliot said that she too spoke to the Town Manager and GELD and had no problem with this. Doesn't affect town. Mr. Petropoulos said that he too spoke to the Town Manager and had no issue with them signing this.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Consent and Agreement between the Town, GELD and Ameresco and amended his motion after a brief discussion to allow for the Chair to be the signatory on the final agreement once received from Town Counsel. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Degen moved to affirm the appointment of the Town Manager of Maureen Faircloth as an Election Worker term to end June 30, 2017. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Chief Palma said that he was present to ask the Board to ratify an appointment. He explained the process through which Reserve Officers go and the program he has in place to appoint reserves. He said that he was bringing forward Jonathan Shattuck, a 2004 Groton Dunstable Regional graduate. He said that Mr. Stewart currently serves as the lacrosse coach at Lawrence Academy and started out in the department as a part time dispatcher in 2010. He said that he became a full time dispatcher in 2013. Mr. Cunningham said he thought Mr. Shattuck had a good resume and background and thought he was well qualified.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the appointment of the Town Manager of Johnathan Shattuck effective today. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Palma said that he wanted to let people know about the blue ribbons around town. He said that this was an initiative by the State police wives to let the police know they were not forgotten and were cared for. He said that with all of the bad news lately on TV, the Groton PD had received a lot of calls and people just stopping by over the past month and he wanted to make sure the Town they appreciated that and knew they had support within the community. He said that they were not perfect but that they strived to get there every day.

GEORGE MOORE – FIELD DRIVER AND FENCE VIEWER ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. George Moore said that these appointments were old colonial appointments dating back to the mid-1600s. He said that he was appointed in 2008 and had not done too much as fence viewer and even less as a field viewer. Mr. Moore said that Chapter 49 of MGL states that the Town shall appoint two (2) people as fence viewers. He said that the duties of a Fence Viewer were to check fences to make sure they were good enough for keeping livestock in as an example. He said that he had only had to check a few. Mr. Moore said that the duties of a Field Driver allowed the driver to go onto a property and take stray animals. He gave an example of an instance he had a few years ago where pigs had escaped. Mr. Moore said that he was also the Keeper of the Pound adding he enjoyed all his duties as he had met some great people along the way doing this. He said that he hoped to continue holding these roles for a long time. He said that he would like to ask the Board to seek a second Fence Viewer as stated in MGL. The Board thanked Mr. Moore for his time and asked interested parties to submit an interest form.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

3. Mr. Orcutt said that he was there along with the Water Commissioners to let the Board and residents know that the water issue had gotten worse since he was last in. He said that because of the lack of rainwater, they were issuing a complete water ban until further notice. Mr. Orcutt said that they would be keeping track of residents that don't adhere to this ban and unfortunately would be fined. He said that this was an extremely difficult situation for the Water Department adding it was the worst drought since 1985. Mr. Cunningham said that the charts provided in their packets showed how bad it was. Mr. Bob Collins asked if a reverse 911 call was going to go out. Mr. Orcutt said that one was going to go out either that night or the following day. Mr. Degen said that he had talked to Mr. Orcutt multiple times about hoses he had running at his home. He said that his business had been registered by Mr. Orcutt and the water was required in order to continue to run his horticultural business. He said that he wanted to dispel rumors that he was personally irrigating. Mr. Orcutt agreed with Mr. Degen adding that would be the next ban to be issued should they need to. Mr. Orcutt said that their systems could not take the stresses of a drought and they were doing the best they could to preserve what they had. Mr. Robertson asked if businesses on Main Street with lawns were under the same restriction. Mr. Orcutt said that businesses were limited for two days per week at the moment.
4. Mr. Petropoulos said that the Finance Committee had recommended that Lorraine Leonard be appointed to the Finance Committee. Mr. Robertson said that they had a meeting but did not have a quorum. He said that the three of them there interviewed Ms. Leonard and thought because of her great background in finance she would be a good addition to the Committee and hoped that the Board would appoint her. Ms. Leonard said that she was on the Finance Committee over 10 years ago adding that she had been the Finance Director in the Town of Harvard as well as the CFO for Harvard Schools. She said that she had recently retired and was hoping to jump right in if appointed. Mr. Cunningham said that he had known Ms. Leonard for years and thought she was highly qualified.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Lorraine Leonard to the Finance Committee, term to expire June 30, 2017. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. *Mr. Degen moved to continue the public hearing on the Groton School sidewalks. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Bob Collins said that in the absence of a convenient time for all to get together to discuss the plans, he sent plans to Tim McGivern at Nitsch Engineering. He said that there were minor issues that would be attended to in the normal course of things. Mr. Collins said that Mr. McGivern had requested that Groton Schools engineer provide them with a plan that shows an up-to-date detail on the crosswalk with the synthetic brick. He said that Mr. McGivern also felt that there ought to be an additional sign indicating you were approaching a school zone. Mr. Collins said that he didn't think additional signs were necessary adding the road was a fairly straight, flat section of road that most were aware of. He said that if the Board approved this, they would be moving to 100% design. Ms. Eliot said that she was the one that asked for an engineer to look at this and thought they had gone above and beyond. Mr. Degen said that he had talked to Mr. Delaney

about a letter he sent the Board. Mr. Delaney said that his letter had the wrong date on it but said that most of his comments were minor details. He said he didn't want to see the project bogged down adding it was being done at no cost to the Town. He said that laying imbedded bricks down for the crosswalks would heave when the frost hits and be torn up by the plow trucks. He said that nice alternatives included stamped asphalt adding it was classy but functional and safe. Mr. Degen asked if the sidewalk width was complaint with ADA and complete streets. Mr. Delaney said that any improvements for bike and pedestrian access met the complete streets goal. He said that sidewalks needed to be 4fy wide to meet ADA compliance. Mr. Degen said that there were five (5) sidewalks in total, one on Peabody Street and four on Farmers Row and asked if each one would have a crosswalk button. Mr. Collins said that each one would have a button. Mr. Degen said he didn't want to see Farmers Row lit up more than it was and asked if there were other alternatives. Mr. Collins said that he didn't disagree but thought they were effective. He said that he could speak to Groton School and the traffic engineers and report back to the Board. Ms. Eliot said that she would rather have those signs instead of the solar panel speed signs adding she didn't want to see more lighted signs either. Mr. Cunningham said that he thought they accomplished what they were looking to achieve. He said that the engineers could speak to the requests and make modifications adding they might have ideas for alternative signage. Mr. Cunningham said that he was okay with approving this and appreciated the gift from Groton School to the community.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the plan installation of the sidewalks at Groton School and down Peabody Street and to review the signage at a later date. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion.

Mr. Degen said he would like to see the motion amended or he would make an amendment to it that this 90% plan completion be subject to 100% plan approval by the DPW director. Mr. Collins agreed. Mr. Cunningham said that more signage would be done at that time but that the Highway Department will be in the loop. Ms. Eliot said that this road would go through major review when Indian Hill submits their application adding there would be traffic studies with that. Mr. Cunningham said that his motion allowed Groton School to move forward adding they were not approving this at a 100% level right now.

Mr. Cunningham amended his original motion to include DPW approval at 100% design stage. Ms. Eliot seconded the amendment.

Mr. Cunningham said that they needed to acknowledge what Groton School was doing for the Town. Mr. Robertson asked if Chief Palma would have an opinion on the signs and crosswalks. Mr. Collins said that the Chief would be in on the next conversation.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pease called into the meeting at 6:58pm.

MINUTES

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of July 11, 2016. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Petropoulos moved to adjourn at 7:00pm.

Approved: _____
Barry Pease, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 9/6/16