

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MAY 27, 2003**  
**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**  
**"APPROVED"**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. This was a momentous occasion as noted by all members of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) as it was the first five-member board since the incorporation of the Groton "some 350 years ago."

Present: Thomas D. Hartnett; George F. Dillon, Jr.; John L. Saball; Peter S. Cunningham, Virginia C. Wood, Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen and Maria Casey, Administrative Secretary.

**Reorganization**

*Ms. Wood moved to elect Tom Hartnett as Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.*

*Ms. Wood moved to elect Fran Dillon as Vice Chair. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.*

*Ms. Wood moved to elect Jack Saball as Clerk. Seconded by Mr. Dillon. Unanimous vote.*

**Mill Street Relocation**

In attendance for this portion of the meeting were Josh Degen and Bob Lewis, Planning Board; Michelle Collette, Planning Administrator; Police Chief Mulhern.

A redesign for the relocation of Mill Street entrance was discussed and is enclosed herein. Mill Street Relocation will address a safety measure concern. Mr. Lewis was in favor of a consultant/engineer reviewing the design plan and further added that the applicant, Ryan Development, can do whatever they want with the property if they've got the required frontage on the lot. He stated that the engineer would be able to add traffic calming measures such as the Route 119/225 intersection / Shaws. It was also discussed that if the warrants were met, this location may need to be reconfigured for another light by Mass Highway. Chief Mulhern stated that the initial plans that were submitted he was pleased with. He also stated that he was not in favor of making Mill Street not a through for trucks. He further stated that he would not want to see any development without any changes made to the intersection. Currently the accident rate at this intersection is "not that bad;" however with the development, this would be an opportunity to improve the intersection.

Ms. Collette state that according to Town Counsel, there are two ways: A definitive plan to come before the Planning Board for review upon which the applicant is in the driver's seat or the BOS to layout a new road and discontinue the old road. The layout and discontinuance would require town meeting vote.

Ms. Wood stated that there are two options 1) inquire if the developer would be willing to pay for this Or 2) involve MRPC to see if they can include this project on their TIP list.

Mr. Hartnett concurred and added that he would like to get the developer involved in this project.

Ms. Wood stated that perhaps there should be a committee made up of a Planning Board member, Highway Surveyor, Police Chief, representative from NEBS, the developer, a neighborhood representative and the Board of Selectmen member.

Mr. Dillon stated that the BOS needs to come up with the best possible solution for all involved to include communication with the neighbors.

**Reserve Officer Appointment**

*Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Daniele M. Paganelli as a Reserve Officer for the term to expire June 30, 2004, with a one-year probationary period. Seconded by Ms. Wood. Unanimous vote.*

**Town Clerk Vacancy**

Town Clerk Bonnie Biocchi had stated that she will be resigning as Town Clerk to take a position with Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Kitchen stated that we would need a formal resignation at which point the BOS can determine whether to call a special election or appoint an interim in the meantime. Ms. Biocchi stated that she plans to be done by July 4<sup>th</sup>. She would be working on the transition during the month of June.

Ms. Biocchi recommended that the BOS appoint Assistant Town Clerk Onorina Maloney to the position of Acting Town Clerk. She stated that Ms. Maloney be the best candidate as she would continue all of the services she instituted during her tenure. This appointment would facilitate a very smooth transition for the residents of Groton.

The Board requested that Ms. Biocchi submit a transition plan and submit her letter of resignation for next week's agenda.

**Summer Schedule**

While reviewing the summer schedule, Mr. Dillon suggested that the BOS meet every week. He stated that he felt he would like to get off on the right foot and have "a lot on our plates."

Ms. Wood and Mr. Saball concurred. Mr. Cunningham stated that he would defer to the other members. The BOS agreed to meet every week during June and review July and August's schedule at that time. With vacations and the like during the months of July and August, it may make better sense to meet every other week then.

**GDRSD - Poison Ivy Spraying**

*Ms. Wood moved to approve the request for application of pesticide to eradicate the poison ivy dated May 13, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.*

**Regular Session Minutes**

*Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes of May 19, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Two in favor with three abstentions (Dillon, Saball and Wood).*

**Constable**

Ms. Kitchen notified the BOS that a resident was interested in becoming an appointed constable. She stated that we currently have 3 elected constables. Mr. Cunningham inquired if there was need for an appointed constable that the elected constables aren't able to fulfill. Ms. Kitchen noted that there were not any duties that were unfilled. Mr. Hartnett stated that he felt if there was not a need being met than the resident could wait until the next election at which time they can run for office. The BOS was in unanimous agreement.

*Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
John L. Saball, Clerk

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*Respectfully submitted,*  
Maria Casey,  
Administrative Secretary

Date Approved: June 30, 2003