

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DECEMBER 19, 2005  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
“APPROVED”**

**Present:** George F. Dillon, Jr., Chair; Robert W. Nordblom, Clerk; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; Mihran Keoseian, Member; Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen; and Kathleen Newell, Office Assistant

**Absent:** John L. Saball, Vice Chair

The meeting opened at 7:03 P.M.

**Sewer Commissioner Vacancy**

Sewer Commissioners Jim Gmeiner and Tom Hartnett; and Ms. Dolores Alberghini were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Dillon stated that the vacancy would be for the position which had been capably held by the late Mr. Harlan Fitch. Mr. Gmeiner stated that Ms. Alberghini had expressed her interest in becoming a Sewer Commissioner. Mr. Hartnett reviewed Ms. Alberghini's qualifications.

Mr. Dillon asked if both commissioners were supporting Ms. Alberghini.

*Mr. Cunningham moved to nominate Dolores Alberghini as Sewer Commissioner for the unexpired term to expire upon the next annual town election in 2006. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

A verbal vote was cast with unanimous results for Ms. Alberghini.

*Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Dolores Alberghini as Sewer Commissioner for the unexpired term to expire upon the next annual town election in 2006. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

**Gordon K. Newell, West Groton Water District Superintendent RE: Memo of Understanding W. Groton Water District and Town Forest Committee & Agreement Between W. Groton Water District and Groton Water District**

Mr. Gordon K. Newell; Mr. Chris Kelley; Mr. Jack Ridsen; and Mr. Steve Babin were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Newell stated that the agreement was a simple document which gives the West Groton Water Supply District (WGWSO) the right to operate but does not transfer any property to the WGWSO, also if the District ceases to use the well after a certain amount of years the easement will self extinguish.

Mr. Newell stated that an easement will be granted along the rail bed subject to 310 CMR 2200. Mr. Newell stated that article had been passed along for a second reading in the House and Senate and would be voted upon between January 10 and 15, 2006. Mr. Newell stated that an extension had been granted, with the help of Representative Robert Hargraves and Senator Steven Panagiotakos.

Mr. Newell stated that the first option, which Mr. Fitch had proposed would be a 700' cross country easement which was the recommendation of the Conservation Commission and Natural Heritage. Mr. Babin stated that the 700' cross country route had proved to be the best alternative.

Mr. Dillon read a memo from the Conservation Commission and stated that the Memo of Understanding and subsequent Municipal Agreement were approved by Town Counsel.

Mr. Orcutt stated that the inter-municipal agreement was a historical moment and could be beneficial to the townspeople. Mr. Orcutt commended Mr. Newell and the Board, stating that a lot of detail had gone into the agreement. Mr. Keoseian commended the level of detail and asked if the document would be available to the townspeople for viewing. Ms. Kitchen stated that there were copies with the Board of Selectmen, Water Department, W. Groton Water Supply District and Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Kelley stated that the Water Commission had not taken a formal vote, however he was in support of the measure. Mr. Orcutt stated that the first step would be for the Board of Selectmen to endorse it.

*Mr. Nordblom moved to execute the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Town of Groton (Acting by its Board of Selectmen and Town Forest Committee) and the West Groton Water Supply District, dated December 19, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

*Mr. Nordblom moved to execute the Inter-municipal Agreement for the Operation of the Municipal Well (#18 in the Groton Town Forest) by and between the Town of Groton Board of Water Supply District, dated December 19, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

The Board of Selectmen, Town Forest Committee and W. Groton Water District signed the MOU and Inter-municipal agreement.

-

**Attorney Robert Collins RE: Armstrong Common**

Attorney Robert Collins and Mr. Don Black were present for this portion of the meeting.

Attorney Collins reviewed a plan. Mr. Cunningham noted the canopy of crabapple trees and stated that it did not replicate the area it was moved from. Attorney Collins stated that it had been an attempt to incorporate the memorial into a swath of grass and by adding the bench to one side would make it a nicer memorial than others in the area. Attorney Collins stated that all he needed was the Board's comments and they would see the plan executed.

Mr. Black noted that the plan did not call for any sidewalk and further asked to clarify that the paving would be not pavement but actual stone pavers. Attorney Collins stated that he could ask Groton School to install one-hundred feet of sidewalk. Mr. Cunningham asked if there could be a break in the fence behind the memorial to access the parking in the rear.

Mr. Cunningham asked if when the work is actually started, the Board could be notified so that they may review it.

Attorney Collins stated that he would copy the Board and Mr. Black and will ask that they mark where the fence will be placed.

-

-

-

-

**350<sup>th</sup> Committee RE: Anniversary Quilt**

Ms. Pat Hallett was present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Dillon read a letter from Ms. Hallett asking that the memorial quilt be moved from the Library to the Town Hall.

Ms. Hallett stated that the quilt was the result of an ambitious endeavor by twenty-five people and had been totally funded by individuals, the Groton Women's Club, Littleton Lumber, NEBS and Peter Moller who had donated hundreds of hours to build the frame to house the quilt. Ms. Kitchen stated that she and Ms. Collette had looked at the building and decided that the upstairs meeting room would be the best location to display the quilt.

**Gene Sutherland of Shaw's RE: Donation to Scholarship Fund**

Mr. Sutherland presented a check to the Board for the Town's Scholarship fund in the amount of \$1,000 from Shaw's Supermarkets.

Mr. Dillon thanked Mr. Sutherland on behalf of Shaw's for coming to Groton and for the sensitivity they displayed for the concerns of the area residents.

**June Johnson RE: Conservation Restriction Bates/Blackman Property**

Attorney June Johnson, Mr. Ed McNierney, and Mr. Chris Nordstrom, Trustees of Reservations were present for this portion of the meeting.

Attorney Johnson stated that the language of the restriction had been vetted through Town Counsel and proceeded to hand out certification from the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Nordstrom stated that the Trustees of Reservations have conservation restrictions in all parts of the State; however this would be the first for Groton. Mr. McNierney stated that the Town would benefit from the professional expertise of the Trustees.

Mr. Dillon asked what the conservation restriction would have on the property. Mr. McNierney stated that there would be no change in the allowable uses of the property and the goal is to ensure that the property remains in its current state or better and remains protected in perpetuity.

Mr. Nordstrom stated that one advantage of the dual role is that trespassing by abutters can be addressed by more than one agency pushing back.

Mr. Blackman stated that he could relax knowing that the two agencies would be working together to ensure that the property will stay protected.

*Mr. Cunningham moved to accept the Deed of Conservation Restriction for premises owned by Arthur Blackman and Camilla Blackman located in the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, (Old Ayer Road and Indian Hill Road) of approximately 47.5 acres, recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book 11624, Page 460 and a portion of the premises at Book 15210 page 435 as described in Exhibit A of the Deed of Conservation Restriction, dated December 19, 2005 to the Groton Conservation Trust. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Common Victualler License Renewal – Groton Exchange 318 Main Street**

*Mr. Nordblom moved to approve renewal for a Common Victualler License for Groton Exchange, Inc. license to expire December 31, 2007. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

### **MINUTES**

*Mr. Nordblom moved to approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 14, 2006, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

*Mr. Nordblom moved to approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 21, 2006, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

The Regular Session Minutes of December 5, 2006 were tabled for further review.

*Mr. Nordblom moved to approve and not release the Executive Session Minutes of October 24, 2006, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

*Mr. Nordblom moved to approve and not release the Executive Session Minutes of November 22, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. 4 in favor, 1 absent (Saball).*

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Ms. Kitchen stated the budget process had begun.

### **SELECTMEN LIAISON UPDATE**

Mr. Cunningham referenced a letter in his packet that Dann Chamberlain had drafted regarding the MBTA Ayer and asked that the Board of Selectmen also send a letter of support. Ms. Kitchen stated that she would write a letter with the caveats At the MBTA meeting the Ayer station was deemed inadequate and a parking garage had been suggested, however that proposal had not been well received by the Ayer residents.

Mr. Nordblom stated that he had attended an Earth Removal Advisory Committee meeting regarding the stormwater by-law and he felt the by-law would be beneficial to the Town.

Mr. Keoseian stated that the GDRSD Superintendent had concluded his series of presentations for the FY07 Budget and there would be a follow up meeting. They are looking for an 8% increase in funding. Mr. Keoseian and Mr. Webber would be attending the next meeting.

*Mr. Cunningham moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:20, in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, for the*

*purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining or litigation position. Also to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and will not reconvene in open session. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Roll Call Vote: Dillon – yes; Nordblom – yes; Cunningham – yes; Keoseian – yes.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert W. Nordblom, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Newell  
Office Assistant

Date Approved: March 27, 2006