

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES, APRIL 2, 2007  
APPROVED**

Present: Peter S. Cunningham, Chair; George Dillon Jr., Vice Chair; John L. Saball, Clerk; Mihran Keoseian; Jeff Ritter, Interim Administrative Officer  
Absent: Joshua Degen

**Announcements and Review Agenda Items:** *The meeting was called to order at 6:55p.m. by Mr. Cunningham who reviewed the Agenda for the public and made other public announcements.*

**Public Hearing: Deerfield Drive; Allison Park; Fawn Terrace Lane (Layouts)**

At 7:00p.m. Mr. Dillon made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Voted 4-0.

Mr. Cunningham read the legal notice that appeared on March 23, 2007 in the Groton Herald. It was noted that on February 22, 2007 Planning Board voted unanimously to release the remaining funds held in the performance bond for Deer Haven subdivision. Further, the Planning Board voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they layout the following roads, Deer Haven; Alison Park; and Fawn Terrace Lane.

Attorney Robert Collins briefed the Board as to the status of the project and Highway Surveyor Tom Delaney said that he had no objections to these roads being laid out.

Mr. Dillon asked if the roads would be swept and catch basins clearing before the streets are accepted at Town Meeting. Mr. Collins stated yes that would be to the satisfaction of the Highway Surveyor.

Mr. Dillon made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:07p.m. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Voted 4-0.

Mr. Dillon made a motion to approve the laying out of Deerfield Drive, Allison Park, Fawn Terrace Lane as public ways, as further described and shown on an As-Built Plan entitled, "Deerfield Drive, Fawn Terrace Lane & Allison Park Road As-Built for Deerhaven Subdivision in Groton, Massachusetts." Dated February 19, 2004, Revised 6/28/04; 9/6/05; 1/25/06; prepared for Fox Meadow Realty Corporation by R. Wilson and Associates. Seconded by J. Saball Voted 4-0.

**Point Road Discontinuance:** Attorney Robert Collins was present and stated the road in the Lost Lake area had no public purpose and served no public need. Therefore, the Board should consider discontinuing this road. However, there were financial considerations that his client must consider before the Town votes to discontinue Point Road and request a two (2) week extension. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Collins a two (2) week extension and would place this matter on the Agenda for April 17, 2007. Mr. Delaney noted the Town did a minimum amount of maintenance on Point Road.

**Minutes:** Mr. Dillon made a motion to hold the Minutes from March 22, 2007 due to a lack of a quorum of those currently present. Seconded by J. Saball. Voted 4-0

Mr. Dillon made a motion to approve for release the Minutes from March 26, 2007 and March 29, 2007 as amended. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Voted 4-0

**Public Hearing: Bridge Street Layout (Layout)**

At 7:20p.m. Mr. Dillon made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Voted 4-0.

Mr. Cunningham stated that he had previously reading the legal notice and unless there was an objection he would not do so again.

Attorney Robert Orsi who represents Mr. Robert and Mrs. Francis Gamlin stated that he believes Bridge Street is a Public Way already, but he was very close to reaching an agreement between his client and the neighbors in the area. If there is an agreement, the Bridge Street warrant article would be requested to be indefinitely postponed.

The following residents provided comments on the proposed layout:

38 Bridget Street: Mr. Thurman Vanriper noted he had no objection to the proposed layout.

8 Bridge Street: Rodney Hersh stated that he would request to have more time to achieve an agreement between the land owner and the other neighbors regarding the status of the road.

Attorney Ray Lyons, noted that his client, the New England Forestry Fund, could not support the proposed Town Meeting article as currently worded. It was his understanding that Bridge Street is a Public Way which he believes his client has access. If for some reason it was determined that Bridge Street is not a Public Way then his client would have to consider a claim against the town for damages. The entire length of Bridge Street should be accepted.

Mr. Cunningham, reviewed an E-Mail from Town Counsel estimating the scope of the research that would be required to determine the status of Bridge Street.

Mr. Keoseian stated that Town Counsel should be advised of Attorney Lyons' concerns. Attorney Orsi said he did not think there would be very much cost involved for Town Counsel to review proposed agreement once it was placed into final form.

Mr. Delaney said that the Town Highway Department has been plowing Bridge Street for at least twenty (20) years.

8 bridge Street: Rodney Hersh stated that in the first few years residents maintained the road then in 1992 the Highway Department was told take it over. The residents believe the Town should continue to plow Bridge Street and the residents should maintain it.

Bruce Clements from the Conservation Commission said it was important to determine the status of the road beyond the Cul de Sac.

R. Gamlin provided a historical overview of the area stating his family had been living there for three (3) generations and wanted to the donation of his property to happen.

Mr. Dillon made a motion to continue the Public Hearing until Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 7:30p.m. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Voted 4-0.

### **Lost Lake Dam**

Attorney Robert Collins said he represented Grotonwood and he submitted a Petitioner's Article for the Annual Town Meeting asking that the Town take by Eminent Domain the Lost Lake Dam. He said the Town already owns a considerable amount of land under and around the dam and at this moment there is no clear ownership of the dam. For public safety purposes the Town should take ownership.

He has secured all releases accept for one (1) and the Selectmen should consider establishing a Committee to look after the dam. Further, he noted that the report that was prepared along with repair recommendations, he felt in his opinion the work could be completed for a lot less cost.

Mr. Dillon said that the proposed agreement between the Town and the other interested parties should be codified and presented back to the Board for consideration. The Agreement must address short-term and long-term financial considerations.

William Shute, Emergency Management Director stated that a Hazardous Mitigation Plan must be completed and that is approximately a year and a half from now.

It was agreed that Attorney Collins would return in two (2) weeks with a proposed Memorandum of Understanding for the Board to consider.

### **Library Assistant II**

David Zeiler, Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees was present and requested permission from the Board to fill a vacancy of Library Assistant II. Mr. Dillon made a motion to approve the hiring of a new Library Assistant II at the Groton Library as the result of the resignation of the previous Library Assistant II. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Voted 4-0.

Mr. Zeiler noted that the Trustees would like to hire for the summer reading program 2 people for 12 weeks as Library Assistant I. This would be for a total of 37 hours per week. The Board said they did not have to approve that request.

**Other Business**

**Annual Town Meeting: Article 15: Extend Sewer District – Jenkins Road:** The Board reviewed the final language and summary comments in the Article and agreed to include this version into the Warrant.

**Sustainability Committee Charge:** The Board asked that representatives could meet with them to discuss some questions. Mr. Ritter said he would arrange for that on a future agenda.

**Report of the Interim Administrative Officer:** Mr. Ritter reviewed the status of the following items: he has completed work on drafting the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrant articles and will now focus on the motions which he hopes to get to Town Counsel either this week or early next week after internal review by staff.

There will be an employee health fair this Thursday from 11:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. The Council on Aging will hold an accreditation meeting either this Friday or next Friday.

Mr. Ritter said he will be working on an analysis of the legal budget and provide that to the Board in the packet next week. He completed a draft of a six (6) month performance evaluation of the Personnel Manager and it was agreed that he and Mr. Keoseian would meet with Ms. Currier to discuss the evaluation.

Mr. Ritter said he would be starting work on a Revenue Enhancement/Cost Savings Plan for the Fiscal Year 09 budget and that he would start meetings again with department heads and managers regarding their goals and objectives.

He reported that at least fifteen (15) resumes have been received for the open part-time position in the Selectmen's office. That he was planning to attend the Rotary Club Meeting on Thursday at the Groton Country Club. Finally, the recent approved policy on grant preparation and the standard contract forms have been sent to department heads for use.

**Liaison Reports:** Mr. Cunningham said he recent met with representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development regarding Groton's affordable housing certified inventory. Also, the Blue Ribbon Committee would be meeting this Tuesday and that Public Hearings would continue shortly.

Mr. Dillon said there would a Public Hearing regarding the Station Avenue Overlay District on Thursday, April 19, 2007. Also, the West Groton Water District Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday evening.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46p.m. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Voted 4 0

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

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respectfully *submitted*,  
J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Interim Administrative Officer

Date Approved: April 9, 2007