

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES JULY 16, 2007  
APPROVED**

**Present:** George F. Dillon, Jr., Chairman; Joshua Degen, Vice Chair; Stuart Schulman, Clerk; Peter Cunningham

**Absent:** Mihran Keoseian

**Also Present:** Jeff Ritter, Interim Administrative Officer; April Iannacone, Office Assistant

*Mr. Dillon called the regular meeting of the Board to Order at 6:30 p.m. and reviewed the agenda for the public.*

**Surrenden Farm, Lot 2 Quitclaim Deed**

*Mr. Degen moved to approve and sign the Quitclaim Deed for Lot 2 of Surrenden Farms. Mr. Schulman seconded. Unanimous vote.*

**Chief Robert Mulhern RE: Police Department Promotion**

Chief Robert Mulhern addressed the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to request the promotion of Sergeant Catherine Welch to the rank of Lieutenant. He reviewed the many needs of the department for the promotion of a second Lieutenant, as well as the many qualifications that Sergeant Welch possessed.

*Mr. Degen moved to promote Sergeant Catherine Welch to the rank of Lieutenant for the one year term, term to expire June 30, 2008. Mr. Schulman seconded. Unanimous vote.*

Chief Mulhern presented Lieutenant Welch with her new pin and announced that she was not only the first female Lieutenant in the Town of Groton, she was the only Lieutenant who had obtained a Masters Degree.

**Council on Aging Interview & Appointment – Martha Oldham, Stuart Shuman, Cynthia Thompson, Michele Theroux**

Mr. Schulman started by asking both candidates why they wanted to be a part of the council. Cynthia responded that she has been a volunteer to the Senior Center for about 2 years and has also worked with the elderly as a personal care attendant. She believes that we need to look seriously at what we are doing now to contribute to the elderly community because the elderly population is growing. Michelle has volunteered at nursing homes and meals on wheels as well as the Senior Center. She lost parents years ago and feels that this is a way for her to give back and do for others what wasn't able to do for them. Mr. Cunningham stated that the needs and demands on senior center have been increasing and asked what each candidate had noticed that indicated this need. Cynthia believed that space was one of the most major issues. The size of the Senior Center has maxed out what is able to be done with programs. She feels that programs are becoming more diversified and the Senior Center has been struggling to meet those needs. The staff does what they can but they are limited to only one full time staffing member. They also need to look into what's coming in in terms of grants and a community program during day that can look out to other resources rather than specifically using the senior center budget. Michelle feels that the Senior Center getting the van that they are looking into may help to get more people transportation to center in order to get more people involved. They do a great job with getting volunteers and students to help with programs and should look in to other resources/businesses in town to try to offer no cost options for programs. Mr. Degen asked the candidates what difference they think they could make as a committee member as compared to being a volunteer. Michelle feels that her limited time volunteering does not give her as much knowledge as she could have if she was there more often. Being on the committee would be more structured and allow her more time and effort to look into what could be done. Cynthia felt that being able to be a part of the committee and being able to be a part of creating the ideas, projects and services will be more exciting than just being the volunteers following through with the ideas. Mr. Dillon mentioned that the Senior Center was currently looking at utilizing the country club as a new Senior/Community Center. He asked the candidates about their personal feelings about that goal/objective. Cynthia felt that programming would be able to reflect better if there were more space. The facilities being at the Country Club would be a central spot in community and be more visible to bring in more people. Michelle felt that the Senior/Community Center being in one place would create more interaction between the different areas of the community, seniors, students etc. She believes it would be a great idea and a boom for the town.

The results of the vote were 3 votes in favor of Cynthia Thompson (F.D., J.D., P.C.) and 1 vote for Stuart Shuman (S.S.).

*Mr. Degen moved to appoint Cynthia Thompson to the Council on Aging for the three-year term, term to expire June 30, 2010. Mr. Schulman seconded. Unanimous vote.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Appointment of Jason Goodwin to the Insurance Advisory Committee**

*Mr. Degen moved to appoint Officer Jason Goodwin to the Insurance Advisory Committee as Groton Police Patrolman's Association Representative for the one-year term, term to expire June 30, 2008. Mr. Schulman seconded. Unanimous vote.*

**Appointment of Meredith Scarlet to the Agricultural Commission**

The Board of Selectmen gave thanks to Sally Smith for everything she has done during her time on the Commission.

*Mr. Degen moved to appoint Meredith Scarlet to the Agricultural Commission for the three- year term, term to expire June 30, 2010. Mr. Schulman seconded. Unanimous vote.*

**Reappointment of Laura Pollard to the Country Club & Recreation Authority**

Mr. Dillon announced that last week the Board approved the reappointment of Laura Pollard to the Country Club Authority for a one year term instead of a three year term. Therefore, this item was back on the Agenda to make the correction.

*Mr. Degen moved to reappoint Laura Pollard to the Groton Country Club & Recreation Authority for the three-year term, term to expire June 30, 2010. Mr. Schulman seconded. Unanimous vote.*

**Application to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for Squannacook River Rail Trail Environmental & Engineering Assessment**

The application to be put forward to the CPC is a request for \$10,000 for evaluation of roughly 1 mile of the rail trail. Townsend is processing a similar request for 2.5 miles of trail. Tom Delaney is looking in to the Requests for Proposals for the services. The starting point for the project is at the Bertozzi Wildlife Management area in West Groton off of Townsend Harbor. The trail will run from there to the Townsend line in Groton and then 2.5 miles into Townsend from the town line. The goal is to eventually go all the way from Ayer across the old trestle bridge over the Nashua River and then through to Greenville, NH. However, right now the railroads are still considered an active line in Ayer.

**Application to the CPC for Groton's Affordable Housing Implementation Plan**

Mr. Ritter received a phone call from the Chair of the CPC. The committee is comfortable with postponing the application as long as the application comes to the July 30 meeting and is submitted on August 1<sup>st</sup>. There is more work needed to be done on the application and it is not really ready for the BOS to review. He also spoke with someone at the Mass. Housing Partnership. They felt that the \$35,000 dollar amount being applied for was a little to high and that \$25,000 could accomplish a large portion of what needed to be done. This was based on an outline and scope of services seen for the same type of procedures done by other communities.

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Mr. Ritter informed the Board that there have been about 60-75 applications for Administrative Assistant position. The Police Chief Search Committee is continuing to get input and has one final meeting with the EMS on call staff.

**SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Dillon would like to see the applicants for the Administrative Assistant narrowed down to 6-8 through interviews and then present to 2-3 candidates to the Board. He asked the Selectmen who would be available and willing to participate in the second interview process with himself, Jeff and Elizabeth. Mr. Degen is available and volunteered to help interview candidates.

Mr. Cunningham announced that there will be a meeting Wednesday for the Police Chief Screening Committee where they will be developing questions for interviews. Also Wednesday at the Town Hall the Blue Ribbon Governance Committee will be meeting to prepare the final draft of the proposed charter.

Mr. Degen made a statement regarding the weather microburst from the previous day. There was a significant amount of damage and he thanked the Groton Highway Department for doing a great job of cleaning it all up in a timely manner. He feels that the town should follow up as to whether there was any report of funnel clouds or a minor tornado.

**Tim Hess RE: Project to help Station Ave. Redevelopment Committee**

Mr. Hess is on the Station Ave Redevelopment Committee. He is working on a project to help relieve some of the tensions that have built up in past months regarding this project and limited abilities. He is also trying to help residents and townspeople recognize the need for a social connecting gathering space in town due to an absence of real viable places to do everyday business and activities. He feels that the town has begun to think small and lose focus on how much can really be done in order to just get something going. His goal is to create a 3 dimensional design concept to bring forward to the committee, residents and townspeople. Mr. Dillon questioned where Mr. Hess would be looking to for grants and money to help him fund his project. Mr. Hess responded that he has looked into area organizations for support. One application to go out would be to the Boston Foundation for Architecture who specialize in community buildings for mixed use. He recognizes the urgency in trying to have the amendment prepared for October Town Meeting. Mr. Degen supported what Tim is trying to bring forward. He felt that if a 3 dimensional design can be created to help people that it would be a valuable tool. Mr. Schulman asked what he would be looking to produce, would it be a 3D computer model, a 3D picture or an actual model. If he can get enough funding Mr. Hess feels that a 3D model would be far beyond that of computer animation and he would prefer to go that route. Mr. Cunningham felt that this project has been going on for a long time and needs some closure. He would support Mr. Hess in his process to try to get things done.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Degen moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Schulman seconded. Unanimous vote.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stuart Schulman, Clerk  
Office Assistant

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respectfully submitted,  
April Iannacone

Date Approved: *July 30, 2007*