

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes September 23, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 by Chairman Harold Haddock Jr. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Present: Chairman Harold Haddock Jr.; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Becky Newton, Esq.; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Treasurer Chris Morris; Conservation Commission Chairman Richard Hocker; Todd Cartier; Donald Holmes

ADMINISTRATIVE

For Approval/signature – APPROVED

✓ Building Permit Applications:

1. M/L 222-281-000; Sewer Treatment Plant; *Addition – Pending Planning Board Approval.*
2. M/L 226-015-000; 131 Yankee Barn Road; *Shed*
3. M/L 237-041-000; 220 Splitrock Road; *Mudroom*
4. M/L 235-027-005; 23 Woodland Heights; *Garage & Porch*

✓ 2008 Property Tax Abatements:

1. M/L 227-014-000; 34 Meadowbrook - \$35.49
2. ECA owned lots – see attached list

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Haddock requested any changes to the regular meeting minutes of September 9, 2009. Selectman Kimball made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 9, 2009 as written; second by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*

An addendum (attached) to the Board of Selectmen minutes of July 22, 2009 was prepared.

APPEARANCES

Treasurer Chris Morris: Treasurer Chris Morris informed that the “single check” for motor vehicle registrations is going well.

Morris discussed the Agreement to Secure Deposits and explained it is to provide additional security of the Town's money. Morris stated he has negotiated interest rates with Lake Sunapee Bank and the rate on the first \$500,000 will be 1.75% or the 90 day T-bill rate;

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whichever is greater; balances above that will earn the three year CD rate which is approximately 3%.

The agreement has been sent to town counsel for review; a response has not been received yet.

Upper Valley Land Trust Conservation Easement Deed for Smith Lot: Administrator Newton explained that "Smith Lot" is town owned property (since 1947) located off Miller Pond Road and approximately 29 acres. Newton originally felt the Town was okay to convey the easement based on Warrant Article 21 or 22 of the 2009 Town Meeting. Newton stated that at the time she did not realize the lot was Town owned property; that because it is, it makes the burden of conveying the property higher than if it were Conservation owned land or if the Conservation Commission were receiving the land. Newton went on to say that legal counsel asked if the authority to convey the had been secured at Town Meeting. Newton stated it was not secured under Article 21 or 22; that it was listed in the 2007 Town Report as having been authorized by the Selectmen. Newton went on to say that a warrant article may be needed at the 2010 Town Meeting.

There was general discussion regarding the Smith Lot. Selectman Jones wanted to be certain that it would be made clear to the citizens of Grantham that if the 29 acre Smith Lot was to be put in a conservation easement "in perpetuity" that we would be encumbering a Town asset forever; in effect giving up all control yet retaining all liabilities. Administrator Newton will obtain more information.

Donald Holmes asked what the advantage would be to the town by conveying the property to Upper Valley Land Trust. Newton stated she has found out:

- Forestry activities can continue, with permission
- Any gravel removed from that site would have to be moved to another location on the site

Selectman Jones asked if anything would be paid to Upper Valley Land Trust. Conservation Chairman Richard Hocker stated yes; a onetime payment of approximately \$9,600.

Mr. Hocker stated that Conservation member Jeremy Turner conducted the forest management plan for the Grantham Forest excluding the Smith Lot. Hocker informed that once it (Smith Lot) is conserved a management plan will need to be done.

Newton asked how much it would cost to conduct the forest management plan for Smith Lot. Hocker stated he didn't know.

Public Hearing was opened at 5:30pm:

A public hearing was held to accept the \$5,000 grant from the Byrne Foundation for the purposes of Recreation Park improvements.

There weren't any questions at the opening of the hearing; it was kept opened through the remainder of the meeting.

The notice was advertised in the Valley News legal section on Tuesday, September 15, 2009.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Property owner Fred Jaskolka: A letter was received from property owner Fred Jaskolka regarding the burning of brush that took place at the Transfer Station over Labor Day weekend. Administrator Newton informed she sent a letter to Mr.

Jaskolka explaining that there is a plan to no longer burn materials at the Transfer Station; that the material will be hauled off site to be used to make power.

Katie Lajoie, RN: A letter was received from Katie Lajoie regarding the air quality in Claremont.

OLD BUSINESS

Columbarium: No progress has been made.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Town Administrator:

- Addendum to the July 22, 2009 Board of Selectmen minutes: Administrator Newton informed that on page 8, paragraph 5, Mr. Richard Leute was implied as being the owner of Turtle Mountain School. Newton explained that Mr. Leute is a parent of a child that attends the school.
- An invitation was received from Pat Remick to attend the Coalition Communities meeting on Friday, October 9th at 10am at the Local Government Center, Concord, NH regarding the State of NH re-enacting the Donor Town system. Administrator Newton and Selectmen Jones & Haddock will attend.
- Recreation Park Sledding Hill: Administrator Newton informed she walked the proposed site of the sledding hill with members of Blue Mountain Snow Dusters (snowmobile club) and Todd Cartier and stated she sees no issue in what they propose.

Todd Cartier stated the sledding hill is part of the original plan; that BMSD was willing to do the work and maintain it. BMSD member Donald Holmes stated the club plans to take down a few trees (less than 20), move a few stones and grade it. Using the site plan of the Recreation Park, Mr. Holmes explained the snowmobile trail would come in the proximity of Shedd Road and run along the river (near the proposed walking path) and up to the cul-de-sac of the main driveway to the Recreation building.

Selectman Jones stated that accommodations of the snowmobile trail would have to be made if a ball field was established in that area. Mr. Holmes acknowledged that.

Holmes stated the groomer was eight feet wide and asked for permission to groom a twelve foot trail. There were no objections by the Board of Selectmen.

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Mr. Holmes informed that Administrator Newton signed the Right of Way approval for BMSD to cross the Cote Road bridge. Newton asked for the liability waiver to go to the Board of Selectmen for signature.

Holmes also informed that he contacted the State of NH, Division of Forest and Lands and that an Intent to Cut form does not need to be filed.

Administrator Newton asked if a new location for the playground had been established. Mr. Cartier explained there was concern regarding the location of the playground due to the proximity of the road and pond but the Recreation Committee had not decided if it should be moved.

- Board of Selectmen's meeting change: Administrator Newton informed that the Board of Selectmen's meeting scheduled for the first Wednesday in November is Veteran's Day. The Selectmen agreed to change the meeting to Tuesday, November 10th at 5pm, Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.
- Assessing error: Administrator Newton informed there was an assessing error with M/L 221-012-000; 148 Rawson Ridge. Newton explained that the home was built in 2006 and the Assessors did not pick it up. A supplemental tax bill will be issued.
- Assessment of Eastman Community Association (ECA) owned properties: Administrator Newton stated she is working on the assessed values for 2009 for ECA owned property.

Not hearing any questions regarding the \$5,000 grant from the Byrne Foundation, a motion was made by Selectman Jones to accept the grant of \$5,000 from the Byrne Foundation for the purpose of Recreation Park improvements; second by Selectman Kimball. Unanimously approved.

The public hearing was closed at 5:47pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Kimball; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:50pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa M. White
Administrative Assistant*