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Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes August 27, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 by Chairman Warren Kimball. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Ken Story; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Grantham Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Deputy Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director David Beckley; Conservation Commission Members David Wood and Richard Hocker; Conservation Commission Member and Representative on the Open Space Committee Susan Buchanan; and Jim Raynes, Town of Rye Conservation Member

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

ADMINISTRATIVE - APPROVED

1. Payroll Manifest #429
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #421
3. Building Permits:
 - M/L 215-141-000; 11 Sugar Hill Road - Generator
 - M/L 221-032-000; 32 New Aldrich Road – Generator
 - M/L 221-048-001; 800 Route 10 North – Foundation & Second Story Floor
 - M/L 235-007-000; 63 Brookridge Drive – Solar Electric Array
 - M/L 221-027-000; 178 New Aldrich Road – Shed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of August 13, 2014 as written was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

APPEARANCES

Grantham Conservation Commission Member David Wood appeared before the Board of Selectmen and advised that the Commission has been exploring options to improve the possibility of purchasing conservation lands/open space when they become available. He specified one of the possibilities under consideration is the concept of putting forth a warrant

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article which would allow the town to issue a bond in the amount sufficient to purchase a piece of property at the time the property becomes available.

Wood introduced Jim Raynes, a member of the Town of Rye, Conservation Commission and formerly the Chair of the Commission, and asked him to share his experience with this process and answer questions. Wood informed that he also invited Nick Coates, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, to attend this meeting but he had an unavoidable conflict arise and was not able to attend.

Raynes stated that the Town of Rye had been through this process twice and gave the Board a book entitled *The New Hampshire Municipal Conservation Fund Guidebook* which he said thoroughly explains conservation funding. He explained that in 2002 Rye had an Open Space Committee that asked the Rockingham County Planning Commission to prepare a build-out study of what should be done. At that time, they also conducted a public opinion survey in the community and 85% of the respondents said they wanted to have open spaces. He stated that they received five million dollars in 2002 and with the build-out study; the members of the Open Space Committee did a fabulous job talking to people and getting the word out on what they wanted to do with the money. He said they acquired 17 easements on over 300 acres of land and purchased over 250 acres of land. Raynes advised there are state laws in place that govern this process and only the Selectmen have the authority to say yes or no to the purchase. He gave several more examples of open space lands purchased by the town of Rye and informed that the town passed another warrant article last year, which required 3/5 majority vote. Raynes asked Wood to read the letter that was sent to the residents of Rye which thoroughly explained the proposed warrant article.

Raynes asked if there were any questions. David Wood asked what the major concerns of the townspeople were in opposing the warrant article. Raynes said the Selectmen endorsed it 100 percent and that the Finance Committee also endorsed it. He said there was no major opposition but people in the audience asked many questions. The Selectmen diligently came up with a list of 16 steps that must be done for each proposed purchase.

Selectman Story asked what the population of Rye is. Raynes answered 14,000 – 15,000 in the summer and 6,000 or 7,000 in the winter.

More questions were asked about the process of bonding for land preservation. Raynes stated that in Rye residents realized, through meetings and the material they handed out to residents, that growing open space, wildlife areas, wetlands and protecting these areas was better than growing houses. Raynes went on to say that they didn't want to prevent building but they wanted to control it and make it good for the town.

The Selectmen thanked Raynes for taking the time to come to the meeting.

Selectman Story asked David Wood if Grantham has a document similar to the build-out analysis that was done by the Rockingham Planning Commission. Wood said he hopes that is what the Open Space Committee is going to generate. Buchanan said she is not sure if the build-out analysis is part of what the Open Space Committee is charged to do. There was discussion and it was determined that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission could handle this for Grantham.

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Selectman Story asked Wood if the public opinion survey that Rye conducted was something Grantham would do. Selectman Jones felt that it would be up to the Master Plan Committee. Buchanan asked if a Master Plan Committee has been created yet. Selectman Jones responded she doesn't believe so; that it is something the Planning Board does. Town Administrator White said she will check when she attends the next Planning Board meeting in September.

Selectman Story felt the "visioning session" event that Rye held seemed to be the base of support for the bonding of land preservation and expressed the need for Grantham to build that kind of support. Story also commented that with Rye being on the seacoast, their land values and pressures are dramatically higher than Grantham's but the pressures of growth are here and the statistical data and process needs to be clearly conveyed to residents.

Wood asked if there is an opportunity to talk to the community and obtain feedback during the update of the Master Plan. The Selectmen said yes.

Buchanan asked when the Master Plan is expected to be completed. Selectman Jones said it is due in 2015 and the Planning Board should be forming a committee now because it is a very involved process and there is a lot of work to it.

Chairman Kimball asked if there were any more questions. There were no more questions and the Selectmen thanked Wood for all the information. Kimball also thanked all the volunteers and members of Grantham's boards/committees for all their work and encouraged residents to come to the Board of Selectmen meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- American Red Cross: A letter was received from the American Red Cross requesting funds in the amount of \$1,335.00. White asked the Board if they would like more information regarding what the Red Cross has done in Grantham. Fire Chief Fountain stated the Red Cross responded on the day of a local house fire two years ago. Emergency Management Director Beckley reported they are Emergency Management's second phone call if anything major happens. White said she will request more information such as a five to ten year history before the Board makes that consideration at budget time.
- NH Office of Energy and Planning, Conservation Land Stewardship Program: Notice was received from Stephen Walker, who oversees the New Hampshire Conservation Land Stewardship Program under the Division of the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning, informing that he conducted a field visit of Sherwood Forest and felt it is still important to resolve the access issue regardless of who the owner is, if for no other reason, the public is allowed on the property and should have the access points clearly located.
- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission: Notice was received from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission that they are holding a public workshop to present the Sugar River Watershed River Assessment Results on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 6:30pm at the Sunapee Fire Station Training Room in Sunapee.

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- West Central Behavioral Health: A thank you letter was received from West Central Behavioral Health for the town's generous appropriation of \$2,420.00. Suellen Griffin, the President and CEO added a handwritten "Thank you for your long standing support".

OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: White reported that she spoke with Fairpoint's Engineer, Melissa Auclair, about what will be done with the telephone lines during bridge construction and that Auclair's understanding is that it will depend on who the contractor for the bridge is; that they (Fairpoint) can either raise, lower or drop the lines. White stated that she asked Auclair if that work would be billable to the town and received a verbal "not necessarily". White informed that she will follow up with the Fairpoint Engineer regarding that issue and will get an update from Bridge Engineer Erin Darrow on the Wetlands Permit amendment.
- Yankee Barn Road (Private Portion): No update.
- Stocker Brook Realty, LLC, 631 Route 114; M/L 236-010-000: No update.

NEW BUSINESS

- Forest Management and Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan: M/L 215-075-000; 5 Sylvan Walk: A motion to approve the Forest Management and Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan at 5 Sylvan Walk as recommended by the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Story. **Unanimously approved.**
- Forest Management Plan - 2014 Addendum and Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan: M/L 215-119-000; 215-118-000; 213-138-000; 37 Granite Way: A motion to approve the Forest Management Plan – 2014 Addendum and Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan at 37 Granite Way as recommended by the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**
- Forest Management Plan – 2014 Addendum: M/L 215-112-000; 21 Granite Way: A motion to approve the Forest Management Plan – 2014 Addendum at 21 Granite Way as recommended by the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Story. **Unanimously approved.**
- Forest Management and Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan: M/L 215-060-000; West Cove B Condominium Association: A motion to approve the Forest Management and Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan at West Cove B Condominium Association as recommended by the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**
- Forest Management and Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan: M/L 222-142-000; South Shore II Condominium Association: A motion to approve the Forest Management and Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan at South Shore II Condominium Association as

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recommended by the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

- Revised Town of Grantham Safety Policy: A motion to approve the Town of Grantham Safety Policy adopted May 13, 2009 and Revised August 27, 2014 was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Transfer Station – July Report:

Solid Waste – 8 runs; 94.93 tons
Construction Demolition Debris – 7 runs; 30.29 tons
Light Iron – 1 load; 3.8304 tons; Revenue \$766.08
Fibers – Mixed Loose – (Paper) – 2 loads; 11.76 tons
Revenue: \$423.60
Expense: \$550.00

Comingle – w/o glass – (Plastic) – 2 loads; 3.28 tons
Revenue: \$0.00
Expense: \$102.90

Glass – 1 load; 7.31 tons; Expense: \$168.13

Total tonnage of material taken away: 151.4004 tons
Tickets collected at Transfer Station: \$2,130.00

Total Revenue from recycling: \$1,189.44
Total Expenses from recycling: \$ 821.03
Net Revenue from recycling: \$ 368.41

- Town Administrator

- State of New Hampshire Board of Tax and Land Appeals: As mentioned at the Selectmen's Meeting on August 13, 2014, James Sweeney, et al. has filed an Appeal for his assessment. The Order was received from the State of New Hampshire Board of Tax and Land Appeals which requires the parties to meet and attempt to settle this matter before a hearing is scheduled. Town Assessor Michael Ryan will meet with Mr. Sweeney prior to the December 19, 2014 deadline.
- White informed that Fairpoint is expected to file a tax abatement appeal for the 2013 tax year and asked the Board if they would like Upton and Hatfield to accept service on the town's behalf. The Board said yes.

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- The Town Offices and Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2014 for Labor Day.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - The Zoning Board meeting is Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 7:00pm.
 - The Open Space Committee meeting is Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 8:30am.
 - The CIP Committee meeting is Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 1:00pm.
 - The Planning Board meeting is Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 7:00pm.
 - The Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting is Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 1:00pm.

OTHER

Chairman Kimball gave an update to the previous discussion at the Selectmen's Meeting of August 13, 2014 regarding signs and informed that the rules regulating signs can be found in the Town of Grantham Zoning Ordinance under Article VIII. Kimball specifically pointed out the rule regarding illuminated signs that can be found under Article VIII, "D. General Provisions", number 8 and states "**Any illuminated signs for an enterprise shall be extinguished upon their closing hour**". The Zoning Ordinance can be found on the town website.

NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II- a and e, a motion was made by Selectman Story, seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:09pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Ken Story; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper and Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:14 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; ***by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 6:14 pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 10, 2014** at 5pm in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant