

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes September 23, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 by Chairman 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 Sheridan Brown; Town Administrator Melissa White, Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Conservation Commission Chair Richard Hocker; Renee Gustafson; Elaine Pillsbury; Open Space Committee Members: Thain Allan; Craig McArt; Charlie McCarthy and Susan Buchanan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

ADMINISTRATIVE - APPROVED

- Payroll Manifest #459
- Accounts Payable Manifest #473
- Discretionary Easement Release:
 - M/L 242-021-000; 159 Bouldervale Road
- Building Permits:
 - M/L 215-057-000; 440 Road Round the Lake - Generator
 - M/L 222-122-000; 18 Slalom Drive – Revised; Amend Deck Size
 - M/L 215-130-000; 45 Bright Slope Way – Garage
 - M/L 225-055-000; 116 Greensward Drive – Shed
 - M/L 234-023-001; 6 Clubhouse Lane – Demolition and Foundations

APPEARANCES

- Open Space Committee: The Open Space Committee, which was established by the Board of Selectmen in 2014, presented an update and report of the work they have done to date as follows:
 - The Committee was charged to map, inventory and analyze all open space (undeveloped land) parcels of 10 acres or more.
 - The Committee presented a map designating parcels greater than 10 acres by category ranging from different types of conserved properties to current use properties. Craig McArt said there will eventually be a digital version of the map that could be posted on the town website. He reported that they identified 125 parcels over 10 acres. The data was inventoried and categorized by the following:
 - Farms and Fields

Approved

- Woodlands and Forests
- Wildlife Habitat and Corridors
- Ponds and Lakes
- Streams and Rivers
- Wetlands
- Hills and Mountains
- Scenic Vistas
- Trails and Class VI Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Cultural and Historical Sites
- Parks and Recreation Sites
- Aquifer Proximity

The detailed information was compiled and presented to the Selectmen in a workbook.

- A map showing Grantham Sites of Interest was shown. Selectman Brown asked if that map could be posted on the town website. The answer was yes.
- Significant elevations were determined by significant view from the top of the elevation or scenic landmark that could be seen in the distance.
- Some of the findings were: There are 125 undeveloped parcels of 10 acres or more totaling 11,250 acres which represent 64% of the town acreage. Thain Allan said this does include Blue Mountain Forest which is almost 2600 acres. The wooded acreage is 10,100 acres or about 90% of the 11,250 acres.
- Some of the key findings were:
 - 26% of the town's acreage is either town, state, or association-owned and under some form of conservation;
 - 48% of the town acreage is contained in 25 parcels of 76 acres or more;
 - There are 7 significant elevations within Grantham. A next step would be to identify the parcels comprising these elevations.
 - The largest open space is located in the North and West portions of Grantham.
 - Important wildlife habitats are located throughout Grantham with the most important areas located in the western part of town.

Allan stated the Committee's work has been completed up to this point and they felt the next steps to be done are 1) Develop Open Space Protection Plan; and 2) Input to the Master Plan. He said that after the input to the Master Plan, the Committee's work will be done and it's a question of should they continue as a Committee of the Board of Selectmen or do they integrate it within the Conservation Commission and further define its charter. He continued that after the input to the Master Plan, the furthering of this work will begin to get defined; there will be outreach work to be done such as community education, establishing relationships with some of the public conservation organizations and reaching out to some of the key land owners in Grantham. Allan added that in addition to the workbook presented to the Board, the Committee did some summary work in Excel and they could make one available which highlights some key data points that they captured.

Approved

Susan Buchanan commented that the Committee aimed to be very objective with what went in to the inventory.

Selectman Brown asked what they found to be the most surprising finding of this study. Allan said, for him, it was the large lots, that a small number of parcels (25) created a big part of the town (48%). He added that another surprise was the wildlife habitats and that the town is still fostering wildlife populations.

Selectman Brown asked if there were any areas of information lacking with the fish and game map that would have been helpful or if they had enough sources of information to work from. Allan replied that there was enough information to get them through this. Selectman Brown reported that there has been ongoing discussion with state policy makers on how to come up with better information so there is more of a cohesive statewide strategy of conservation. He asked if there had been any discussion of how to get this out to the public now or if they saw that as being part of the Master Plan process. Allan said, speaking for himself, he thought it was part of the Master Plan work. Selectman Brown said he asked because they mentioned outreach work to be done and wondered if they had a sense of timing on that. Allan replied he would keep it in sync with the Master Plan and that would become a real important piece of the next step, that these kind of activities will be included in the next chapter. Susan Buchanan added that reaching out to land owners to try to make them aware of the different options that are available for conserving land is important. Selectman Brown remarked that he thought the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests would be happy to come in and do a presentation on land owner incentives. He informed that our federal legislators have let the tax incentives expire at the federal level and, hopefully, they will get renewed in the near future. It was also mentioned that other towns have had success in making people aware of the value of open space by getting the community involved through activities such as hikes and trail work. Town Administrator White stated she had informed Superintendent Jacqueline Gillette about the work that is being done at Brookside Park as it might be a good field trip for the students when the work is complete.

Chairman Kimball expressed that the work the Committee has done is invaluable to the Board and suggested that the Committee meet periodically to implement their outreach work. He said he doesn't believe they need to continue to operate under the Board of Selectmen, that they might want to work under the Conservation Commission if they prefer. Members of the Open Space Committee agreed.

White stated that when the information is ready to be put on the town website, that will be a helpful tool to get the information to the public to help with their outreach work. Buchanan added that Conservation Commission Chair Dick Hocker will attend the Grantham Health Fair with maps of town lands and trails to show people. She also informed that the trails in Eastman are open to the public which most people don't realize.

Selectman Brown mentioned that as we head into the town's 250th anniversary in the year 2017, there will probably be an opportunity to hold some outdoor events and stress the town's outdoor heritage.

Allan said the Committee will discuss what the next steps should be at their next meeting and that some kind of proposal situation might arise as to the implementation plan that

Approved

would bring them back to the Board of Selectmen for discussion. Chairman Kimball said that would be good.

Chairman Kimball thanked the Open Space Committee for all their hard work and for a wonderful presentation.

- Elaine Pillsbury: Elaine Pillsbury informed the Board that she was there to represent the Grantham United Methodist Church Administrative Council regarding installation of lighting in the parking lot next to the Church which is town owned. She explained that there is no lighting currently in that parking lot which makes it dangerous and although the Church is looking to install a bigger light for the ramp it won't help the rest of the parking lot. Chairman Kimball said they will look into it and suggested that it be motion activated. Selectman Brown asked if the Library was planning some outdoor lighting in the new parking lot and if it should be consistent with that. Everyone agreed that would make sense. Chairman Kimball said they will take a couple of ideas and figure out what will be the most effective and what the budget can support and get back to her.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Clint Bean, UVLSRPC Transportation Update: An update was received from Clint Bean, Grantham's representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission, on the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's 2017-2026 Ten Year Plan which included the original plan for reconstruction of Route 114 from Route 10 to the Springfield town line, however, the status of this work funding has been further downgraded. Bean stated that this is always subject to change but that current thinking indicates that money is being diverted to complete the I-93 project and perhaps elsewhere.

Bean tendered his resignation as Grantham's representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee of UVLSRPC.

- Kevin Leen, Vision Government Solutions: An update on the revaluation project was received from Vision Government Solutions. They have completed all of the tasks and are working on the supportive documentation for the new values. As per the contract, they will be required to address any abatements filed after the second issue tax bill is mailed.
- Sullivan County: Notice was received that the Sullivan County Convention will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Sullivan County Complex in Newport, NH to consider a supplemental appropriation from undesignated fund balance in the amount of \$650,000.00 to be used to lower the Sullivan County tax rate in this fiscal year 2016.
- Primex: Notice was received from Primex that they will be conducting two public hearings as required by RSA 5-B for their proposed rate setting. They are scheduled for September 24, 2015 at 9:00am at the Primex facility in Concord, NH and at 2:30pm at the Northumberland Town Hall in Groveton, NH.

Approved

OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: White reported that the paving was completed on September 23, 2015 and the installation of guardrails is still on schedule for the end of September. She had not been contacted yet regarding the installation of the dry hydrant.
- Miller Pond Road Bridge: No new information.
- Zoning Violation at 172 Cote Road: White stated she had a conversation with the owner of 172 Cote Road who had a lot of questions and also expressed that he felt singled out as a homeowner who owned his own business so she had asked him to come tonight and talk to the Board directly. White said he has stated that the material on his property is his own personal belongings and not from the business. Selectman Brown asked if we had a record of building permits on that property and if they were consistent with the materials that are there. White responded that some of it is; that the owners did a complete renovation of the house around 2009-2010. She added that the owner felt it was unfair to require him to hang his ladders from the garage (as was discussed in a previous meeting) as most homeowners own ladders.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Transfer Station:

July Report:

Solid Waste – 8 runs; 87.55 tons
Construction Demolition Debris – 8 runs; 33.04 tons
Glass – 2 loads; 14.62 tons; Expense \$438.60
Light Iron – 1 run; 4.7679 tons; Revenue \$476.79
OCC Cardboard – 1 load; 22.43 tons; Revenue \$2,242.50
Fibers – Mixed Loose – (Paper) – 2 loads; 7.94 tons
Revenue: \$ 59.56
Expense: \$650.00

Comingle – w/o glass – (Plastic) – 2 loads; 2.64 tons
Revenue: \$ 0.00
Expense: \$165.00

Total Tonnage of material taken away; 172.9879 tons
Tickets collected at Transfer Station; \$2,005.00

Total Revenue from recycling: \$2,739.15
Total Expenses from recycling: \$1,253.60
Net Revenue from recycling: \$1,485.55

August Report:

Solid Waste – 9 runs; 108.17 tons
Construction Demolition Debris – 8 runs; 32.43 tons

Approved

Glass – 1 load; 7.31 tons; Expense \$219.30

Light Iron – 2 runs; 8.4286 tons; Revenue \$842.86

Aluminum – 1 load; .79 tons; Revenue \$532.85

Fibers – Mixed Loose – (Paper) – 2 loads; 7.94 tons

Revenue: \$ 59.56

Expense: \$650.00

Comingle – w/o glass - (Plastic) – 2 loads; 2.64 tons

Revenue: \$ 0.00

Expense: \$165.00

Total tonnage of material taken away; 166.9186 tons

Tickets collected at Transfer Station: \$2,545.00

Total Revenue from recycling: \$1,395.57

Total Expenses from recycling: \$1,034.30

Net Revenue from recycling: \$ 361.27

Chairman Kimball said he had a resident ask him what the difference in cost was of recycling versus just throwing the trash away. He asked if Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott could do a cost comparison. White said she will ask Scott to do a comparison.

Sue Buchanan said the Town's recycling information lists "All Plastics #1-7" but she has heard that when you go to the Transfer Station, they don't accept all of them. She asked for the information handed out and on the town website to be consistent with practices at the Transfer Station.

➤ Town Administrator:

- White informed that she secured a price for propane and locked in at the rate of \$1.20 per gallon with Irving.
- White is exploring options for electricity suppliers. The town is currently with Patriot Energy and the town and school pool their usage to secure a lower supply rate. She was contacted by Ken Ryder last year about combining ECA's commercial buildings with the town to potentially get an even lower rate. The contract expires in November.
- The concession stand at the Recreation Park has been completed and the revenue will go into the Recreation Revolving Fund for Recreation Park development.
- White reported that work on the Tax Sale of town owned property is complete pending the Board's approval of the minimum bid amounts. Chairman Kimball and Selectman Brown were agreeable to them.
- White said she met with Energy Efficient Investments and the Energy Committee but has not received the report from them or Lighted, Inc. on the energy audits for our buildings.

Approved

- The Town Clerk/Tax Collector will resume its regular hours starting October 5, 2015:
 - Monday 8:00am – 5:00pm
 - Tuesday 8:00am – 7:00pm
 - Wednesday 8:00am – 7:00pm
 - Thursday 8:00am – 12:00pm; 1:00pm – 5:00pm
 - Friday 8:00am – 12:00pm; 1:00pm – 4:00pm
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - The Zoning Board meeting scheduled on September 24, 2015 at 7:00pm has been cancelled.
 - The Open Space Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 8:30am.
 - The Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 7:00pm.
 - The Energy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015 at 5:00pm.
 - The Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting is Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 1:00pm.

OTHER

- White informed that she has received some emails from Dick Hocker with some conservation concerns:
 - Earlier this month, the NH Department of Transportation did some ditching along Route 10 and Hocker said the work was in close proximity to Skinner Brook and threatens to unleash large quantities of silt from the ground into the Brook which is a fourth order stream governed by RSA 483. The Conservation Commission strongly recommended that the Selectmen notify the NH DOT of their concerns and to seek relief and modification of their practices. White said she asked Hocker what he suggested to help with that and he thought grass seed in most places might work and maybe some two inch stone. Hocker said what the State did was scraped up the shoulder free of any vegetation and there are two or three places where there is a little bit of runoff but there is one place where they have approximately a 150 foot rut where the water comes off the highway and is trapped and has created a channel along the edge of the shoulder. Chairman Kimball asked White to contact the NH DOT with their concerns.
 - There was also a concern for violation of RSA 483 at 132 Miller Pond Road wherein a new house is being built and rocks were removed for the foundation and are lining the stream bank which invades the 50 foot buffer. Hocker said the Commission did a walk-through of the Flewelling property the previous Wednesday and at that time, there was a panel truck parked almost above the stream which meant that they invaded the 50 foot setback by having that truck there. He said there was silt fence along probably 75-80% of the property but there was one area at the upstream end that had nothing but bare soil to the stream where they had done some sort of grading. He added by pushing the boulders in there, they are collapsing the flood plain of the stream and therefore, raising the amount of water that is going to be passing down that stream during

Approved

flooding conditions. Hocker said that Linda Magoon is the NH Department of Environmental Services Supervisor who should be contacted and she has been to Grantham multiple times. Selectman Brown suggested compiling all the wetlands issues in Grantham before contacting her. Hocker said he will compile a list for White to use when she contacts Magoon.

- Selectman Brown asked if there was a wild boar update and if we heard from NH Fish and Game. White said she received an email from the representative of Blue Mountain Forest who said he was finishing up some of his seasonal work and then he would get to Grantham to repair the damage at the park and another home but she has not heard from NH Fish and Game. Selectman Brown said he will follow up with NH Fish and Game.
- Fire Chief Fountain thanked Chairman Kimball for all the helpful work at the Fire Department; the exhaust fans are in and compressor and fill stations are up and running and the clean air is very noticeable.

NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-a, a motion was made by Chairman Kimball, seconded by Selectman Brown to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:41pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Sheridan Brown; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Kimball moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Brown; ***by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 7:00 pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 14, 2015** at 5:00pm in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant