

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes April 6, 2016

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 3:00pm on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 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 Constance Jones; Selectman Sheridan Brown; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper

NEW BUSINESS:

- Wetlands Enforcement: Selectman Brown informed that he was driving on Cote Road recently and noticed that there was someone on a tractor at M/L 237-057-000 moving blocks and brush near the Sugar River which made him wonder how much fill was slipping down into the wetlands. After some investigation, he had reason to believe that this person is working in the stream cutting brush and pushing brush into the stream. Brown proceeded to look at the septic design that is on file for this property which listed a 75 foot setback from the north branch of the Sugar River. He explained that for zoning purposes that is fine, however, this part of the river is a fifth order stream and under RSA 483 nothing should be moved within 250 feet of the high water mark. He proposed that this be brought to the attention of the NH Department of Environmental Services to take a look at this property if interested and, if not, to consider what the next steps should be. He believed that they have also violated the dredge and fill requirements as well as the Shoreland and Water Quality Protection Act, potentially on the second one by what they have been cutting which is based on scoring in 50 foot squares of diameter of the wood that is taken out so it's difficult to tell from afar but it seemed to him that they are taking out a good amount of what is in the first 50 feet of the river which is the most highly protected area. Brown said another potential issue is that he didn't see anything on record indicating they went to the State for an Alteration of Terrain Permit and described that looking at the road, the road slope comes down and then the fill pad that they've put in place comes out in rather stark fashion and then drops off about 4 – 5 feet down into the wetlands so that is all runoff going into that wetland along Cote Road. He concluded that the owner applied for a Septic Permit in January 2016 with DES which was approved but it also stated that if the work involved dredge or fill in a jurisdictional wetland or stream they would need to get approval under RSA 482-A. The Board unanimously agreed to invite NH DES to Grantham to view this property and a few others to assess for violations.

- Zoning Enforcement at 29 Cote Road: The owners of 29 Cote Road have installed a large pad on their property to park and store business equipment. The owners had previously been sent a letter by the Board on another matter informing them that they are not zoned for business and did not have a variance. A letter will be sent.

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- Dedicated Trust for 250th Anniversary Celebration: Selectman Brown said that he was doing some research on the 250th Anniversary Celebration and is aware that we can accept donations but has not reached a conclusion yet as to what the limitations are upon soliciting funds. He informed that the statutes regarding municipal trusts say that private donations cannot be comingled with appropriated funds and was trying to determine where the funds should be retained. Options were discussed and it was agreed that the town auditors should be consulted.
- State Wetlands Council: Selectman Brown informed that there is a vacancy on the State Wetlands Council for an elected municipal official and he would like to pursue that with the Board's consent. Brown explained that the process is to be nominated by NHMA and then it goes to the Governor and Counsel. Chairman Kimball and Selectman Jones fully support Selectman Brown's pursuit.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Brown; **by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 4:17 pm.**

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 13, 2016** 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