

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes October 11, 2017

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 by Chairman Sheridan Brown. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Chairman Sheridan Brown; Selectman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief John Parsons; Deputy Fire Chief David Beckley; Grantham Conservation Commission Chair David Wood; and Blue Mountain Snowdusters Secretary Elizabeth Strobridge

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the regular minutes of September 27, 2017 as written was made by Selectman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll Manifest #517
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #567
3. Revised 2017 MS-535
4. 2017 Special Election for State Representative Warrant
5. Shoreline Protection Cutting Plans:
 - a. M/L 222-145-000; 25 Road Round the Lake
6. Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 220-024-000; 331 Walker Road – Roof
 - b. M/L 216-077-000; 64 Draper Mill Road - Porch
7. Correspondence:
 - a. NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands: A letter was received from the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands, informing of some changes within the agency which resulted in a shift in Forest Ranger coverage areas. A Forest Ranger District map was enclosed.
 - b. Zoning Violation Complaint: a zoning violation complaint was received from Linda Bohrer against GH Everts saw mill for noise violations.
 - c. Rae Tober: A resignation letter was received from volunteer Town Archivist Rae Tober.
 - d. Craig Depunte: A thank you note addressed to Chris Scott, Transfer Station Supervisor, was received from Craig Depunte saying "Thanks for the help. You are what makes NH great. Much appreciated."

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- e. Zoning Violation Complaint: An anonymous letter was received against 27 Greensward Drive for renting an apartment above the garage.

A motion to move for adoption of the Consent Calendar was made by Selectman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS

David Wood, Grantham Conservation Commission Chair, informed that the Conservation Commission is in the process of having a Forest Management Plan prepared for the Town Forest. He explained that New Hampshire is now very heavily forested but it was 85% open space back in the 1800's and now all that space has grown up so, pretty much all of the forest which is now 85% of the State is the same age and wildlife biologists are saying that is not good, that we need forests at different stages of maturation. He showed the Board a map proposing a number of plots that are four to ten acres in size to be clear cut. Wood clarified that almost all of the trees would be taken out but particular trees that have value as a seed tree or for wildlife habitat would be left scattered around the plot. He said because it will be a winter harvest, the wood will be taken off and all of the debris will be chipped or removed. He anticipated that some reaction from residents will be that clear cutting is terrible but from the point of view of wildlife management, it is not, that it very much changes and improves the habitat diversity so that we'll have early successional forest coming in there and, hopefully, in 10 or 15 years from now they will do it again in a different set of plots and another 15 years after that so that there will eventually be mature forest, 15 year old forest and meadow again. He anticipated this to happen in the winter of 2019 and suggested holding some educational sessions with the community.

Selectman Jones asked who the Conservation Commission is working with on this project. Wood replied Laura French is preparing the Forest Management Plan and Jeremy Turner will be working with the logger. He added that there is some substantial road work to be done especially at the upper part of Miller Pond Road just before it hits the Croydon Turnpike due to the logging trucks being so long now. Selectman Jones asked who would be doing the road work. Wood said the logger. He stated further that Turner's guess is that this should not cost the Commission anything and hopefully will earn them some money depending on the wood market and worst case scenario, they would break even. He said the money from the timber would pay for the improvement of the road and for all of the work that is being done but the real incentive to do this project is improvement of wildlife habitat. Chairman Brown suggested they have an additional future conversation about the road as this moves along. Selectman Kimball also suggested holding at least one informative session with the community where people can ask questions.

Police Chief Parsons stated that he fully supports what Wood said and offered the Selectmen that if they would like to see up close and in person what a year after Wood's terms of a clear cut would look like, he could bring them to his property in Croydon in which that took place one year ago.

APPOINTMENTS TO MEET WITH THE BOARD

Brian Sullivan, Democratic Candidate for NH State Representative, Sullivan County District 1: Brian Sullivan introduced himself and gave some of his background as follows:

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He has lived in New Hampshire for 36 years starting in the North Country and has been a resident of Grantham for 15 years. He has been married for 36 years and has three grown children. He spent thirty five years of his adult life involved with public education, 10 as a science teacher at Berlin High School and for 25 years, he worked as a teacher's advocate with the National Education Association of New Hampshire. He started out in the North Country and after eleven years there, moved to the upper valley and has worked with all of the school districts in District 1. Part of his responsibility with the NEA was negotiating and he felt the skills of a negotiator would be very valuable in the legislature.

Sullivan said he believed that one of the most important aspects of being a legislator is constituent service. He said if he is fortunate enough to be elected, he would be happy to work with the Board if they have any issues that the legislature is getting in the way or of needs to be worked on.

Chairman Brown asked Sullivan where he sees the opportunities to foster a better partnership between the state and municipalities and used the examples of the 2016 town meeting day snowstorm with town officials and the NH Secretary of State being at odds and some of the new voter checklist requirements. He thought sometimes lost in the discussion is the fact that a lot of the folks performing town functions are volunteers and they are given extra things to do with no additional support. He saw that also with the Department of Environmental Services and thought they could play a stronger role in being a partner with communities and helping with enforcement issues that small towns just don't have the zoning resources to deal with from a code enforcement standpoint nor should they be the first line of defense for enforcing the state statutes. Sullivan said he thought a lot of legislation is written without any thought to the impact the towns will have. He said he would certainly love to hear their thoughts on any legislation that is being considered.

Chairman Brown asked Sullivan what growth opportunities he sees economically around here. Sullivan said one thing he would like to see addressed is universal or near universal broadband coverage. He said it can be impeding to businesses that are not in an area of broadband coverage and thought the state could work with companies to give them the incentives to encourage them to get those last few miles wired in.

Sullivan thanked the Selectmen for their time.

Elizabeth Strobridge, Blue Mountain Snowdusters: Elizabeth Strobridge introduced herself and said she was representing the Blue Mountain Snowdusters as their secretary and is also a member of good standing of North Country Musers. She said they would like to hold a sled dog race in town starting from the Recreation Park fields and using both the Blue Mountain Snowdusters and the Blow Me Down Snowmobile Club trails. She said their main concern is getting approval for the starting point because using recreational fields in the winter is not something that is normally done and they had some concerns about it. She said if the fields were to be plowed the day of the race, it could get really messy and they knew there had been talk in the past about making a course for cross country skiers and they would like to propose that they are still available to groom the trails. She said the town would need to do additional plowing for the race and the Blue Mountain Snowdusters would need to know what the cost would be for that. She passed out a rough map of the parts of the park they would

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like to use for the race. Strobridge explained that dog mushers take up a lot of space. She said one dog truck will take up the same amount of space as three vehicles. The map showed where the dog mushers would park, where the spectators would be and another small area they would like to be available for information, food and demonstration(s) while the race is going on. She said they are still in the very early planning stages and informed that they do have event insurance through the North Country Mushers. She mentioned that there is a lot of interest through both snowmobile clubs.

Strobridge explained that it is going to be a mid-distance race so the teams will probably have between 4 and 6 dogs on the line or up to an 8 to 10 dog team but that had not been decided yet. She said there will be big trucks and lots of noise that day and it will be really fun for people. They are going to also set up a viewing area at the end of Walker Road which is already plowed out for other things. She spoke to a few people who volunteered to make hot cocoa and stuff with the Boy Scouts. Strobridge reviewed the map with the Selectmen and emphasized that they want to make it as safe as possible so they would have designated parking areas for the mushers and spectators, they don't want cars moving around the dogs. She said another concern is noise and she would want to talk to the owner of the house above the recreation fields.

Town Administrator White asked Strobridge if they have a date in mind. Strobridge said they have it scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 2017 and would like to start as early as possible. She said they would have a Musher's meeting at 8:30am and try to get everyone on the trail by 10:00am. The trails will all be marked that there is a race going on for safety and will have one way traffic in different areas. She said it will probably wrap up around 1:00-2:00pm.

Chairman Brown asked if they have funds or if there is an entry fee or if there is a way for them to cover traffic control if necessary. Strobridge stated that they are going to have volunteers for traffic control and they are going to sell banner space for the starting shoot to raise some funds and said they are open to ideas as they don't know how much the plowing expense will be to the town.

Selectman Jones said she thought there should be some police presence there. Chairman Brown agreed for at least when the trailers are coming in from Route 10. The Board will have a conversation with Police Chief Parsons.

Selectman Kimball said the plowing of the fields is dependent on the weather and he will hope for good winter weather for the event.

All of the Selectmen thought it was a wonderful idea and Chairman Brown commented that maybe it will become an annual event. Strobridge thanked the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Comcast Cable Agreement: The Public Hearing date for the Franchise Agreement is to be determined.

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NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department – September Report: Grantham Fire and EMS (Fast Squad) responded to a total of 27 calls; there were nine (9) calls for Fire/Rescue and eighteen (18) calls for EMS of which Grantham EMS was able to respond to eight (8). Fire calls for service were:

- 1 – 100 Fire, Other (tree on the power line on fire)
- 1 – 444 Power line down
- 3 – 460 Accident, potential accident, other
- 1 – Smoke detector activation due to malfunction
- 1 – Mutual Aid, reported brush fire, Grantham response cancelled while on route.

The Emergency Medical Responder class finished. There were 12 students in the class including 6 firefighters, 4 police officers and 2 probationary FAST members. It is now the responsibility of the student to complete the written and practical exams.

Three training sessions were completed in September:

- 9/12 Training in Fire and Safety Inspections to NFPA 101, with a practical session inspection of the Grantham Village School
- 9/19 Pumping and Water Supply, forward and reverse hose lays. Training was held at town hall.
- 9/26 Chimney Fire Response

Pump Tests and NH State Safety Inspections were completed on the trucks this month. There were no major issues with either.

Trustees of the Trust Funds – September Report was reviewed.

Town Administrator - September Report: Planning Board member Thain Allan has informed that he has put his house on the market but will stay on the Board until it sells. Planning Board Chair Carl Hanson has already been informed.

Giving thanks to:

- Office Assistant Martha Norris for delivering the food donations to the Newport Food Pantry on September 26th. It yielded three large grocery carts of food!
- Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper who coordinated the flu shot clinic for employees covered by the Town's health insurance.
- Highway Department, Road Agent Jeff Hastings and Assistant Road Agent Brian Hastings who patched a hole in the Town Archives parking lot as well as an area in the lower level parking lot of town hall.
- Grounds keeper Glenn Carey & Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott who helped out during Greg's medical leave.
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector Ken Story who helped with our annual self-assessment for our PRIME recertification. Participation in this program gets us a discount on our Worker's Compensation insurance.

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The office also processed: 11 Building Permit Applications, 6 Planning Board Applications, 2 Zoning Board Applications and 20 property transfers.

Vacations: Melissa – 10/2 – 10/6; Chief Parsons – 10/16 – 10/20; Warren – 11/3 – 11/9; Melissa – 11/16 & 11/17

Holidays/Town Office Closures:

- Columbus Day: Monday, October 9, 2017
- Veteran's Day (observed): Friday, November 10, 2017
- Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, Nov. 22 at noon through Friday, Nov. 24, 2017
- Christmas Break: Monday & Tuesday, December 25 & 26, 2017
- New Year's Day: Monday, January 1, 2018
- Martin Luther King Day: Monday, January 15, 2018

Upcoming meetings:

Selectmen's Meeting (Regular)	Wednesday, October 11, 2017	5PM	JW Conference Room
Selectmen's Meeting (Work) CANCELED	Wednesday, October 18, 2017	8AM	JW Conference Room
Recreation Park Committee Meeting	Thursday, October 19, 2017	6PM	JW Conference Room
Selectmen's Meeting (Regular)	Wednesday, October 25, 2017	5PM	JW Conference Room
Zoning Board Meeting	Thursday, October 26, 2017	7PM	JW Conference Room
Planning Board Meeting	Thursday, November 02, 2017	7PM	JW Conference Room
Selectmen's Meeting (Work) CANCELED	Wednesday, November 01, 2017	8AM	JW Conference Room
Selectmen's Meeting (Regular)	Wednesday, November 08, 2017	5PM	JW Conference Room
Selectmen's Meeting (Comcast Public Hearing)	Wednesday, November 08, 2017	6PM	Lower Level
Energy Committee Meeting	Monday, November 06, 2017	5PM	JW Conference Room
Conservation Commission Meeting	Monday, November 06, 2017	7PM	JW Conference Room
Budget Work Session w/Dept. Heads	Monday, November 13, 2017	9AM	JW Conference Room
Selectmen's Meeting (Work) CANCELED	Wednesday, November 15, 2017	8AM	JW Conference Room
Zoning Board Meeting	Thursday, November 16, 2017	7PM	JW Conference Room
Selectmen's Meeting (Regular)	Monday, November 20, 2017	5pm	JW Conference Room

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A letter was received from the NH Department of Environmental Services regarding the testing of wells at Fire Stations. White will have the well at the Fire Station tested.

2017 MS-1: A motion to approve and accept the 2017 MS-1 was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.**

Chairman Brown said the Valley News asked for the back story on the scarecrows which he provided to them. He also mentioned that we were going to have scarecrow kits for sale. For more information, go to www.granthamnh.net and click on the picture of the scarecrows on the home page.

NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-d, a motion was made by Selectman Jones and seconded by Selectman Kimball to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:40pm. Present were: Chairman Sheridan Brown; Selectman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; and Grantham Conservation Commission Chair David Wood

Roll Call vote to enter non-public session:	Chairman Sheridan Brown;	Yes
	Selectman Warren Kimball	Yes
	Selectman Constance Jones;	Yes

A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 6:05pm was made by Selectman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

A motion to seal the minutes of this non-public session was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.**

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-c, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball and seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:17pm. Present were: Chairman Sheridan Brown; Selectman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper

Roll Call vote to enter non-public session:	Chairman Sheridan Brown;	Yes
	Selectman Warren Kimball	Yes
	Selectman Constance Jones;	Yes

A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 6:30pm was made by Selectman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

A motion to seal the minutes of this non-public session was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.**

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Roll Call vote to enter non-public session:	Chairman Sheridan Brown;	Yes
	Selectman Warren Kimball	Yes
	Selectman Constance Jones;	Yes

A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 7:02pm was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.**

A motion to seal the minutes of this non-public session was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Kimball; *by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 7:05pm.*

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 25, 2017** 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