

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 7, 2023

In Attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert, Ron Madan and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of January 17, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of January 17, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of January 17, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of January 31, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Sherry wanted to discuss the Select Board Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2023 minutes. Sherry said that in those minutes there was a concerned citizen that mentioned that he thinks there would be a lot of people who do not get building permits when they are supposed to and asked who would enforce that. Sherry said that this is the concern she stated earlier in the public hearing that we should look into sharing an enforcement officer with another town. John said that most people get building permits and he thinks that situations that were discussed at that meeting were an oversight and sometimes other residents do let us know if something is happening or we see it when we drive by and address it at that point. Sherry said does this mean the concerned citizen could be wrong. Sara mentioned that they could be right. John said that there is always a few that will try to get away with it but we need to justify spending thousands of dollars on an enforcement officer for a \$10.00 building permit. Sara said it has been going on for years that people build without building permits and sometimes it is innocent that they didn't know they needed it and sometimes it is to try to get away with it. John said that even as a code enforcer when you look at the Town of Groton with it so many private roads and large properties, would you even know if someone was building something at the back end of the property. A resident said not unless you have a drone.

Slim said that when he was in the Hebron Store yesterday, he was asked about if you need building permits in Groton. Slim said yes you do and told them that there are signs posted in Town that state building permits are required and have been up for years. The person didn't see the sign and he cannot believe that people do not see these signs. They have been up for years since he suggested it when he was on the Planning Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report of Excavated Material- Map 5 Lot 47G

Mike Ethier submitted his report of excavated material for tax years April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. This report was for 1053 cubic yards of gravel and 3683 cubic yards of sand/fill and 312 cubic yards of loam, totaling 5047 cubic yards. The amount of tax is \$100.94. **John motioned to sign the excavation tax for Map 5 Lot 47G, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to Excavate- Map 5 Lot 47G

Mike Ethier submitted an intent to excavate for the tax year of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 for his property on Map 5 Lot 47G. He submitted payment for the \$100.00 fee. The intent of for 1500 cubic yards of gravel, 5000 cubic yards of sand/fill and 500 cubic yards of loam and 1500 cubic yards of fill totaling 7000 cubic yards. **John motioned to sign the intent to excavate for Map 5 Lot 47G, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Proposal from Studio Nexxus

Studio Nexxus submitted the proposal for Phase I of the Public Works Building Project. Phase I includes the pre-design which is complete, Conceptual and Schematic Design Services, the updated cost estimate and the final feasibility report. Sara explained that they will be updating these using the information from the building committee and the new plans we sent them with the lower costs. John explained the Phase I costs are \$2,530.00. John mentioned that we have used them in the past. **John motioned to sign the proposal from Studio Nexxus, Tony 2nd so voted.**

Pam asked what line this would come out of. Sara explained that when they had the public hearing on the ARPA funds, they voted to use the funds for some of these types of costs for the building.

House Bill 349

John mentioned that we already went over this in the public hearing but he wanted to remind everyone that tomorrow there will be a meeting at the Hebron Town office on the second floor at 3:30pm. This is an informative session and all are welcome to attend. This meeting will go over how to sign in on Friday, if you are going to testify what you should and shouldn't say, etc. Tony said that he has been to one meeting already with Sara. A resident asked who is putting it on and John explained it is Bill Luti. John said he is a wealth of knowledge. He is well suited for the position and has worked in the government before and understands how it works.

Cindy asked if we can just go as a spectator to show support but not speak is that okay. John said absolutely, numbers create power so the more people they see there the better. Sara also said that the more people that submit their support online helps as well. Slim said that when he used to testify you had to fill out a card for what Town you are from. John said that is correct. Tony mentioned there is a card if you would like to speak.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Cemetery Concern

Jim works for the snowmobile club and said that he has some concerns about the cemeteries in Town. He asked what the Town does for the cemeteries and if they are all included. Jim said that there are two cemeteries that are not being taken care of that he knows of. The first one is the Kimball Hill Cemetery and he said it is in the worst condition he has ever seen. They have started pulling trees out and organizing stones. Pam said in the past a part was damaged due to a skidder going over a part of that. The other cemetery just has two stones for a mother and daughter. Miles said that is not a Groton Cemetery. Slim said that is in Orange. Pam said the Kimball Hill Cemetery has not been actively maintained since 2009-2010. Jim said the sign is no longer there.

Sara mentioned that she will reach out to the Cemetery Trustees. They have someone who maintains the cemetery here, on North Groton Road, Bailey Hill and River Road so she will ask them about Kimball Hill and explain the concerns.

Write In

Sara mentioned that our current Treasurer, Pam Hamel, forgot to put in her candidacy for Treasurer this year but she does want to continue to do this. Sara explained that people can write her in on Town election day.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:45pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant