

APPROVED

Town of Grantham
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, by Chairman Kimball. The Board met in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room, 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief John Parsons; Energy Committee Members T.J. Alexander and Donald Jefferson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the meeting minutes of 03/09/2022; seconded by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll #650
2. Accounts Payable #807 & 808
3. Change of Address-Voluntary Consent Application Form
4. Investment Policy
5. Zoning Board of Adjustment Appointment: Susan Terwilliger
6. Application for Veteran's Tax Credit:
 - a. M/L 222-225-000; 22 Hummingbird Lane
 - b. M/L 225-315-000; 6 Longwood Drive
7. 2021 Abatements:
 - a. M/L 216-055-000; 9 Oak Lane - \$1,181.00
 - b. M/L 216-056-000; 11 Oak Lane - \$1,157.00
 - c. M/L 216-058-000; 15 Oak Lane - \$1,139.00
 - d. M/L 216-060-000; 16 Oak Lane - \$1,349.00
 - e. M/L 216-097-000; 60 Draper Mill Road - \$1,202.00
 - f. M/L 216-100-000; 54 Draper Mill Road - \$1,171.00
 - g. M/L 216-057-000; 13 Oak Lane - \$1,161.00
 - h. M/L 216-059-000; 17 Oak Lane - \$1,349.00
8. Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 213-005-000; 8 Ash Lane – Solar Array
 - b. M/L 222-177-000; 10 Whip-Poor-Will Walk – Screened Porch & Dormers
 - c. M/L 233-026-000; 120 Route 10 South – Office and Shower Room within Building
 - d. M/L 241-007-006; Cradle Lane – New Home
 - e. M/L 233-105-000; 834 Dunbar Hill Road – Barn Remodel
9. Lapsed Building Permits:
 - a. #2020-003; M/L 222-138-005; - 5 Lakeview Place

APPROVED

10. Correspondence:

- a. Comcast: Notice was received from Comcast regarding changes to Xfinity TV service. Impacted customers were notified of the changes through a bill message.
- b. Andy Gelston: A letter to the Selectmen was received from Andy Gelston stating that he is resigning his positions on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Energy Committee effective immediately. He said it has been an honor to serve with them on the Selectboard, and everyone on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Grantham Energy Committee.
- c. UVLSRPC March 2022 E-Bulletin: The UVLSRPC March 2022 E-Bulletin was reviewed.

A motion to abate the costs associated with the Abatements listed in 7.a. through 7.h. was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*

Items 8.a., 8.c., and 8.e. were removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

A motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. *Unanimously approved.*

Item 8.a.: Town Administrator White informed that this needs Zoning Board approval.

Item 8.c.: White pointed out that this Building Permit is for the remodeling of space for a gym at 120 Route 10 South and that the owners went to Planning Board for Site Plan Review. Planning Board approved the application with the condition that two stop signs be placed in the plaza on posts, that indicate who has the right-of-way, at the request of Police Chief Parsons. Chief Parsons stated that the location of the stop signs was delineated on a parking diagram that the Planning Board has and, generally speaking, coming in from Route 10, heading for the former Vet Clinic, when you get to the back corner of Pizza Chef, there should be a post with a stop sign in front of the tree, and then coming back towards Route 10, when you are getting towards the edge of the bank, between the bank and Pizza Chef, is where the other stop sign should be.

A motion to amend and approve Building Permit Item 8.c. with the condition mentioned above to install said stop signs as directed within three weeks of the date of issue, was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*

Item 8.e.: A motion to approve Building Permit Item 8.e. with the condition that it cannot be occupied as a dwelling was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. *Unanimously approved.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVED

OLD BUSINESS

MPR Safety and Drainage Improvements: White reported that two of the Easements, that were sent to property owners, have been received. She has been in contact with the Engineer regarding the bid documents but has not yet received them.

Conservation Commission SBH Beaver Recommendations: No new information.

Sawyer Brook Headwaters Gates: White reported that Dave Wood, Conservation Commission Chair, informed her that he contacted Ausbon Sargent to ask about the type of gate that should be installed in Sawyer Brook Headwaters. Ausbon Sargent gave him the name of a welder who has fabricated gates in the past. Wood was waiting for this welder's suggestion of design and price quotes. Wood went on to say that the location of the gates would depend in part upon the ability to relocate stones large enough to discourage vehicular traffic around the gate.

White recalled the conversation at the previous Board of Selectmen meeting wherein there was discussion and concerns about safety issues with Police Chief Parsons and Fire Chief Hastings such as what type of lock the gate should have and why a gate is needed there. White said she spoke with Road Agent, Jeff Hastings, about it and he questioned why a gate is needed there because there is no issue with illegal activities such as all-terrain vehicles and things like that. Police Chief Parsons agreed and added snowmobiles and people who ride mountain bikes to the list. He described the terrain where the gates are to be installed and suggested another area where there is a bridge with a safety issue. White said the area he suggested is on a Class VI road and didn't think the Town would be able to install a gate there because the Town does not maintain that road plus the property on either side does not belong to the Town, but she will check with NHMA. That location would also not qualify for a gate paid for by Ausbon Sargent. Selectman Jones expressed concern about having something near that bridge to notify people if there is a safety issue. Chief Parsons suggested finding out who is responsible for maintaining that bridge and letting them know that they need to look at it to make sure it is safe for people to use.

Selectman Garland asked if the gates are a requirement of Ausbon Sargent as part of the Conservation Easement. White explained that it is not required and that the company who did the stewardship plan recommended those gates, so this is a recommendation that was put into the stewardship plan. There was a question about ATV use up there and White believed that they are prohibited. Selectman Garland suggested putting a sign there stating what is prohibited. There was a comment that a sign would certainly be less expensive than a gate. White added that if gates are to be installed, the Conservation Commission would be looking to the Highway Department for assistance in removing boulders, stones, and things of that nature.

Selectman Jones emphasized that there were a lot of safety problems discussed at the prior meeting that could be caused by the lock on the gates, and having access to emergencies by the Fire Department, EMS, and the Police Department. After further discussion, the Board felt that a sign would be better than gates.

A motion to deny the request for gates to be installed in the Sawyer Brook Headwaters, at this time, was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. *Unanimously approved.*

APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS

Energy Committee: T.J. Alexander introduced himself and Donald Jefferson as members of the Energy Committee. He described them as being new and green and said they are looking for some guidance from the Selectmen. One of the questions he had is about the history of the Energy Committee. He asked what happened, what went on previously, if there is unfinished business, and if there are things they want them to consider. There was some discussion about PV Solar and a purchase power agreement that was proposed by former GEC members.

Alexander thought one of the things that should be done is a survey of all of the town buildings, looking for some energy projects, such as heating power, potential for PV Solar, etc. White stated the town did an insulation project for the Town Building several years ago. Alexander expressed interest in touring the town and school buildings. Selectman Jones stated that, prior to Covid, they were in discussion with the school about partnering with them for energy performance of buildings. White said she will send Alexander the materials she has.

Selectman Garland mentioned that former Energy Committee Member, Andy Gelston, was working on a project that he recalls was a consortium of cities and towns getting together to reduce costs but, at the time, they didn't have enough information for town meeting and Gelston was working on that.

Selectman Garland also commented that he has seen a lot of emails recently about the cost of oil, propane and electricity and asked if the Energy Committee could look into a buying group option to reduce costs. Alexander said that he doesn't see that that's happening in the marketplace now, however, he did look into purchasing with Eversource and he was told that the Town has some kind of contract for electric purchase. White confirmed that the Town and the School contracted for the supply end of electricity with Standard Power of America.

There was discussion about the Energy Committee's page on the Town website which could be a great vehicle for informing residents what is out there for options. Alexander mentioned that almost every town has an Energy Committee and noted that Eastman has its own and thought it might be worth spending some time to find out what they are doing to see if there are any ideas, direction, or synergy there.

The Committee will work on gathering information and presenting it to the Selectmen. More volunteers to serve on the committee are needed and requests for them will be added to the Town's e-news. The Board thanked Alexander and Jefferson for their interest and their time.

Police Department – February Report: The Police Department February Report was reviewed.

Town Administrator: White received the annual landfill post closure report from CMA Engineers for 2021 and it has been uploaded to the NH Department of Environmental Services.

White attended a webinar on the final rules and reporting requirements for the ARPA monies. The first report is due by April 30, 2022, and annually after that until 2026. She also reported that Darren Fagan, Technology Committee Chair, has sent out the RFP for the broadband project.

A request was received from the Walla family seeking permission to clean the benches and bricks at the Recreation Park and install some bark mulch around the trees that are in the brick area. White

APPROVED

recounted that the park and the playground are near and dear to the hearts of the Walla family. They were part of the group that spearheaded the playground fund raising and it has been 12 years since they put the playground in and all of the memorial bricks and benches. White said that she gave them permission and they contacted Emily Rinde-Thorsen to let her know of their plans. White will also have Greg Stender connect with them when it is warm enough to turn on the water at the park.

White received an email from ECA requesting permission to remove some trees at 19 Hummingbird Hill. The Town owns the adjacent property at 17 Hummingbird Hill. Eastman's Environmental Control Committee requires permission from the abutter if trees are going to be removed within a five-foot buffer zone from the property line. White provided the Board with a copy of the tax map showing where the trees are located.

A motion to give permission to remove the trees at 19 Hummingbird Hill, as shown on the provided tax map was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*

White provided the Board with an updated Expense Report.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-1, a motion was made by Selectman Garland and seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:03 PM. Present: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper

Roll Call vote to enter non-public session: Chairman Warren Kimball - Yes; Selectman Constance Jones - Yes; Selectman Peter Garland – Yes

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to leave the Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 6:08 PM; seconded by Selectman Garland. *Unanimously approved.*

A motion was made by Selectman Jones and seconded by Selectman Garland to seal this Non-Public session because it was determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board. *Unanimously approved.*

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-1, a motion was made by Selectman Jones and seconded by Selectman Garland to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:08 PM. Present: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper

Roll Call vote to enter non-public session: Chairman Warren Kimball - Yes; Selectman Constance Jones - Yes; Selectman Peter Garland – Yes

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to leave the Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 6:12 PM; seconded by Selectman Garland. *Unanimously approved.*

APPROVED

A motion was made by Selectman Garland and seconded by Selectman Jones to seal this Non-Public session because it was determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board. *Unanimously approved.*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Garland; by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:14 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on **Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 5:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant