

# APPROVED

## Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes July 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, by Chairman Peter Garland. The Board met in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room, 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Chairman Peter Garland; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief John Parsons; Fire Chief Justin Hastings; Conservation Commission Chair Dave Wood; Sheridan Brown; and C. Peter James

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the meeting minutes of 06/28/2023 and 07/06/2023; seconded by Chairman Garland. *Approved by majority vote.*

### CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll #686
2. Accounts Payable #887
3. NH DRA PA-28 Form for 2024
4. KRT Appraisal Assessing Contract
5. Building Permits:
  - a. M/L 234-138-000; 77 Heath Lane – Solar Array
  - b. M/L 225-068-000; 19 Wedgewood Drive – Roof Mounted Solar Array
  - c. M/L 207-016-000; 98 Smith Hastings Road – Solar Array
  - d. M/L 215-088-000; 23 Trillium Lane - Roof Mounted Solar Array
  - e. M/L 237-049-000; 196 Sugarwood Lane – Roof Mounted Solar Array
  - f. M/L 220-033-000; 460 Walker Road – Roof Mounted Solar Array
  - g. M/L 222-085-000; 18 Summit Drive – Kitchen Remodel
  - h. M/L 220-037-000; 346 Walker Road – Solar Battery Installation
  - i. M/L 227-014-000; 34 Meadowbrook Road – Roof Mounted Solar Array
  - j. M/L 220-046-000; 10 Chester Road – Roof Mounted Solar Array
  - k. M/L 234-042-000; 59 Greensward Drive – Deck
  - l. M/L 236-036-000; 271 Stocker Pond Road – Generator
  - m. M/L 222-087-000; 14 Summit Drive – Remodel and Replace Deck
6. Correspondence:
  - a. Donald R. Jefferson: A letter was received from Donald R. Jefferson, resigning from the Energy Committee effective immediately.
  - b. NH DRA: A letter was received from NH DRA that reviewed the 2022 Full Statistical Revaluation in detail.

Town Administrator White requested the removal of item number 4 as it is not ready yet.

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A motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended, with the removal of item number 4, was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Chairman Garland. *Approved by majority vote.*

## CITIZEN COMMENTS

Resident, C. Peter James, commented that town properties are being well maintained and look good. Town Administrator White said she will pass that on to Groundskeeper, Buddy Sweeney.

## OLD BUSINESS

MPR Safety and Drainage Improvements: White said she is still waiting to hear from the town engineer about the retaining wall.

Fire Truck Update: Fire Chief, Justin Hastings, gave the following update: The new truck is now in Tamworth, NH at Lakes Region Fire Apparatus Inc. Hastings went up to see it recently and to let them know where the tools, etc. should be mounted. He told the Board that he is very happy with it. They anticipated that it would be in Grantham in about two weeks. He said part of the package is that they will give an eight hour training on the new truck when it arrives, and he invited the Selectmen to be there too if they are interested. Chairman Garland said they would like to be there.

Stamper Parcel Conservation Land Parking Area: On hold.

Energy Audits: No update.

## NEW BUSINESS

Conservation Commission: Conservation Commission Chair, Dave Wood, intended to ask the Board for their approval of the improvement harvest recommended for Sawyer Brook Headwaters, that was approved at their last meeting, however, given the recent area flooding and excess water events, he is now asking the Board to accept the GCC recommendations. If they approve that, he will ask the forester to talk to the logger to get recommendations under these new circumstances and then bring those recommendations back to the Board. A motion to have the forester proceed to talk to the logger to get updated recommendations for the improvement harvest at Sawyer Brook Headwaters, and then have those recommendations presented to the Board of Selectmen was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Chairman Garland. *Approved by majority vote.*

On another subject, Wood credited Sheridan Brown with creating two more rights that the Conservation Commission now has regarding land (Wood was referring to Articles 3 and 4 that were approved on the 2019 Town Warrant, specifically adopting provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(a) and RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b)). Wood informed the Board that there is a 180 acre tract of land in Grantham that Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust would like to purchase. This purchase would be beneficial to the Town and the Conservation Commission would like to commit \$10,000 from the Conservation Fund to Ausbon Sargent for the purchase of this property. A motion to allow the Grantham Conservation Commission to donate \$10,000 from the Conservation Fund to Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust for the purchase of the above referenced 180 acre tract of land in Grantham was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Chairman Garland. *Approved by unanimous vote.*

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There was detailed discussion about Blackberry Way, the recent flooding there, and the beavers. Police Chief Parsons informed that the big beaver dam blew out and there is a lot of flooding. The lower dam is still intact but there are trees lying on it and flooding around it. About 150 feet of Old Dunbar Hill Road is gone. Wood asked the Board if they want to continue to put a beaver deceiver in the surviving dam there.

Sheridan Brown mentioned that he felt there was a lack of communication on this matter, so nothing was ever done about the beaver deceiver. He said that he contacted Eastman Charitable Foundation recently to ask if they are still willing to provide the funding for this project. They said that they are and asked Brown to keep them informed. He said he is still willing to work on this, but that a lot of cleanup would need to happen first. He suggested that maybe Wood or White reach out to Ausbon Sargent to find out if they have insurance on encroachments. Chairman Garland said they will wait to hear back from Ausbon Sargent and table this until the next meeting. They can hold a special meeting if necessary.

Wood asked the Board where they stand on plans to meet with NH DOT and salt use on the roads. White said she is waiting to hear from Jim Lantz. Wood said he thought that he responded. White will look into it.

Lastly, Wood asked where the Town stands on gates at Blackberry Way. Brown asked about ATV use without an ordinance. Chief Parsons emphasized that Blackberry Way is not in good shape to drive on by any type of vehicle thanks to mother nature.

Trustees of the Trust Funds – June 2023: The Trustees of the Trust Funds June 2023 Report was reviewed.

Town Administrator: The soil in the compost pile at the Transfer Station is going to be tested for Asian Jumping Worms by NH Cooperative Extension. The Transfer Station has also purchased a thermometer.

White sent the list of tax deeded property to St. Jean Auctions. They will review it and set a date to meet with the Board.

White is waiting for more people to come forward who have an interest in joining the Building Needs Committee.

Buildings Maintenance Manager, Greg Stender, is in the process of getting quotes to replace the carpet in the Selectmen's Office and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office.

The office received a request from Merrick Rocke, of 689 Route 10 South, to install a streetlight at the end of his driveway because he has a child who waits for the school bus in the dark. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

White provided the Board with an updated office calendar and expense report.

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## NON-PUBLIC SESSION

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-c, a motion was made by Selectman Jones and seconded by Chairman Garland to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:52 PM. Present: Chairman Peter Garland; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper

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

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to leave the Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 5:58 PM; seconded by Chairman Garland. *Approved by majority vote.*

A motion was made by Selectman Jones and seconded by Chairman 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. *Approved by majority vote.*

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Garland; by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 5:59 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper  
Administrative Assistant