

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members John Warshow, Chris Martin, and Helen Ducharme; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Road Foreman Dan Tetreault; Building Superintendent Ernie Penley; Visitors Willis Celley, Ed Pcolar (Cabot Creamery), Vivian Davis, Jon Groveman (Planning Commission)

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin.

Old Schoolhouse Common: Ernie updated the Board on several building projects. He has started insulating the heating system pipes and already he sees a difference in the ambient temperature in the building. He estimates that the pellet boiler has saved over 300 gallons of fuel so far this winter. He informed the Selectboard that he is going on vacation in March and they need to find a substitute to do the routine cleaning while he is away.

Cabot Creamery: Ed Pcolar approached the Board to thank the Town for the help that they give the Creamery. He presented the Board with a check for \$2,500 as a donation from the Community Partnership Program. This is a gift to the Town on behalf of the farmer-owners of the Creamery.

Cabot Road: The Town received a letter from Frank W. Whitcomb asking for confirmation of the status of the Town's account. Bobbi will send a letter explaining the discrepancy between the invoice amount and the amount paid.

Dogs: The Board invited Willis Celley and Vivian Davis to come to resolve a dispute over Vivian's dogs being unsupervised. Willis Celley attended the meeting; Vivian Davis did not attend for this discussion. Mr. Celley disputed Ms. Davis' claims that he baits the dogs to lure them off of their property. He presented a letter signed by some other neighbors attesting that the dogs are often in the road chasing cars. He showed the Board videos of her dogs in the road. He explained that the dogs also come on his property to dig holes. He noted that since she put in the underground fence, one of the dogs has stopped being a problem. He is asking that the other dogs be kept on their own property. He has been dealing with this since February 2008. Dan confirmed that the Road Crew has seen the dogs in the road on many occasions, especially in the morning, and especially the brown one. The Board sent Mrs. Davis a violation but the Vermont Judicial Bureau requested a different form. The Board will send her a new violation notice. Mr. Celley left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Vivian Davis arrived at the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The Board explained that Mr. Celley has provided video and a written complaint from the neighbors. Vivian admitted that her dogs have been off her property several times. She stated that the Celleys are provoking her dogs and Mrs. Celley has been calling her dogs to lure them off her property. Helen explained that Mr. Celley indicated that the collars seem to be working with one of the dogs but not the others. Vivian feels that everything is resolved and there have been no problems since she has purchased a new style of collar and she has been working with the dogs to train them.

The Board decided to hold off on enforcing a fine at this time but they notified her that there would be a zero tolerance policy in the future. They will call Mr. Celley and find out if there have been any

complaints since she started working with them with the new collars, and they will discuss the issue again at their meeting on March 6.

Stranahan Town Forest: The Town received a recommendation from the Stranahan Stewardship Committee that Bob Light should be asked to follow the State's tapping guidelines for the maples that are around the parking area. Bobbi sent him a copy of the guidelines.

The Committee also notified the Board that John Schmitt has volunteered to use his bulldozer to smooth out the Thompson Road for free. The Board approved.

Town Plan: Jon Groveman approached the Board to discuss the draft of the Town Plan. What was submitted to the Selectboard did not include some comments that the Planning Commission had meant to include. Because the omission was inadvertent, the Board is handing the Town Plan back to the Planning Commission so that they can make the corrections before the Selectboard starts their review process. Jon addressed the Board to explain the process that the Planning Commission used to rewrite the plan. The Commission is planning to survey the townspeople. The Board discussed the best way to get the survey to people. Options are to send it to voters, send it to property owners, or include it in Field Notes. Bobbi explained that surveys are not allowed in the polling place on Town Meeting Day. The Board agreed to have it mailed to everyone on the voter checklist. Jon commended Rich Baker for all of his hours of service working on the Town Plan.

Cemetery Bylaws: The Board reviewed the draft bylaws. They also looked at the cemetery fees in the Town of Groton. The Board raised the cost of a lot for non-residents to \$750. The new prices will take effect on May 1st.

Library Trustees: Bobbi notified the Board about an error in the Warning for Town Meeting. The warning lists two Library Trustee terms up for election, but another two of the Trustees were appointed by the Selectboard and also need to be elected. Bobbi will ask the Secretary of State's Office how to handle this mistake.

Flood Repairs: Dan and Bobbi updated the Selectboard on the status of the flood reimbursements. The Town is now working with the third FEMA representative who doesn't have any information from the first two FEMA representatives so Dan is having to go over the projects again and Bobbi is having to resubmit paperwork.

Grants: Dan is applying for a grant from VLCT for safety equipment.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved the minutes of the February 7, 2012 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the February 21, 2012 Selectboard Meeting.

A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
