



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 20, 2012

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, in the Merrill Seney Community Room. Mr. Groh called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman; Jason Bleu – WINY Radio; John Filchak, NECCOG; Paul Dery; Kevin Walsh; Sally White; Celeste Fifield; Craig Hanford, Jr.; Jennifer McTiernan – Farmland Connections Program; Al Landry; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of March 6, 2012.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Groh presented a Letter of Resignation from the Transfer Station Advisory Committee from Norma O'Leary. He asked to be contacted by anyone interested in serving. Mr. Landry provided a brief overview of the history and work of the Transfer Station Advisory Committee.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Blake Lamonthe, who is seeking support for a commuter rail between Brattleboro and New London. Mr. Filchak commented that there is also interest in a separate rail line which would connect New London and Montreal.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh announced that the next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on April 3, 2012 at the Thompson Hill Fire Engine Company.
- Mrs. Forrester reported that budget deliberations had resulted in a 1% decrease, as had been requested by Mr. Walsh.
- Mr. Beausoleil noted that the Budget Presentation will be held at the TMHS Auditorium on Thursday March 22, 2012 at 7 p.m. He encouraged all citizens to attend.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

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- Mr. Baer expressed concern for problems with the town website. Mr. Groh will again contact the vendor.
 - Mr. Landry stated that a new trail is being cleared on the former Leclair Property, now deeded to the Wyndham Land Trust. Miss White noted that this property is adjacent to Quaddick State Park.
 - Mrs. Fifield asked that her request to use the Parking Lot be added to tonight's agenda.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to add to tonight's agenda as Item 7.a. Request to use the Town Hall Parking Lot and Transfer Station.

- *Mr. Beausoleil* -Yes
- *Mrs. Forrester* -Yes
- *Mr. Groh* -Yes

- Mr. Hanford stated that he is interested in joining the Transfer Station Advisory Committee. He is an Environmental Studies major.
- Mr. Walsh inquired about the status of FEMA grants regarding the last storms and a breakdown of how the request was calculated. Mr. Groh will provide these figures for Mr. Walsh.
- Mr. Baer asked for the status of the investigation on the recent vandalism at the Lutheran Cemetery. Mr. Groh announced that the State Police are investigating. Mr. Landry noted that Putnam Selectman John Smith and several volunteers are planning to repair the gravestones.
- Mr. Baer also expressed concern on the upcoming merger between Northeast Utilities and NStar. He stated that NStar has a poor maintenance record.

NECCOG – REGION'S NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mr. Filchak, Director of NECCOG, presented an overview of the Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan process. Several grant programs require that a municipality have such a plan in place. Additional information may be obtained at www.neccog.org. There was a discussion of resources that are available. The Emergency Management Directors of the region are meeting as a steering committee to create this plan. Mr. Filchak handed out forms and asked to have them returned to the Town Hall.

There was a brief discussion of the initiatives and mission of NECCOG.

Mr. Groh thanked Mr. Filchak for providing this information.

FARMLAND CONNECTIONS SERVICE

Jennifer McTiernan, Project Coordinator for the Farmland Connections Program, presented information about this program. She provides assistance in the leasing of town-owned or land trust owned lands to farmers. This program supports economic growth, agriculture, rural quality of life, and keeps farmland as working land. She described several pilot ideas and distributed written material to the Board.

There was a discussion of Open Space land restrictions, the history of leasing agricultural lands, and monitoring any leases. Additional information is available at farmlandconnections@gmail.com.

Mr. Groh requested that Mrs. Landry bring this information to the next Agriculture Commission meeting on March 28, 2012, and bring that Commission's feedback to the Board.

Mr. Groh thanked Ms. McTiernan for the presentation.

REQUEST TO CLOSE MAIN STREET FOR THOMPSON LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE

Mr. Groh had received a written request dated March 16, 2012 from Joseph Barber, President of the Thompson Little League, regarding the annual Little League Parade. Mr. Barber will coordinate arrangements with the State Police and Community Fire Department. The Board is invited to march in the Parade.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to close Main Street on April 14, 2012 starting at 10:30 a.m. for the Little League Parade, which will begin at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center and end at the Little League Field. Main Street will re-open at the conclusion of the Parade.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

REQUEST TO USE TOWN HALL PARKING LOT AND TRANSFER STATION

Mrs. Fifield presented information regarding fundraising efforts for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Motion made by Mr. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to allow Celeste Fifield and her teammates to use the Transfer Station and Town Hall Parking Lot on Saturday May 12, 2012, beginning at 8 a.m., for the purpose of holding a Carnation Sale as a fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

TOURTELLOTTE TRUST FUND NAME & TAX ID

Mr. Groh read into the record the Resolution of the Thompson Board of Selectmen regarding Tourtellotte Trust, dated May 20, 2012, and including information authorizing the Town Treasurer to use the Town of Thompson Federal Tax Identification Number for the Fund. This would allow recognition of the Fund as a non-taxable entity.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the resolution as read.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

APPOINTMENTS TO RECREATION COMMISSION

Two individuals have expressed their desire to be reappointed.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to reappoint Thomas Jourdan and Steven Bordua to the Recreation Commission, terms to expire April 15, 2015.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

EXECUTIVE SESSION – POSSIBLE LAND TRANSFER

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to enter into Executive Session to discuss a possible Land Transfer at 9:13 p.m.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:34 p.m. with no action taken.

TAX REFUNDS

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to refund the following overpayment as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.

Janeellen and Robert B. Romprey	\$144.80
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<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

OTHER BUSINESS

Donna Grant, Executive Director of TEEG, presented information concerning the proposed Juvenile Review Board. This regional board will serve the communities of Thompson, Putnam, Woodstock, Eastford and Pomfret.

Ms. Grant provided information on this cost-effective and timely manner of addressing certain juvenile offenses. Additional information will be provided to Mr. Groh. There will be a training session for municipal leaders and community members who wish to serve on this Board. The

training will take place at United Services, Wauregan, on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 9 a.m. until noon. Mr. Groh and Mrs. Forrester expressed interest in attending.

Mr. Landry stated that the Transfer Station Advisory Committee/Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of February 24, 2012 have not been approved by the Transfer Station Advisory Committee. When approved, a corrected copy will be given to the Board for the record.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:07 p.m.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry