



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 5, 2010

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Jonathan Duvall - WINY Radio; Olivia Braaten – Village Newspapers; Paul R. Dery; Steve Benoit; Joseph Gaucher; Ted Smith; Dushy Mahendran; Donna Grant; Judy Rondeau; Carolyn Werge; Delpha Very; Al Landry; Celeste Guimont; JoAnn Hall; Shawn C. Donohoe; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of December 15, 2009 as presented.

<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Attorney St. Onge concerning the Cassella contract approval.

Mr. Groh presented an update regarding culvert construction on route 395.

Mr. Beausoleil gave copies to the Board of a newspaper article regarding Casella Company.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh welcomed those in attendance and wished everyone a happy new year.
- Mr. Groh stated that there will be repair work on the Westfield Dam in 2010, with more in 2012.
- Mr. Bell noted that there have been complaints about lighting in the Town Hall parking lot.
- Mr. Bell stated that he is glad that the ordinances are being updated.
- Mr. Beausoleil thanked the TEEG Board for providing an overview of their agency to the new Board members.

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- Mr. Beausoleil commended the Highway Department for the admirable job of snow removal in the recent storms.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Mr. Smith requested that the town establish a standing snow removal and sanding program and presented a written letter on this issue for our records. Mr. Groh reviewed the town criteria for road care, starting with the determination being made by the State Police and then by the Director of Public Works. He noted that the annual budget book lists the plan of road maintenance.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Groh stated that the Ordinance Review Committee is charged with updating the town ordinances and making the document more user-friendly. There was a review of the changes recommended by the Ordinance Review Committee. There was a consensus to send these changes to the Town Attorney for his review of the following: Abandoned Motor Vehicle Ordinance and Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse and Recycling Ordinance. There was a discussion of the proposed Sewer Opt In/Opt Out Ordinance, and a consensus to also send this document to Town Attorney for his review.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to send the following ordinances: Abandoned Motor Vehicle Ordinance, Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse and Recycling Ordinance and Sewer Opt In/Opt Out Ordinance, to Town Meeting on January 27, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center.

<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

RELEASE OF MORTGAGE – DONOHUE

Mr. Donohoe gave a brief history of the mortgage situation and the related properties in question. Mr. Groh has spoken with Town Attorney who stated that the release of the twenty-two acre parcel from the mortgage did not pose a risk to the Town. Mr. Donohoe's goal is to obtain a partial release, thereby showing a clear title to the twenty-two acre piece. Mr. Groh wants the owner's lawyer to draw up documents for review by the Town Attorney. Mr. Beausoleil requested that the Town Attorney determine that the Town not be at any risk. Mr. Bell agreed with Mr. Beausoleil.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Groh, stipulating that if it is found that Shawn Donahoe has any vested interest or involvement in the twenty-two acre piece under discussion for the release of mortgage, that the release be null and void.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION – FIVE MILE RIVER GREENWAY

Ms. Rondeau made a presentation regarding the designation of the Five Mile River corridor as a Greenway, from the headwaters in Thompson, through Putnam, and into Killingly where it joins the Quinebaug River. The Conservation Commission supports this designation, and it is included in the current Plan of Conservation and Development. The benefits were discussed and it was noted that there would be no regulatory restrictions with the greenway designation. The town would need to enact any specific restrictions. Ms. Very noted that this is a Federal designation and once made, there is the potential for more funding opportunities at the State and Federal levels. Mr. Groh read the resolution into the record.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bell to accept the resolution designating the Five Mile River as a Greenway.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh noted for the record that this designation does not restrict motorized vehicles on Quaddick Lake, which is part of the Five Mile River.

APPOINTMENT TO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – ALTERNATE – DAVID KRESS

Mr. Groh had received correspondence from the Thompson Republican Town Committee recommending David Kress for the alternate seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to appoint David Kress to serve as the Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, to fill the unexpired term of Kevin Beno, term to expire November 22, 2011.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

TAX ABATEMENT – LILLIAN AVENUE

Mr. Groh stated that this property is now owned by the Town of Thompson as the outcome of the town meeting on October 8, 2009, and recorded by the Town Clerk on November 5, 2009.

Motion made by Mr. Groh , seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to abate \$32.41 tax on the Lillian Avenue property as previously described.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh will forward this information to Mr. Morin, Tax Collector.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT – HERITAGE WAY

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Conservation Officer Carolyn Werge, dated December 22, 2009, concerning infringement on the Conservation Easement in Heritage Way. There was a discussion of the history of this issue and current activity on the property. Mr. Groh stated that the Board has authority over Conservation Easements. Ms. Werge verified that the deed also states the Board of Selectmen's authority, is documented in Volume 340, page 135, and prohibits the removal of trees and shrubs unless written permission is granted by the Board. Ms. Werge recommends an A-2 Survey to delineate the boundaries of this easement and has received a cost estimate. Mr. Donohoe requested the opportunity to contact the firm which performed the original survey, to provide a cost comparison. He will provide this information to the Board.

No action taken.

SET TOWN MEETING DATE & AGENDA

Mr. Groh gave a brief history of the Airline Trail Grant of \$37,000. This grant is for the section of the Airline Trail between Sunset Hill Road and Thompson Road (Route 193). The Resolution was made in August 2008, and the Letter of Acceptance was received in August of 2009.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to set a Town Meeting for January 27, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library Community Center to act upon the following: Abandoned Motor Vehicle Ordinance, Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse and Recycling Ordinance. Sewer Opt In/Opt Out Ordinance, and accepting the \$37,000 Airline Trail Grant.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

TAX REFUNDS

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

Toyota Motor Credit Corp.	\$27.49
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CAB East LLC	\$109.26
CAB East LLC	\$229.12
Nicole L. Robidas	\$ 15.92
Wheels LT	\$ 52.43

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bell, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:15 p.m.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry