



TOWN OF GROVELAND  
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TAX COLLECTOR

## TOWN OF GROVELAND MASSACHUSETTS 01834

**BOARD:** Conservation Commission  
**TOPIC:** Monthly Meeting  
**MEETING DATE:** November 18, 2015  
**MEETING PLACE:** Town Hall Meeting Room  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** M. Dempsey, T. Schaefer C. Keene, J. Aalto, J. Gebauer  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** T. Grim, H. Degnan  
**GUESTS:** none  
**RECORDER:** Hauss

**(Action Taken:)**

Dempsey motioned to open the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Aalto seconds the motion.

(Voted: 4-0).

**Lower Center St. Update** - Dempsey said the Highway Dept. would repaint the "No Parking on the Street" signs. Arakalian will call company and they will begin next month. Dempsey spoke to Chief Kemilowitz stating the area has been clean. One problem is the dragging of boats into the pond. We are only allowing car top boats into the pond. This is something which will be monitored and enforced.

Dempsey spoke with the Selectmen, Fire Chief and the Scouts. The Selectmen asked the Conservation Commission how well these changes were impacted and how the area is abused. Dempsey would like to discuss with the commissioners what the alternatives are.

DEP is aware of the problem-25ft.no disturb zone which is inclusive of the picnic area. Use and abuse has caused a disturbance in this area. Dempsey checked back when the picnic area was proposed. There wasn't going to be an erosion problem but there is. Because of environmental concerns, DEP is watching any changes that are made. Conservation will need to file for a local permit and a permit for DEP.

Dempsey has 2 alternatives:

1). Rehabilitate the picnic area. Address erosion and make repairs. Part of the plan is to trim the trees, prepare ground service, put grills back and replace signs. File for permits for wetland and develop procedure for grills and procedure for cars.

2). Move picnic area to different part. We own land across the street but it is not an ideal place. Three other spots are at Veasey Park which is on top and at bottom of Veasey Park and the area across from the pond. All three sites would be out of 50ft. buffer zone.

Dempsey would like input from neighbors from Center St. He said he met with the Scouts and they don't want picnic area moved.

Keene said one big factor was the Fire Chief. It wasn't our call. Where do the grills fit in? We are not overseers of the fires. That is in the direction of the Fire Dept. We need procedures from the Fire Dept. and we need suggestions from the Selectmen.

The Fire Chief came up with procedures. Each member received a copy of the rules.

Conservation Commission is required to post these rules. Who will enforce the rules, the Police and the Fire Dept.?

Keene stated there was not a paper trail. We can take the suggestions from both the Selectmen and Fire Chief and we can take the procedures that we want.

Gebauer said we send over the procedures and the Fire Dept. will sign off on it.

Schaefer asked if the Chief will change his mind again.

Dempsey said they will be checking 3 times per year. If it is something they don't like they will shut it down.

Keene said policy changes all the time. We have to leave a paper trail.

#### Public Comment

Jeff Pappas-34 Center St. It doesn't make a lot of sense. It hasn't been used by a lot of people of Groveland. People have been swimming in the pond. More people would use it by Veasey Park. I would support moving it.

Schaefer said if we move it, what will the police do if they see someone standing in the woods? Nothing would happen. We would revert it back.

Sam Sample- 40 Center St. Since it has been there the people fish in it, they swim in it. There is less trash. The Police are down there patrolling it. Removing this will not stop the boats, or the swimming. There will be more fires. There have been illegal fires by the neighbors. Leaving it where it is so that families will utilize the area. It would be a mistake to move it out of there.

Nancy Amadea 22 Center St-This area has a constant problem. I hear it and I see it. It is not quiet. There are members who don't reside in Groveland who use it.

Dempsey said if you have people using it more people (eyes) public is there monitoring the area.

Schaefer asked Nancy Amadea -22 Center St. what has changed from years ago. She answered it is at the other end of Groveland She said she sees it constantly where there is an activity at the place and cars turn around in her driveway. Let it go back to the way it was before. All the seasons are different.

Schaefer said people aren't following the rules.

Joe D'Amore 9 Cherry Hill Lane said he uses the place. You need to find a balance. The people who live close want the area used very little. The Fire Chief and Conservation Commission have authority over this land. The Fire Chief said to remove the grills. The Conservation Commission has respected his requests. You need to find a balance and find a specific use. For the grill use; a procedure was suggested. All fires to be in the grills. Only charcoal, no one under 18 yrs. old can have a fire. Before using a grill, a grill use form has to be filled out at the dispatch office with proper signage. You need to call the dispatch at the Police station to use the grill.

Dempsey is working with a consultant to rehab the area.

Keene said it is never the good people who do not follow the rules. To the people who leave the paint cans, will they follow the rules?

Gebauer would like to table this and have a site walk.  
This discussion will continue at the December meeting.

**NOI/GNOI-Center St. Seven Star Rd.**

Allen Rosco of Cammett Engineering said the plans have not changed. The culvert is not part of this proposal.

Schaefer doesn't think a culvert is going to affect the area. We are taking water that naturally goes there and is being brought to the other side.

Roscoe said he wasn't changing the run-off.

Aalto said he would like to see the results to the testing before and decisions are made.

Dempsey asked if the culvert wasn't put in, what would happen. There would be seasonal pool water. Do we need five markers?

**(Action Taken:)**

Keene motioned to approve plans modified with markers to grant permit. Aalto seconds the motion. **(Voted: 5-0).**

**213 Washington St.** - grant seasonal waiver for utilities for the street. The Logan's were able to put in the utilities before the November 1 deadline. They are requesting to remove erosion controls. They haven't seeded the lawn yet.

Dempsey said we want to make sure everything is growing. I would say it is ok and there is not risk.

Aalto said I need to justify this situation where we have to worry about the risks. Can we do a site visit?

**(Action Taken:)**

Dempsey motioned to allow the erosion controls at 213 Washington St. for a single season growing season. **(Voted: 2-3)**

Discussion: The record will show 2 yes and 3 no.

Schaefer said my feeling is if the site is negatively impacted. This is the most important season to have erosion control.

Keene said he would like to stick to the rules. If the Logan's want to plead with us then let them come in front of the Board and plead their case and maybe the Conservation will reconsider.

**441 Main St.** Dempsey wrote a letter regarding the fine sent to Eric Harper. He met with Harper and he is going to have Mr. Noyes settle the fine.

Schaefer said Mr. Harper is responsible for his tenants.

**Center St Greenway-**Dempsey said the gravel removal is winding down for the season.

**Enforcement Issues**

**860 Salem St.-** Aalto has to follow up with property owner.

Dempsey spoke to the Planning Board about splitting a full time position with the Conservation Commission. This will pay for an agent which the Board would like to hire.

Keene said if we can generate revenue or a cost neutral this will add more positive if the person is collecting fines.

**6 Berrywood Circle-** Certificate of Compliances needs to be signed.

**Action Taken:**

Keene motioned to accept September 9, 2015 minutes. Schaefer seconds the motion. **(Voted: 3-0-2)** Schaefer and Keene abstain.

Keene motioned to accept October 14, 2015 minutes. Schaefer seconds the motion **(Voted: 5-0)**.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9,, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Groveland Town Hall.

A site visit for Lower Center Street is scheduled for December 5, 2015 at 9:00a.m.

Dempsey motioned to close the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Keene seconds the motion. **(Voted: 5-0)**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

12-9-15

## Picnic Area Alternatives

### Option A      Rehabilitate LCS Picnic Area

Current picnic area is located on parcel of Conservation land next to Johnson Pond. Besides grill replacement issue the area next to the pond is eroding and must be repaired. State and local wetland permits must be filed and approved. A better plan for boat launching is necessary.

#### Rehabilitation Plan

- Trim trees, brush and vegetation to prevent fires
- Repair ground surface erosion
- Placement of two small areas of gravel fill
- Placement of two grills
- Replace signage

#### Other Requirements

- Develop wetland plan
- File for Mass DEP NOI Permit and local wetland bylaw permit
- Identify funding source for erosion repair
- Develop grill use procedures
- Plan for car top boat launch revised procedures to prevent further erosion

### Option B      Move Picnic Area to Veasey Park

The current picnic area can be moved to the other side of the pond at one of three potential sites. The top of the hill on Washington St, the bottom of the hill on Washington St or the current boat launch at the entrance are available. The last site has a dedicated parking lot and boat launch in place already.

#### Placement Plan

- Level area chosen area at top of hill, at bottom of hill or on hillside above entrance parking lot
- Placement of two small areas of gravel fill
- Placement of two grills
- New signage