



TOWN OF GROVELAND
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TOWN SELECTOR

**TOWN OF GROVELAND
MASSACHUSETTS 01834**

BOARD: Conservation Commission
TOPIC: Monthly Meeting
MEETING DATE: September 9, 2015
MEETING PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Dempsey, C. Keene, J. Aalto, T. Grim, H. Degnan
MEMBERS ABSENT: T. Schaefer
GUESTS: none
RECORDER: Hauss

(Action Taken:)

Dempsey motioned to open the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Aalto seconds the motion.

(Voted:4-0).

6 Stonebridge Road- the owner wants to cut and clear trees within buffer zone. This is under a NOI open permit. Dempsey read the letter from Mr. Russano into record.

The area on the new plan is marked in pencil. There were not many trees in the area. There is more brush and the owners want to add grass. Keene said that we really should stick to the 25ft zone. If they want they can do something at 75 feet. A site walk will be conducted on September 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Lower Center St. Update- Aalto said the site is being used quite a bit. There is 1 trash can on the site. Aalto said when he visited the area it has always been clean. Back in May, the Commission was asked to move the grills by Fire Chief Lay because of fire concerns. The Fire Dept. doesn't want fires. Haverhill Water Dept. removed the grills in July. The residents were upset about this. The Eagle Scouts (2007) fixed this area. Aalto said in the conversation the picnic tables weren't going to be removed while complying with the Fire Dept. It is the Conservation Commissions wish that people continue using the area.

Joe D'Amore 9 Cherry Hill Lane said the real contention is the grills, which is the inviting part and there is a pit alongside for fires. Does the Commission have jurisdiction?

Grim suggested letting the Selectmen take this issue up with the Fire Chief. Grim would like to see the grills and the picnic tables put back into place.

Dempsey said we have to comply with the town rules. The Fire Chief said the Fire Dept. has jurisdiction over fires and grills.

D'Amore said it seems they don't want people using the area and he will bring it back to the Selectmen.

Sam Sample- 40 Center St said he was disappointed the Fire Chief isn't at this meeting. Do they know the concept of this project? They are concerned about fires on the trails. We have complied by putting down with pea stone when it was renovated. The whole issue with fire was back in May or June. I came around on Center Street and there were 6-8ft diameter fires with flames 8-12ft in the air. Many people use this area. There were always 2 trash barrels. We spoke to the drivers who pick up the trash to empty the barrels once every two weeks. Now there is only one barrel. Since this project was completed, it has been safer and cleaner. People pick up the trash and respect the area.

Grim suggests that you make your feelings known to the Selectmen. The BOS are the ultimate authority in this town. That is the way to move this along. We need feedback from the Fire Chief and the Selectmen

Dempsey said we will vote to put the grills back in or leave them out. We need feedback from the Fire Chief and the Selectmen. I have questions and concerns which the Fire Chief needs to address like when will they be removed? Does the Fire Dept. have the staff to monitor the area? What are the concerns with fire prevention?

Dempsey received an email from the Fire Chief addressing the area back in May 2015. He said he was concerned about fires because it was in a remote location and not easily controlled or monitored for compliance. His primary concern is one of fire prevention and if permitted fires were creating any public nuisance, then they can't be allowed. The Fire Dept. does not have the staff to monitor this area. Dempsey suggested that people get permits, but they don't want to do that.

Sample said these grills are in different parks all over the country. Some parks have signs which say "By Permit Only". The Police Dept. does an excellent job coming down Center Street to monitor the area. It doesn't make sense to me. Your minutes say, per order of the Fire Chief with no explanation. As far as removing the picnic tables, your minutes say it came from the Board of Selectmen telling you to get rid of the benches. After the Selectmen's meeting your minutes got approved. The Selectmen didn't say any such thing at their meeting saying to remove the benches.

Dempsey said it came from a Selectman. A Selectman told me he wanted the picnic tables removed. I am not going to tell you which Selectman. The Board was considering removing the tables and closing the area down if we didn't do it. That is what I was told.

Sample said one Selectman should not speak for the entire Board unless they discussed it.

Grim said we didn't get an official letter from the Selectmen saying remove the tables.

D'Amore said the point is moot because these folks aren't going to support it anyways. You have here say so in a public meeting you have cameras rolling and sometimes things are said that aren't true and accurate. I believe the minutes are absolutely accurate and reflect here say.

It ended up being unfounded and regardless you acted accordingly with your mandate and that is to protect land and make it accessible to the people.

Jim Snow- 11 Burke St. The new signs that are posted at that project now say the boat ramp is located at Veasey Park. The project was created to allow car top kayaks and canoes be launched at that site because further down near the point at the pressure of the neighbor who lives down at the end; that is all coned off and you can't drop off boats there any longer. Why do the signs say "Boat Ramp at Veasey Park". I went over to Veasey Park yesterday and there are no signs showing a boat ramp or a boat launch. Right at the entrance there is parking and there is a little path. Besides kayaks and canoes, any aluminum boat with a trolling motor will not be able to get through those lily pads to go out there day or night.

Dempsey said the sign says there is a boat launch at Veasey Park, 201 Washington St. The sign doesn't say you can't launch your boats there. It is providing an alternate site to launch a boat. The boat launch at Veasey Park was built with State funding. We did not spec it out, the State did. It met State Guidelines. They didn't want to put a dock in. We didn't much say in the matter. They didn't want power boats in there. They put that launch in so people can carry out their canoes and kayaks in there. We expect the same for Lower Center St. We are trying to eliminate areas where boats are being launched. This past year we received a State Grant and we were able to put some plantings in some places, put in rocks so people wouldn't park their cars and put new signage down there. We are trying to keep in useful but not disturb the area.

Mike McClullen 48R Center St. He said the grill was taken out and are now in the possession of the Haverhill Water Dept. Is there any documentation on that on how we get them back.

Dempsey said we will get them back. Haverhill Water Dept. who owns a chunk of land back there agreed with the Fire Dept. to have them moved over there.

Grim said one of the issues is storage. If the Boy Scouts want to supply storage space for them we can reclaim. The longer they sit there the greater the chance they will disappear at some point.

Mr. Sample said one of the picnic tables and 1 grill is for handicapped access. When you decide to put them back in you have to make sure they go in the right spot.

Dempsey asked if there was anyone who opposed or had concerns with the fire pits.

Mr. Scott- 38 Center Street said there was a fire in June on the Boxford side. The fire pits have been misused more than once. I don't want to lose the woods. You cannot replace the woods once they have been burnt down.

Lynn Pappas 34 Center Street sent a letter with photos concerning the area. Dempsey read the letter into the record.

Robin Gleason 17 Baldwin Terrace said there is a mixed message going to the Boy Scouts stating that one person can have the power of all this. How do we make sure this doesn't keep going back and forth with the grills and the tables in this area? Can we address this? Can there be communication with the Scouts?

Dempsey said there have been several Scout projects especially at Veasey Park. There is no requirement that a project doesn't have a lasting value. When we approve future projects we will ask more questions. The beneficiary which is the Conservation Commission takes over when the project is complete.

Stan Sample- 40 Center Street said, the lasting value is the intent we have and we hope they are maintained. Scouts have to do service hours. We will maintain the trails.

Grim said our position is we have to not re-install them unless there is some arrangement worked out between the Selectmen and Fire Chief. I urge anybody who wants to see those back there to exert pressure in that direction. As far as recovering the grills, if someone can give us a place to store them, we will make an effort to get them back from the Haverhill Water Commission. We will keep an open dialogue with the Boy Scouts. Our meetings are open so anyone can come and talk to us.

Dempsey said he is disgusted about the bickering about the trail project and what has become of it. He would love to have residents work together. He would like to come up with a stewardship program with the residents that live in this area. If anyone is interested, please contact us.

Mr. Gebauer- 83 School Street said he will store them at his house.

Pine Retention Pond- a site visit was done. Keene brought up the drainage. Arakalian said he spoke to his consultant and it will exit by the dog park. Arakalian said he can get this done in six months.

(Action Taken:)

Grim moved to approve plan. Aalto seconds the motion. **Voted: (4-0).**

Keene left the meeting and didn't vote.

441 Main Street- A time table was given for all floats to be removed. Dempsey spoke to Peter Noyes twice. The Conservation Commission has been told that all floats have been removed as of this September 1, 2015. Dempsey scheduled a site visit on September 19, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Center Street Greenway Update- There is 250 acres of land which the Conservation Commission has custody of and control of about 100 acres is under their jurisdiction. The gravel removal project is underway. Dempsey said the contractor needs to give him the depth of the gravel. Mr. Arakalian is monitoring the process. They have seven years to finish but Dempsey thinks he will finish next year.

The Bagnall fourth graders are going to start working on mapping (GPS) the trails. The Water Department owns the area where the solar fields are located. In July we approved a GRDA for trees to be cut down. We failed to realize that when we approved it that no work can be done between November and April because of turtle activity. Dempsey said he will redo and correct the letter he had sent out.

(Action Taken:)

Grim motioned that Dempsey write a letter to supersede a letter previously written to allow for tree cutting to be completed before November 1 and no tree cutting shall be done between November and April. Degan seconds the motion. (Voted:4-0).

Aalto motions to accept the minutes for August 13, 2015 with one change noted "No construction inside not outside the 25 ft. no build construction zone." Degan seconds the motion. (Voted:4-0).

Grim motions to accept July 15, 2015 minutes as submitted. Aalto seconds the motion. (Voted:2-0-2).

16 Stonebridge Rd- The marker was moved by commissioners. Grim said he hasn't spoken to the landowner but will give him a call since they were going out there on Thursday night.

"What do I file for Document?"

Dempsey would like to add links to the paperwork on the website.

(Action Taken:)

Grim motions to approve the generic "WDOIFF Doc." Aalto seconds. Discussion: Further clarification will be on website and hung on board. (Voted:4-0).

Enforcement Issues

800 Salem Street- There was a site report of dumping taking place. Dempsey wrote a letter and the Commission agreed that no more dumping will take place and grass can be planted. Compost material was being dumped there. Dempsey spoke to the land owner on August 20.

Homestead Lane- Dempsey said the site work is almost done. Erosion controls are in place. Grim would like to see something there pending a rainstorm. Dempsey said we can do a site visit. Grim and Aalto will take a look at the location after the rainstorm on Friday morning.

J.B. Little Road- Dempsey said the town owns J.B Little Road. A portion of the road is impassible. There is a problem with dumping. The State (Dept. of Fisheries) would like to buy that part of the road. The State will put up gates so the dumping will stop.

(Action Taken:)

Grim motions to authorize Dempsey to write a letter to the State. Aalto seconds the motion. (Voted: 4-0).

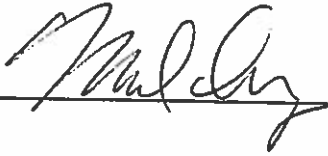
Pecker Lane -Grim went to Pecker Lane on August 14 to look at the silt sock and erosion controls. He said there wasn't much there. A little hump should be put in so no water goes into any homeowner's basements. A berm will be placed in to help stop the water from flowing into yards and cellars. Dempsey said he is having a pre-construction meeting on 9/15.

The next meeting is October 14, 2015 at Groveland Town Hall. Sign-offs is held on Monday evenings from 7-8p.m. The Building Inspector is requiring the Conservation Commissioners sign off on everything.

Dempsey welcomed the two new volunteers, Heather Degnan and John Gebauer.

(Action Taken :)

Aalto moved to adjourn the meeting. Degnan seconds the motion. (Voted: 4-0).

Approved:  Date: 11/18/15