

MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOVEMBER 4, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6:32 P.M.

**Present** Selectmen Elizabeth Gorski, Joseph D'Amore and Chairman Donald Greaney.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Greaney welcomed the following scouts who are working on attaining their community merit badges and in order to do so, must attend and take notes on a town board meeting: Josh Garzone, Jeremy Frederick, Matt Hersey, Ethan Mandarano, Cameron Santos, Jeremy Scanlan, Parker Watts, Philip Watts, Joe Polcari, Christian O'Connor and James Vesta. Chairman Greaney also welcomed the parents/scout leaders: Lisa O'Connor, Tom Frederick, Patti Garzone, Marie Mandarano and David Polcari. Greaney thanked the parents for coming and for supporting the kids, stating that it's a great thing they all do.

**Approve Warrants**

Selectman D'Amore explained to the scouts that by the Board approving the Warrants they are voting to release money from the town's budget to pay the town's bills; that they do this each time they meet in regular session; that they have to do it openly. Moved D'Amore, seconded Greaney, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve Payroll Warrant #14-18. 2-1  
D'Amore, Greaney – "Aye"; Gorski – "Abstain"

Selectman Gorski explained to the scouts that she abstains from approving the payroll warrants because she has a family member whose pay is part of that Warrant.

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve Bill Warrant # 14-17 3-0

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve Deduction Warrant #14-16A. 3-0

**Stephen Sample-Eagle Scout project approval**

Eagle Scout candidate Stephen Sample and his Dad, Stanley Sample, were present and welcomed to the meeting. Stephen addressed Board stating he was present to request approval for a project he wishes to do to attain Eagle Scout. He informed the Board that he would like to work on a system of trails off Center Street near Johnson's Pond; that his brother did a project that has a parking lot and that he wanted to make a

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trail system from the parking lot to a system that is already up there, clean them, make them more visible, make a map of them and have a trail marker at the parking lot which is the start of the trail system. Stephen told the Board that he started working a couple of weeks ago at the site and a neighbor in the area told the council office that they don't think it's a good thing to have up there; that it will draw the wrong crowd of people there so he was asked to go back to his beneficiary Groveland Recreation Department and they told him to see the Board of Selectmen to see how they would approach it.

Chairman Greaney asked if the property Stephen wants to work on is town property and Stephen showed the Selectman two maps of the area and noted again that the trail system is actually owned by the Haverhill Water Department; that he spoke with Bob Ward of Haverhill who approved the project but feels that Groveland Rec needs to be his beneficiary so Stephen met with them. Chairman Greaney asked if he had Ward's approval in writing and Stephen said he did not. Greaney asked Stephen to speak with Mr. Ward again and obtain a letter saying Stephen has permission to tie into their trail system. Selectman Gorski asked how long the project would take and Stephen told her he couldn't say until he sees how many people he has helping him.

Selectman Gorski asked Stephen whether he had spoken with any of the local neighbors and he told her that he had only spoken with one man at the end of the street who does a lot of hiking and said he was all for the project and looking forward to it being done. Chairman Greaney told Stephen he will need to keep conservation informed if he has trees to cut. Selectman D'Amore asked how long of a trail Stephen would be working on and Stephen replied that he didn't know the actual length but it took about 20 minutes to walk it. Selectman Gorski told Stephen that it seems like a nice project to her. Stephen told the Board that any trees he has to cut are small stuff under an inch which is Greenbelt requirement; that under an inch they would cut but most of it they would try to avoid. Stephen told the Board that he has spoken with Mike Dempsey of Conservation throughout the project.

The Board briefly discussed whether they need to speak with the neighbors in the area and Selectman Gorski said she didn't believe they had to; that they have told her before that they enjoy seeing others enjoy the area and Stephen's project is only making something nicer and more enjoyable. Selectman D'Amore told Stephen it would be in his best interest to knock on a few more doors, not all, and let them know what his plans are. Chairman Greaney agreed that Stephen should speak with the neighbors and Selectman Gorski told him that she applauds him for doing the project. Chairman Greaney told Stephen that there are some pretty neat trails up there and told Stephen if any of the neighbors have a question, ask them to call him. Stephen said he would. Selectman D'Amore asked that Stephen let the Board know when he has completed his project so that the Board can go up and visit. The Board approved Stephen's request for his Eagle Scout project.

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Selectman Greaney told the scouts that once the fields are completed at the Pine's Rec area there might be an Eagle Scout worthy project or two at that site, suggesting that trimming of dead branches off the pine trees, clean under them and making some nice walking trails through the trees.

**6:45 P.M. – Library Trustees and Director**

Library Director Nathalie Harty addressed the Board on behalf of the Board of Library Trustees. She thanked the Board for having the Trustees and library staff, then told the Board that they were there to talk to the Selectmen about a grant opportunity they have through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; that it's called a planning and design grant in the amount of \$50,000 to be used to offset the cost of exploring expanding the library; that the staff and Trustees are very committed to having a library building that is the very best for our community. Nathalie informed the Board that there is a matching segment to the grant of \$25,000 and that the Board of Trustees last November voted to expend up to \$10,000 of trust funds and would be talking with the town to approve the remainder needed (\$15,000). Nathalie told the Board that she had submitted a letter of intent for the grant; that the grant application isn't due until January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014. She read aloud a 250 word narrative on the letter of intent for the grant, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a copy of these minutes.

Nathalie told the Selectmen that the reason they are present tonight is to try to get a sense or pulse of the community as far as exploring/looking into an expansion of the library building; that the Ma Board of Library Commissioners ask that they not be committed to a specific site at this time but rather that the money be spent to hire and Architect, a project manager and a library consultant to help them test this site to see if the soil is feasible to be expanded upon because they would like to stay here. Nathalie told the board that they are there to discuss the process with the Selectmen first. Trustee Dube-Carpenter told the Board that they are trying to find out whether the Board of Selectmen would support them moving forward on something like this; that what Nathalie highlighted is exploratory in nature so there's no commitment; that it's exploring what their options are. Nathalie told the Board that every 5 or 6 years there is a library construction grant round that comes about; that the Library Commissioners Board 's plan is to offer the Design Grant now so that the next construction grant would come on the heels of this grant process.

Nathalie stated that in order to move forward there are a couple of things that need to happen, i.e., that the town would need to have two Warrant Articles on the April Town Meeting Warrant asking for approval to go ahead with the exploratory nature of this project of expanding the library and, to apply for, accept and spend the grant money. Selectman D'Amore asked whether the current building requires a complete replacement or major renovation. Nathalie responded that at this point they don't know; that this is what this process is designed for, to answer those questions. D'Amore then

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asked what percentage is the State contributing to communities that are completely rebuilding their libraries. Nathalie responded that the Mass Board of Commissioners funds almost 50% for new buildings; and that if the library received this design grant they would have up to two years to spend it. Selectman D'Amore asked what the percentage would be for renovation and Nathalie stated it would be the same; that they were told that currently the cost for renovating or building new is running about \$300 to \$400 a square foot, and that renovating/expansion tends to be more expensive than building new buildings. Chairman Greaney asked if they have looked at any other libraries that have expanded to see if their plans could be borrowed; that she said they have \$10,000 in trust fund monies and asked how much they need to spend just to get a plan; that there are probably several of them out there. Nathalie responded that from what she understands from the people who do this and work with libraries in other communities, the planning and exploration process often goes beyond the \$75,000. Trustee Dube-Carpenter told Greaney that the challenge of that would be that their building is not like another building; that she's not sure they could take a cookie cutter approach. Greaney responded that they had mentioned looking at another site to build a new building and Dube-Carpenter replied that she doesn't think that's where they are; that in a best case scenario they wouldn't be moving to another site but they can't guaranty that until this process begins and somebody assesses what their options are. Greaney said he was talking about if they went into another building and checked out their facilities; that you're saying ours aren't adequate; that they don't meet minimum standards but he's sure that they're still legal; that the building must still be legal. Trustee Carlos Del Castillo responded that this process wants the library to be built for the community; that it wouldn't look well on them if they were to grab somebody else's plan because we hadn't put the thought behind building it for Groveland.

Nathalie told the Board that part of the process is to form a library feasibility committee where there would be a cross section of residents who would help them assess what the community wants for a library. Nathalie stated that she met with the Selectmen first to see how they would feel about this, then the next step would be to meet with the Capital Improvement Committee to discuss with them the matching funds. Library Trustee Dube-Carpenter commented that the Trustees did the vote to contribute \$10,000 and will need \$15,000 from the town; that they don't expect the town to incur all of the expense so they have made a good faith effort to use \$10,000 of their resources.

Finance Director Labrecque asked if the grant is due in January will the town have to commit the matching funds at that time? Nathalie replied that the local funding has to be secured by January, 2015. Trustee Dube-Carpenter stated that it's important to know that the Trustees would not move forward with their plan if they don't have the support of the Board of Selectmen. Trustee Elizabeth Barton commented that she didn't know whether they needed a refresher on the limitations of the current building besides the horrendous leaking that goes on in the entrance way; that the pathway in is flooded

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and iced and difficult to even enter the building; that the back door of the building is also the same way; that the book drop is iced all over the place and the windows flood; that they are maxed out in space for practically every meeting that they have. Barton said the staff is incredibly creative in doing things at Veasey or at town hall and out on the lawn. Chairman Greaney responded "so you're saying that this area is not even conducive for a library out there and Burton responded that she thinks it could be made and that is what the grant is for to determine if it can be two stories, go forward or back.

Nathalie told the Board there is a question in the grant about how will Groveland change in the next twenty years and that in the planning process they want them to go out to 2034 and Groveland's population is predicted to grow to 8,200 by the year 2034 and they will want to know what's going to be happening in this town in the next twenty or thirty years. Selectman Gorski responded that she questions that number; that she doesn't think they have enough room to grow. Trustee Prunier asked isn't the Government Advisory Committee working on a Master Plan that would aid in this type of Grant. Selectman D'Amore responded that that is a great idea because he doesn't know what the Master Plan says in terms of the library and they (GAC) are planning to possibly bring that out and help get a strategic sense as to how the library is to be positioned in our community in the next several decades.

Chairman Greaney suggested scheduling a time to walk through the library with everyone before they make a determination on spending \$25,000 (\$10,000 of library's and \$15,000 of the town's). Finance Director Labrecque asked if there is a timing issue because of Capital Improvement and Nathalie replied that there could be and asked what their time frame is for reporting to the Finance Board and Labrecque responded that it is usually January 15<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Dube-Carpenter stated that she thinks that if the Selectmen agreed that there is a need then the CIC would probably approve those funds but they can't go before the CIC without having discussed it with the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Gorski responded that the Board thanks the Trustees for doing that because sometimes people don't do that and go straight to Capital Improvement and the Board learns about it later on. Greaney suggested that they could meet with CIC at the library when they all meet and Trustee Prunier responded that they are scheduled to meet with CIC Tuesday evening but maybe they could push that up to a later date and Trustee Dube-Carpenter stated she thinks that a walk through is a great idea.

D'Amore stated that they need to have a collaboration with CIC and possibly the Finance Board; that he thinks that one of the things the Board of Selectmen can do is support the notion that there is a problem that needs to be fixed; that once they communicate that they will ask their partners in the financial departments to help them figure out if it's possible; that the thing he would be concerned about is that you spend \$15,000 and come up with a solution that the problem can be solved with a \$25,000,000

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library project and we can't go to the town and ask for 50% of that because they have some other things they need to take care of as well. D'Amore stated that that is his concern that an expenditure of a large amount of money for an expensive study of something that we can't afford. Trustee Dube-Carpenter responded that to come up with a plan like that would be disingenuous of them; that she thinks it's going to be a collaborative process and to come up with a plan for a \$25,000,000 library doesn't feel consistent to her with where they are; that they would be collaborating with the designers and planners to do something that Groveland could do; that they're not seeking to have something that is beyond Groveland's needs and that she doesn't think that spending \$25,000,000 is what they plan on doing. D'Amore responded that he was using that as a sample because he has sat through meetings with the school and he was looking at very large numbers to build a new school and that is coming in the next thirty-six months and they need to be aware that there is another very big project coming and as a town will have to make a decision and his concern is how do the accommodate the library project as well.

Chairman Greaney suggested maybe they need to get together with the school project maybe build a library on the school property; that he thinks they gave up most of their library activity over the last several years; Trustee Barton responded that she is a librarian and the school actually has a very good library and can speak to how good their program is compared to other schools. Greaney asked which school the library is at and Barton responded the high school and middle school and she believes there is a library at Bagnall but it's not staffed. Barton told the Board that Hamilton-Wenham put their town library with the schools and it has been a miserable failure. She told the Board she wouldn't recommend replacing one with the other but a stand alone on the same property may be fine; that there are different populations to be served. D'Amore stated that his opinion is that a library is a major driver for a quality of life of a town; that he believes there is a renaissance around a building called a library and he would support a library and a possible renovation; that his only concern is can they afford it.

Trustee Dube-Carpenter responded that she thinks D'Amore has a valid concern but she thinks if they miss this opportunity that is a two year process and the entire building process is a total of seven years there's no guaranty that these grants will be available down the road and D'Amore replied that that is a good point. Dube-Carpenter said they would be remiss if they didn't think about that. D'Amore told the Trustees that if the Board can help them establish the need then they could consult with their colleagues in the finance area of the town and hopefully come up with the solutions that they want.

Selectman Gorski stated that she thinks the Trustees should attend the Capital Improvement Committee meeting the next night and discuss what the possibilities are over there. Chairman Greaney stated they should have a group meeting to view the site. Trustee Dube-Carpenter asked how the Board would like to set up a date for the walk through and Selectman Gorski replied that she thinks the sooner the better on a

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Saturday and everyone agreed it would be best to visit in during daylight hours. Trustee Burton told the Board that they will want to go to the basement which is filled with mold and commented she has never been to it. Gorski commented that the library does have historic documents they need to preserve; that the library and Trustees work hard doing their own fundraising; that they have two annual book sales and it's not like they are not offering to do the best they can to raise money. Gorski stated that people may show us plans for a gorgeous new library, but that won't work for the town because we can't afford that; that we're small and like it that way but want to do this the best way that they can. Labrecque commented that he doesn't think \$50,000 is that far out of whack because just two or three years ago the feasibility study for the Bagnall project was \$60,000 for that big project. Chairman Greaney asked is it \$50,000 or \$75,000 and Burton responded the total is \$75,000.

Selectmen Gorski told the Trustees they should meet with the CIC the next night and D'Amore agreed. Trustee Dube-Carpenter told the Board they have been conscientious about the strategic planning they do every year; that in the past that was something they didn't even have. She stated that part of that strategic plan is looking at various factors on an annual basis and soliciting the feedback from the community about what people want and the program development has been pretty much driven by that. Nathalie left a blank grant form for the Selectmen to look over and thanked the Board for their time.

Chairman Greaney then mentioned that over the last few months they have been spending a lot of time on the process of hiring a new Fire Chief, and that during that time there have been a lot of families who have lost members, families whose people have served the town and the Board would like to send their condolences to everybody and hope that everyone is doing well. Greaney also mentioned that there will be a Veterans Day Service on the town complex green on Monday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. to honor the veterans and told the scouts he hopes they will be attend. Greaney mentioned that the Commander of the Legion recently passed away and that the veterans may need some help from the scouts getting some chairs outside; that they really appreciate the scouts attending and could probably use their help this year.

Chairman Greaney explained the Property Use Permit process to the scouts, telling them if someone would like to use town property they submit a permit request for the Selectmen's approval giving the Pines Speedway Reunion and Groveland Day as examples of group requests. Greaney told the scouts that the Board doesn't always have groups in to their meetings but that it's good to meet with the Board when they are planning projects. He told the scouts that even Eagle Scout projects should be presented to the Board for approval and their support; that the Selectmen's role is to help support other groups and individuals; that they make financial decisions for the town and they hire personnel and appoint people to town committees and boards. He told the scouts once they get of voting age the Selectmen will have to find something for

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them to do for the town and Selectman Gorski jokingly told them to leave their phone numbers before they leave the meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn.  
Adjourned at 8:16P.M.

Chairman Greaney thanked the scouts for attending the meeting and asked if they had any questions. Scout Christian O'Connor asked what the Selectmen intend to do with all the extra fields they are planning for at the Pines Recreation area. Greaney responded that initially the youth football league had no field to play on so initially they were thinking of making a football field and thought about using turf and over the course of time their connections for that went away; that now youth soccer is lacking enough space for soccer so they made the field large enough that it will work for soccer, football or lacrosse. Greaney noted that the town only had one soccer field that was usable in town and that there had been 5 different groups looking to sign out one softball field. He explained that the lights were installed to allow games at night but that the town charges \$25 for the use of the lights; that they are planning to make at least one more softball field but hope to make two; that Pentucket softball uses our field for their games. Chairman Greaney told the scouts that they were looking to better use the space they have there and had to remove almost 400,000 yards of sand in order to get that space; that they are also going to try to get tennis courts in and they already added to smaller soccer fields which when those were finished a flag football league was started; that as fast as the town can make a field they have a new program for it and that is why they need the sign out permits. Selectman D'Amore asked Christian if he knows what the town did with all the sand and Christian replied that he thinks they sold it to get more money for the town. The Selectmen told him he was correct and Chairman Greaney explained that all the money that was raised from the sale of the sand has to be used on that site; that the town voted that requirement a long time ago when they voted to purchase that property. Greaney also told the scouts that there will be a bathroom put in and possibly a snack shack like they have at Washington Park; that there will be parking areas and a cement boat ramp. Christian told Greaney that he has looked at the town's plan. Greaney asked if there were any more questions and there being none, the scouts thanked the Board for having them and left the meeting room.

Meeting closed at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Lewandowski, Administrative Assistant