



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

May 28, 2014

6:30 PM

Downstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall
28 Main Street, Griswold



This meeting was adjourned from the regular date of May 27, 2014.

APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

Members Present: Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman
Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman
Philip Anthony, Third Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Elizabeth Sibicky, Ethics Commission Chair
Larry Laidley, Bicentennial Committee Chair
Atty. Gail Rooke-Norman, Bicentennial Committee Member
John Coleman, Boy Scouts of America
Connor Briggs, Boy Scouts of America
9 other interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **May 13, 2014 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. **May 15, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- c. **May 23, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the May 13, 2014 regular meeting minutes, May 15, 2014 special meeting minutes and the May 23, 2014 special meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence - None**

4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Rich Grabowski, Tax Collector – None**

- b. Discussion and introduction with John F. Coleman and Connor Briggs in pursuing his status in the Boy Scouts of America** – Both boys addressed the Board of Selectmen about a town issue as part of pursuing their Citizenship in the Community badge. Their concern they brought forth was the concern of safety at the town playgrounds, fields and parks. There has been a lot of broken glass, needles and trash at those places which could cause injury to the kids playing there. Boy scouts usually do a park clean up for trash and will be doing it again this year.

S. Mikutel noted the BOS must pinpoint accountability in picking up the trash and hold that person(s) responsible. K. Skulczyck noted all items mentioned have been a concern of the BOS. The trash definitely needs to be picked up and the town will address that issue right away. S. Mikutel commented the trash must be emptied on a regular basis and he will follow up on it. P. Anthony noted the boys did a great job and commented there is a seasonal worker who was recently hired and should begin to pick up the trash on a regular basis. K. Skulczyck noted the boys did a great job and the BOS will address the other issues.

- c. Update by Larry Laidley on progress of the Bicentennial Committee** – L. Laidley passed out a draft flyer of dates for events that they have been working on. He noted there are multiple events in the works that will be added to the calendar. The first event will be Hero's day in September, hopefully in conjunction with the Coast Guard Band, with events continuing through November and December of this year and throughout next year. He noted they are still in the process of obtaining 501(3)c. P. Anthony noted accountant, Lionel LaSalle is donating his time to help them to garnish the status. The intention after the Bicentennial is to hand the 501(3)c over to Ryan Aubin to continue to raise money and not lose the status. They have confirmed they will work in conjunction with Joe Courtney's office to expedite the process.

Atty. Rooke-Norman commented they will be reaching out to other organizations for more events. They are working on a sponsorship letters to go out to businesses for the larger donations. The letter will basically state they are looking for a commitment in 2014 for the donation in 2015 when the 501(3)c status is obtained. She also noted there are two beautification weeks in spring, which would be a great project for boy scouts and girl scouts to chair. She also noted they are looking into a canoe and kayak weekend, however there is much blockage in the waterways from fallen trees and such. She asked if the BOS could look into this with the state and possible clearing of the waterways so the event could be held. S. Mikutel suggested trying to arrange a meeting with the appropriate representatives from the state to take a walk along the waterways to check out the blockage. Atty. Rooke-Norman asked if the BOS would agree to be co-chairs to get the bicentennial banners up along Main Street and some other streets in town. The town seal with addendums will be placed on the banner, since there was only one logo received. The BOS agreed to get the provided banners up. Atty. Rooke-Norman also commended Ryan Aubin on his efforts to help coordinate events. She also mentioned there will be an Old Time Baseball game (1860's style) which was brought forth by committee member Jay Rainier.

L. Laidley also noted they are drafting a letter to request that a common footer, announcing the Bicentennial, be added to town stationery to be used throughout next year, as well as notices being put on the webpage of both the Town and the Borough.

S. Mikutel wanted to know what has been done to involve the schools and the students in all activities. L. Laidley noted the schools have been extremely involved in almost all the events. The Coast Guard Band will be in the high school for the kickoff with Hero's Day which will showcase essay contest winners from the school. They will also be involved in the civil war enactment which will be presented by an actor at the school for the school and for the public. Students will be reading original letters as part of that presentation. K. Skulczyck noted that superintendent P. Smith has also encouraged teachers to incorporate activities regarding the bicentennial into their curriculum next year. S. Mikutel wanted to stress that the musical department be used as much as possible. S. Mikutel asked if there was a photo contest planned. L. Laidley noted there is a photo calendar that is being prepared and will be for sale as a fundraising opportunity. S. Mikutel asked if anyone has been contacted about fireworks. L. Laidley noted they have contacted six different companies to come out and measure sites, but have not been able to due to inclement weather on the scheduled dates. They are still going to come out and measure the three proposed sites (Veteran's Memorial Park, HS football practice field and the Norman farm) and give their site suggestion along with a price for at least a 30 minutes show or longer plus a grand finale. S. Mikutel would like to see it stay at Veteran's Memorial Park if possible. There may need to be bus transportation if parking is not accessible.

It was confirmed the Coast Guard band will be performing twice. The cost associated with them performing is related to transportation and is under \$3,000 per performance. We may also be able to get the Navy band out of Newport, RI. There will be a gala dance around October or November of 2015 and will be called the Bicentennial Boogie and be a costume dress event. Where the event is going to be held depends on the number of tickets sold. General feeling was to keep it in town if at all possible. S. Mikutel suggested planning a family day event and involving Ryan Aubin in the planning. There was brief discussion about membership of the committee and it was noted that they need chair people for events, rather than regular members. K. Skulczyck volunteered to help out. Atty. Rooke-Norman noted the beautification events will take a lot of time. L. Laidley also commented they will try to coordinate with the Conservation Commission which also does a clean-up event. Atty. Rooke-Norman suggested a health care fair, as an event.

- d. Discussion and possible action on adding section 56-6 to the Code of Ordinance Chapter 56 "Meetings", to clarify the procedure for recusal** – L. Sibicky noted she has worked with Atty. Baribeault to arrive at the final language for inclusion in Chapter 56 "Meetings" of the ordinance, with reference to the Code of Ethics. There is no need to schedule a special town meeting for just this purpose, rather, it can be done when there is a need to hold a town meeting for something else. Also, if the Code of Ethics is revised next year, then this section would be referenced as a change.

5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Eric Vickers as a member of the Space Needs Committee, tabled from the 5/13/14 regular meeting** – A letter from Atty. Stu Norman, Chairman of the Space Needs Committee, was read into the record. It was suggested the Space Needs Committee be dismissed as it has completed its requested charge. Mr. Vickers was made aware of this possibility and noted he was interested in finding another committee if need be. There was no action on this item.

6. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board

- a. **MOTION**: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring the item of adding members to the Bicentennial Committee, onto the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to add Roger Geer as a member of the Bicentennial Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION**: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring onto the agenda the request by the Chairman of the Space Needs Committee to disband the Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

P. Anthony commented the Committee did do everything they were supposed to do and the cancellation of meetings has been consistent, thus agrees with the Chairman's recommendation to disband.

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel to disband the Space Needs Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Public Forum

Norm Sylvestre – N. Sylvestre asked if trimming of the brush at the Harris Lussier house. He also noted other blight around town as well as the old theatre downtown. K. Skulczyck noted some trimming has been done at the Harris Lussier house.

David Vieaux – D. Vieaux agreed the waterways do have blockage. He noted he looked into it years ago and trees that fall in from the banking and are on private property are the responsibility of the property owner to remove them from the water. He also noted there is a junk yard behind the old airport building up by where the Dollar General is supposed to go in. K. Skulczyck will look into both issues.

Ransom Young – R. Young referenced a grate on Rixtown Rd. that needs repair as well as the road. K. Skulczyck noted the grate has been looked at as well as where the road connects with 201.

Kathleen & Donald Moretti – K. Moretti has expressed her concern about people parking in front of her garages at 43-35 Hill Street, as well as her driveway. She has put up no parking signs as suggested in the past and even called the police and has seen no progress. When she calls the police they are either gone by the time they get there, or the police do not pursue the information she gives to them. The signs she has put up, at her own expense, have been taken or vandalized. P. Anthony suggested contacting the Borough Warden, Al Geer, as the residents troopers fall under their jurisdiction. K. Moretti noted a do not enter sign has recently been put at the entrance to the power house and requested if one could be put up by her driveway. K. Skulczyck commented the power company gave the town multiple signs to put up and will place one at her request, however, encouraged her to speak to the Borough. It was also noted that the resident trooper attends every other regular borough meeting.

Norm Higgins – N. Higgins commented the only way the garbage collection will work correctly, will be to pick it up every day in the warm weather, including weekends. He also commented there was a great presentation by the Bicentennial Committee and all the events they are planning. N. Higgins suggested maybe contacting Conn College for performances that they can offer. He also noted the drama department at the high school and a possible play. If the theatre in the park opens up there could be an opportunity to host Shakespeare plays there.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**