

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

Members Present: Leif Hogue, Chair, Jennie Joyce, Russell Poitras, Sara Hogue (Recorder)

Others Present: Maureen O'Reilly, Ryan Huff, Gretchen Renee, Jake Vogel, Gary Whitney, LeeWhay Pasek, Joseph Hart, Sandy Griffin, Jean Mitchell, Paul Vogt, Bruster Gove, Stacy French, David Nasio

The Meeting was called to order at 6 pm

Acceptance of Minutes

Leif motioned to accept the May 16, 2023 public and May 25, 2023, non-public minutes. Jennie seconded. Russell agreed. Motion passed.

Ex-Officio Reports

Russell reported that the Highway Department needs employees. They only have one full-time CDL and one part-time CDL. They are trying to run the grader as much as possible but need more people for ditching. Leif will put a notice on the big sign at the Town Office. After some discussion, Russell motioned to add a \$2500 sign-on bonus for 1yr contract so long as there is money in his wage budget. Leif second. Motion passed.

Leif reported that the Library Trustees discussed a bbq, the new building, and a 4th of July book sale. Sandy Pierson also thanked Sara for her help and support.

Public Comment

Leif announced that this is the last meeting for the first public comment.

Gretchen commented on the removal of the tree on the common. She inquired as to why it is being removed and if a new tree is being planted, why can't it stay? Russell stated that the Selectboard was advised that the tree was diseased and dying.

Bruster commented that his uncle planted all the trees, and his family took care of the common for years. Now the common is in disarray. Skunks are digging, there is salt, and asphalt all over, and the lawn looks terrible. He stated that these issues need to be addressed before the tree.

Appointments

Sandy Griffin - New Grafton Sign for Town Common - There are a lot of improvements happening, and the common is looking a lot nicer. There is an empty signpost on the common, and she would like to have a Grafton sign made for it. Leif doesn't have an issue with her looking into it. Russell agreed. Sandi also talked about the Grafton Greeters welcome baskets. They have delivered nine baskets since late spring. In the basket is a coupon for \$15 off of the "Isinglass, Timber and Wool" book by Ken Cushing. Sandy wants to know if the Town would donate some books free of charge. Russell stated he would need to look into how much it would cost the Town if we gave them away for free.

New Business

Intent to Cut - Map 19 Lot 51 - Leif motioned to accept. Russell seconded. Motion passed.

Other Business

- LUCT - Map 12 Lot 303 - was signed

- Building Notification - French - Map 14 Lot 648-7 Revisited - After reviewing the septic information, Leif motioned to accept. Russell seconded. Jennie third. Motion passed
- Religious Exemption - Millbrook Church - Revisited - Jennie motioned to accept based on Avitar's recommendations. Leif seconded. Motion passed.
- Town Bank Cards - The treasurer set up a debit card for \$5000 through Mascoma Bank so that purchases can be made using the card. Jennie explained that in the past staff would have to pay for certain expenses themselves and ask for reimbursement. Gary inquired about who approves and tracks the purchases. Russell stated that the Selectmen approve and the treasurer tracks them. Budget activity can be viewed at the Town Office.
- Veterans Park Tree - Russell has no problem leaving it until it can't be there anymore. Jennie said Maureen had a good idea of making a bench from the tree. Russell wanted to remind all that the longer it stays, the more rotted it gets, and it won't be usable for anything. Gretchen would like an arborist to come in and check the tree. Money has been raised for the new tree from donations and will be placed into the ground where the stake is.
- Building Notification Violation - Conover - Map 17 Lot 233 - lot on rt 4 has a double wide that was put in, they talked to Sara at the Town office a month ago and they said they would put in a notification, but the Town still has not received it. Leif motioned to send the letter of violation. Russell seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence

- Governor and Executive Council Meeting Report from May 18, 2023
- DES - Approval for construction of an Individual Sewage Disposal System for Map 12 Lot 183-1

Public Comment

Gary commented on the composting toilet ordinance, that if you do the math, it requires 14 acres to have a composting toilet. It also appears that the ordinance is for the small portable toilets, but some toilets are made with a drop down into a hole underground. He inquired about the science regarding the distance the ordinance mentions. Leif reminded Gary that the Selectboard are reviewing the ordinance. Gary inquired about how many ordinances have been given out since the ordinance passed. Russell didn't have a number. Jennie wanted to know how a composting toilet differs from an outhouse. Russell stated that a composting toilet can be inside.

Ryan had the document that Steve referenced at the last meeting. It states that currently, DES does not have rules regarding composting toilets and that the state does not have state regulations.

Gary inquired if there can be a public hearing on the ordinance so that residents can have input.

Jake stated that Sharon Clark had a composting toilet. Steve inspected it and it did not pass, but there is no record. Shortly after is when the ordinance was created.

Maureen wanted to know if the Selectmen have set a date for the safety committee meeting yet. After some discussion, the board agreed to set the safety meeting for July 10th. Sara will send a memo to department heads.

The first July Board of Selectmen meeting falls on July 4th, Leif motioned to move the Selectmen meeting to July 5th. Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Russell motioned to adjourn. Leif seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm