

TOWN OF RUMNEY  
[www.rumneynh.org](http://www.rumneynh.org)  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
12/03/12

Selectmen: Mark Andrew, Cheryl Lewis, Ed Haskell  
Administrative Assistant: Anne Dow

Chairman Mark Andrew opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Residents' Forum – no public comment**

**Rumney School Board** has scheduled an informational meeting on Wednesday, December 12 at the school at 7:00 to discuss various heating system options to replace the present system at the school. The Selectboard feels more research needs to be done before the town votes on such a large purchase (est. \$400,000-\$700,000). Mark explained further that even with a new system, it still will not take care of the issues in the old part of the building. The Board would encourage anyone to attend the meeting next Wednesday to learn about the options.

**Groton Wind** - The repairs/cold patch needed on a part of Groton Hollow Road will now be completed by the town crew instead of by Groton Wind per request of Kelly Revell of Groton Wind. He assured Frank that the Town would be reimbursed for the cost of the repairs which will be a "temporary fix" until next spring. At that time Groton Wind will make the permanent repairs. Frank and crew will take care of the work. A follow-up letter will be sent to Groton Wind stating the terms agreed to for these repairs.

Cheryl Lewis recused herself as a board member to discuss a few more issues with Groton Wind. She referred to statements that Ed Cherian had made to the public back in 2009 and 2010 during the preliminary stages of the project. He told the public on numerous occasions that the wind farm project would not cost the town of Rumney anything. She referred to the fact that Groton Wind has not paid for the training the first responders did earlier this year, which was a cost to the town.

She rejoined the Board at 7:20.

**Brendon Barlow** met with the Board to update them on the junkyard status of his property. He had an aggressive plan early on, but with working two jobs now and having a logging operation going on his property he explained that there has been minimal progress made. The logging will probably last through the winter. He acknowledged that he has a lot of vehicles, etc but explained that some of them he hopes to restore at some point and some he is working on. Mark said it was not the town's intention to take people to court. The town has worked with some residents for more than four years trying to get them into compliance with the assistance of Ken Knowlton, Compliance Officer from Municipal Resources. Ken met with Mr. Barlow earlier this year to discuss what needs to be done to reach compliance. At this point, Mr. Barlow has not allowed anyone on his property so a complete discovery has not been completed.

At the Board's recommendation Mr. Barlow agreed to contact the office on a monthly basis and report what has or has not been done. They asked him to meet with them again in the Spring to set some goals for the year. Mr. Knowlton will resume inspections and meetings at that time as well.

**Administrative**

**Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District/Casella Contract** – Sonny Ouellette provided the Board with quotes for municipal waste hauling and tipping fees from a few other vendors. Anne presented the documentation Sonny submitted which still indicated that the best pricing is with Casella/NCES. However, the contract is for 10

years. Cheryl is concerned with committing the town to such a long timeframe. The Board would like to know if a 5-year contract is something Casella/NCES would consider, and if so, what would the cost be. Anne will pass this request on to Sonny. She has submitted a copy of the contract to Primex for their review.

Also per the Board's request, Sonny submitted a Transfer Station Work Schedule and a Safety Checklist of Equipment Used at the transfer station.

**Office Hours/December 24<sup>th</sup>** – The office will close at 12:00 noon on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. The Selectmen will not meet on December 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Historical Society Christmas Tea/Tree Lighting** – Both events were held yesterday. Roger Daniels reported that 60+ people attended the tea in the afternoon. Cheryl attended the tea and Anne attended the tree lighting reporting that there was a small but enthusiastic crowd. The Board extends their thanks to Kathy Wallace for organizing the tree lighting again this year. Her efforts are appreciated.

### Selectmen's Issues

**Groton Wind** – Cheryl Lewis recused herself as a Selectboard member and spoke as a resident. She continues to have real concerns with Groton Wind:

1. Financial impact on the town – were told early on there would be none
2. Training has not been paid for
3. The additional administrative work over the past three years has been considerable and has taken a great deal of time that could have been spent on more pertinent town issues
4. The Fire Department was recently told that Groton Wind does not plan to plow the access roads at the wind farm this winter.
  - a. She referred to Section 8.2.1 from the Groton Agreement – The Owner shall construct and maintain roads at the Wind Farm that allow for year-round access to each wind turbine at a level that permits passage and turnaround of emergency response vehicles.
  - b. She shares the Fire Departments' concerns with this change. Not only does it violate the agreement in place, it could place the responders and the workers in a dangerous situation.
  - c. Groton Wind has purchased a Sno-cat for travel over the roads during the winter months
  - d. The Fire Department has not received proper training in tower rescue
  - e. Had the Fire Department known about this earlier, they would have had a stronger case against Groton Wind to provide them with a vehicle that could access the roads
  - f. The above is a violation of their agreements
  - g. Carl Spring said Groton Wind should have submitted a plan to the town with SOP's for tower/fire rescue which spelled out specific job descriptions for first responders.
5. Cheryl said Groton Wind has a history of not living up to their promises as well as problems with safety issues and a number of lawsuits involving them

Cheryl and Carl Spring attended a recent meeting in Groton regarding a met tower for a third wind farm in the area with EDP Renewables. This proposed wind farm would be primarily in Alexandria and some in Groton. Cheryl said the representatives were met by an angry crowd who were quite upset over the granting of this variance for the met tower. A powerpoint presentation was giving showing the locations, etc. She said many of the residents there have some real concerns.

A legislative committee may consider a two-year moratorium on wind farms in order to see what the real impact and long-term effects are going to be on property values, health, etc.

Cheryl said Rumney could have had a more supportive participation in the Groton Wind Farm, but they did not and did not do enough to protect the residents. She asked the Board to consider the big picture this time around. "It has impacted our town, we just don't know what the long-term impacts are yet". She would like other towns to know that it isn't all its talked up to be and that towns need to be very careful before moving forward with anymore wind farms. She said Rumney could help other towns down the road.

Mark and Ed agreed that a letter should be sent directly to the SEC stating the violation of the Groton agreement regarding the access roads.

Cheryl rejoined the Board.

### **Planning Board Update**

- Merrithew – Current Use – driveway may be required
- Changes to the Driveway and Subdivision Regulations are being considered
- Issue with a property with two dwellings - at this point, not much the Board can do. John Bagley disagreed with Mark's statement.
- Kathy Wallace is continuing to work on the CIP

Budget Review – Cheryl said she would rather wait and go over it next week after they have had a chance to go over it individually.

**Privilege of the Floor** – Carl Spring asked when the public could see a draft of the budget. Anne will have copies available to the public starting next week. Anne reminded those present that the draft budget is just a DRAFT; changes will still be made to it so those interested should make sure they refer to the latest version to get the latest figures.

**LGC/Concord Monitor Article** – Cheryl referred to the recent article in the Concord Monitor regarding the LGC and its practices. The Board agreed that they must keep informed about this matter.

**Personnel Policies** – Anne asked if they were ready to distribute them to the employees for their review. After some discussion, the Board agreed not to do that. They agreed to send the draft to Primex for their review and include the verbiage regarding hands' free cell phone usage.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dow

**SIGNED:** Checks;

**UPCOMING:** 11/27 Planning Board  
12/10 Selectmen's Meeting  
12/17 Selectmen's Meeting  
12/24 No Selectmen's Meeting  
12/31 No Selectmen's Meeting