

APPROVED MARCH 21, 2013

Minutes of the Town Meeting held March 5, 2013.

Plainfield, Vermont

March 5, 2013

The legal voters of the Town of Plainfield are hereby notified and warned to meet at Twinfield Union School, Nasmith Road, on Tuesday, the fifth day of March 2013 at ten o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following business and to vote by Australian ballot from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Article 1.

Art. 1 To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year. Moderator, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Selectboard, Lister, Auditor, Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Town Grand Juror, Town Law Agent, Cemetery Commissioner, and School Director.

Polls are open 9:00A.M. to 7:00P.M.

There were no contested races on the officer ballot. The following people were elected to their respective office.

Charles T. Barasch	Moderator-one year term
Linda B. Wells	Town Clerk and Town Treasurer-each is one year term
David Strong	Selectboard-3 year term
Rick Pope	Lister-3 year term
George Cushing	Collector of Del Taxes-1 year term
James Jamele	Town Law Agent-1 year term
James Jamele	Town Grand Juror-1 year term
Edward Hutchinson	Cemetery Commissioner-2 year term
James Jamele	Cemetery Commissioner-3 year term
Monica Light	School Director-3 year term

There were not enough write-ins to fill vacancies for Auditor terms of 1 and 3 yrs, Cemetery Commissioner terms of 4 and 5 yrs, and Recreation Dept terms of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 years.

Charlie Barasch called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

He opened the meeting with a poem written by his wife Andrea Gould titled "Gardening".

Charlie asked the voters if Rep Janet Ancel could speak, the voters approved.

Janet announced that her annual report is now electronic and can be found on Front Porch Forum and she sends the report to her email list. You can also see her in the hallway after she speaks and request a copy to be sent to you.

She reported that Vermont is doing well financially, VT is fourth in the country for broadband speed, has the highest percentage (91.4%) of high school students that graduate, the unemployment is at 5% compared to 7.8% nationally, in the top ten of entrepreneurial states, has highest number of Green Jobs, and we have both childcare and weatherization support.

A question was raised about gun control and she said that the primary bill will not pass this year but advised that most people agree background checks should be done.

The wind tower bill is in the Senate right now, the 3 year moratorium is not included. The bill is put under Act 250 jurisdiction and requires VT Public Service Board approval. She is uncertain if the bill will pass.

The Health Care Exchange takes effect January 1st 2014, with enrollment beginning the fall of 2013. The legislature is committed to a single payer system by 2017. The financing is being developed and there is no proposal from the Governor yet.

Art. 2 To hear reports of Town Officers and act on same.

Auditor's Certificate: Motion made by Sandy Ross, second by Amos Meacham. No discussion, the report was approved.

Town Clerk's report: Motion made by Laura Zeisel, second by Daniel Marcus. No discussion, the report was approved.

Town Treasurer's report: Motion made by Sue Remington, second by Brian Hurlbert. No discussion, the report was approved.

Delinquent Tax Collector's report: Motion made by Jan Waterman, second by Rachel Desilets. No discussion, the report was approved.

Lister's Report: Motion made by Elaine Parker, second by Mary Lane. Sandy Ross announced that 911 signs are available for everyone. They are to be posted at your residence on the home, mailbox, or post as long as it is visible from the road for emergency personnel. She also advised everyone that the VT Dept of Taxes now requires the Homestead Declaration be filed annually again. All residents that own and live in their primary residence are required to file the declaration by April 15, 2013 in order to be taxed at the residential school tax rate. Failure to file will result in you getting taxed at the higher non-residential school rate. The report was approved.

Planning Commission report: Motion made by Bill Benko, second by Amos Meacham. Ben Graham stated he was disappointed in the process for input to the Town Plan. Dave Strong explained that the Town Plan draft will be revised with more input and then one or more public hearings will be held by the Planning Commission. After the revision is approved by them, the plan is forwarded to the Selectboard for review and a public hearing before final approval. Matt Cota advised that the commission has been working on this for three years. They have asked for input through mailings and encourage input at their meetings which are the first and third Mondays of the month. The report was approved.

DRB report: Motion made by Lisa Ryan, second by Jan Waterman. Brenda Lindemann inquired about the website and when current minutes are available. Linda Wells advised that there have been technical problems with the website. The website was designed so all boards could upload their own minutes. The boards should be able to upload information now. The Selectboard and the Conservation Commission minutes are up to date. There is always a gap before minutes are approved due to scheduling of the meetings and such. Sometimes this causes the minutes to be delayed on the website and in Field Notes. The DRB has requested more information to be uploaded to their site. There is a meeting being scheduled with our outside web manager to discuss their request. The report was approved.

Zoning Administrator's report: Motion made by Elaine Parker, second by Laura Zeisel. Report was approved.

Selectboard's Report: Motion made by Jan Waterman, second by Sue Remington. Sarah Albert indicated that the report referred to The Conservation Commission as the Environmental

Conservation Commission. This correction will be noted. Jan Waterman thanked the board for all their work. Report was approved.

Social Concerns report: Motion by Mary Lane, second by Amos Meacham. Onion River Food shelf lists the amount to be considered at \$700, it should be \$1,000. This will be noted. Report was approved.

Water System report: Motion by Lisa Ryan, second by Daniel Marcus. Bram stated that he has been approached about the water assessments that are charged. He stated that we are below the state rates and the Town rate will not skyrocket overnight. Mary Lane stated they work hard to keep the costs down. They will need to upgrade the wastewater plant in fifteen years, at a cost of \$10,000,000. They will be increasing the assessment a little each year. The impact fees are put in capital improvement funds for upgrades in both water and wastewater departments. The report was approved.

Wastewater report: Motion by Amos Meacham, second by Bob Atchinson. The report was approved.

Conservation Commission report: Motion by Brian Hurlbert, second by Daniel Marcus. Jan announced there will be an education workshop by VT Fish and Wildlife on March 18th at 7pm to give information about wildlife resources in Plainfield. The report was approved.

E911 report: Motion by Amos Meacham, second by Elaine Parker. No discussion and the report was approved.

Fire and Rescue report: Motion by Amos Meacham, second by Jim Jamele. Greg Light reported that this is the 100th anniversary of the fire department. There will be a big celebration on September 7, 2013 as part of Old Home Days. The rescue call volume is up 60%. This takes a lot of commitment from our volunteers and we are currently looking for new people to volunteer. There will be a memorial placed next to the fire station and we are looking for private donations to support this effort. If you would like to help out with the celebration or make a donation, please contact Greg. They are also looking for historical pictures of the fire department. The report was approved.

Cemetery Commission report: Motion by Brian Hurlbert, second by Laura Zeisel. Rick Levy expressed concern with the results written in the audit. The Selectboard reassured Rick and others that the Audit showed no impropriety. Furthermore, new procedures are in place to assure there will be compliance with standard accounting practices. The Town Treasurer handles the book now. Jim Jamele thanked Treasurer Linda Wells for helping them to keep moving forward through this transition. The Town gave a Big Thanks to Dale Bartlett for all his years of work and help through this past year as well. The report was approved.

Recreation report: Motion by Brian Hurlbert, second by Bill Benko. Bram reported they will be working to better organize the baseball schedule this year. The report was approved.

Energy Coordinator report: Motion by Amos Meacham, second by Brian Hurlbert. Bob advised that the Town adopted the P.A.C.E. program and there is funding for community members to borrow for home improvements. There is a new LED street light at the corner of Mill and Recreation Field Road. They are hoping to reduce the number of LED lamps. Bob expressed the need for more volunteers. Steve Farnham suggested the Selectboard consider an Energy Committee instead of just a Coordinator. The board will consider that suggestion. The report was approved.

Art. 3 Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$8,333.00 as its share of the fourth year cost of commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into Montpelier? This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares.

Motion by Pat Boyle, second by Amos Meacham. Amos stated this was just a three year thing and he thought we split the cost with two other towns, East Montpelier and Marshfield.

Bob Atchinson explained that Plainfield is the #1 user of the bus line with 33 people per week and the ridership continues to grow. The grant was given to GMTA by VTrans and the grant partially funded the service. The fare has increased to \$1.00 from \$.50. GMTA provided free transportation today from Plainfield village to Town Meeting and there was one rider. The article was approved.

Art. 4 Shall the Town proceed with the work necessary to re-open the Plainfield Town Hall/Opera House using \$15,000 in Town tax revenue as a portion of the total cost of this work? This work will also be supported by a grant from the VT Arts Council, donations, and a loan from the Town's Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion by Amos Meacham, second by Paula Emery.

Dave referred to the Town Hall report on page 52 in the Town Report explaining what has been done to date and what work there is still to be done.

The roof system has been reinforced according to engineering specifications, floor joists have been repaired, and sturdy columns support the balcony. The estimated costs for completing the work is \$225,000. In addition to town funds it will be paid with \$75,000 in privately raised funds and grant funds we are currently seeking. If we get all the grants and fundraising projected, over one half of the cost of repairs will come from outside the town.

We have a volunteer fundraising committee chaired by Andy Robinson. He reported that the total raised so far is approximately \$16,000. Dave stated we are shooting for a September opening. A mailing will be sent out to the community and surrounding towns requesting donations. Steve Farnham recommended we combine Articles 4 and 5. Dave explained that the Town has applied to the Plainfield Revolving Loan fund committee for a loan of up to \$20,000. The Committee has approved the application. The Town will pay the fund back over five years and The money will come from reserves, surplus or taxes.

Peter Youngbaer asked what the life expectancy of the Town Hall project is. Dave explained that the roof will last 30 years, the painting will last 10 years, and that there will be ongoing maintenance. The article was approved.

Art. 5 Shall the Town vote to accept a grant from the VT Housing and Conservation Board for exterior maintenance work to the Plainfield Town Hall/Opera House if it is awarded?

Motion by Andy Robinson, second by Rick Levy. Alice reported that we were approached by VT Housing and Conservation Board to apply this grant. They will be considering our application in May. The town will not be required to contribute any town share as we will have expended the required amount during the renovation work that has been completed. The grant request \$88,500. These funds will pay for a new roof, exterior painting, and other improvements. The budget is very precise and we will have no excess grant funds at completion.

The article was approved.

Art. 6 Shall the Town prepare plans and specifications for the renovation and maintenance of the Municipal Building in enough detail so that it can be voted on at a future Town Meeting?

Motion by Jan Waterman, second by Mary Lane. Dave stated that at last Town Meeting the Town requested a comprehensive study of Town space. A study has been done and a 2 page summary has distributed. This article asks for authorization to take the next step to get professional detailed plans to renovate the Municipal Building. David Diamantis estimated the figures in the study and there is a layout plan here for public view. The total estimated cost of renovations is about \$450,000.

Dave explained that the town has no medium sized meeting space with handicapped accessibility. All records and files are stored at the Municipal Building. The meeting space is too small and we would like to have a zoning administrator office. The meeting space at the old town hall/opera house needed a reinforcement support post in the center so it can no longer be used for a meeting space. The voters agreed to let Nancy Thomas, WNESU Superintendent speak.

The WNESU has leased the space on the second floor for five years. She has looked at the proposed plans and believes it provides good meeting space that can be shared by the Town and the Supervisory Union. They are prepared to pay increased rent for remodeled space.

Dave added that when this building was renovated, the minimum was done in order to save tax dollars. There are things that need to be fixed. The second floor is 5 inches out of line. Dave stated that the town has not allocated any funds yet.

This resolution authorizes the Selectboard to have plans done so we can see what is needed and what it will cost. The building was stabilized but the floors were not leveled, Engineers found that the rafters are undersized. Some structural work was included on the blueprints, which was not done. To level the floor, the partitions on the second floor need to be removed. Renovating the third floor requires more specifications than what we did before for just two floors. Greg Light suggested using the meeting space at the fire station. Bram reported the Selectboard has had conversation with the Firemans Club about making that space handicapped accessible but it looks as if that is not possible. Nancy added that the WNESU can make do with what is there but there biggest concern is the angle of the floors for health reasons they need to be leveled. There were concerns raised about how we got into this situation and the sentiment was expressed that the town should take steps to prevent this from happening in the future. Dave Spence moved to call a question and stop debate, Mary Niebling seconded the motion. Ayes approved the motion to stop debate. The article was approved.

Art. 7 Shall the Town voters authorize the expenditures for the following not-for-profit service agencies as was recommended by the appointed Social Concerns Committee?

American Red Cross	\$ 100.00
Central VT Adult Basic Education	\$ 250.00
Central VT Comm. Action Council	\$ 500.00
Central VT Council on Aging	\$ 1,500.00
Central VT Home Health & Hospice	\$ 2,500.00
Family Center of Wash Cty	\$ 450.00
Friends of the Winooski River	\$ 200.00

Good Beginnings of Central VT	\$ 300.00
Green Mountain Transit Agency	\$ 786.00
Home Share Now	\$ 250.00
People's Health and Wellness	\$ 750.00
Onion River Foodshelf	\$ 1,000.00
Sexual Assault Crisis Team	\$ 50.00
Twinfield Together Mentoring	\$ 250.00
Twin Valley Senior Center	\$ 1,100.00
VT Association of the Blind	\$ 200.00
Washington Cty Court Diversion	\$ 200.00
 Total	 \$10386.00

A motion by Brenda Lindemann to amend the article to add \$400 for TLC, (Twinfield Learning Center), an after school program as they did not request funding. Motion seconded. Mary Niebling spoke on behalf of the Social Concerns committee explaining there is a process for organizations to submit applications for funding. She stated the committee believes in the rules and if an organization does not apply for funding they can still petition the voters for funding. The voters approved the amendment by a vote of 71 yes, and 25 no. The amended article was approved in the amended amount of \$10,786.

Art. 8 Shall the Town voters authorize an appropriation of \$33,000.00 to the Cutler Memorial Library to pay for the librarian and the purchase of books and materials to support the mission of the library?

Motion by Mary Niebling, second by Elaine Parker. Loona Brogan explained that the library needs the increase as they are looking to catch up on deferred maintenance, librarian wages, technology costs, increased book budget. The building needs electrical work and lighting, and the parking lot needs painted parking spaces. The Library is getting new fiber optic and their infrastructure doesn't accommodate that. They are trying to keep up with community needs. The article was approved.

Art. 9 Shall the Town voters authorize an expenditure for the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club in the amount of \$500?

Motion by Mary Lane, second by Bob Atchinson.

Mary Niebling of the Social Concerns committee reported that the Committee did not receive an application for funding from them and that they petitioned for funding, instead. She made a motion to reduce the appropriation to \$300 as this is in line with the amount the Town has funded in the past. Lisa Ryan seconded the amendment.

Voters passed the amendment.

The article amended down to \$300 was approved.

Art.10 To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay for water and wastewater departments for the period of July 1,2013 to June 30, 2014.

Jim Jamele made a motion to appropriate \$133,959 for the water department operations. Rachel Desilets seconded the motion.

There were questions raised about the wording of the article.

Steve Farnham made a motion to amend the article to read: The Town authorizes an appropriation of \$133,959 to be paid by fees collected from the users of the water system, Alex Thayer seconded the amendment. The amendment was approved.

The vote on the original article as amended was approved.

Jim Jamele made a motion to amend the article to read: The town authorizes an appropriation of \$210,653 to be paid by fees collected from the users of the wastewater system.

Lisa Ryan seconded the amendment. The amendment was approved.

The vote on the original article as amended was approved.

Art.11 To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay for highways, bridges, fire department, and administrative operations of the Town of Plainfield for the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Dave Strong made a motion to appropriate \$868,940.48 to pay for highways, bridges, fire department, and administrative operations of the Town of Plainfield for the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. Lisa Ryan seconded the motion.

Dave broke down the budget that includes \$426,500.48 for Selectboard and Fire Department, \$52,417 for Social Concerns that includes an increase mostly for the library, and \$575,781 for the Highway department that includes a \$25,000 increase.

Bram spoke as the new Road Commissioner. He stated the increased costs are due to having to truck sand further with the loss of a local pit. Due to the cost of trucking ourselves we will have the material trucked in. He noted we are experiencing mini mud seasons and it is difficult for the highway crew to keep the roads smooth.

Steve Farnham suggested that the left hand column list a page number that corresponds to that department's narrative in the Town Report.

Allan Farnham asked about the increase in the highway heating bill. After review, this year's budget is lower so there is no increase. Because a new wood burning furnace has been installed, This will decrease the cost. Allan Farnham had concern about using fossil fuels and not using wood as in the past years. He also questioned why the town purchased a new wood chipper. The Highway Dept believes it can move the brush off the sides of the roads, more effectively.

The article was approved in the amount of \$868,940.48.

Art.12 Shall the Town of Plainfield authorize the Selectboard to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?

Motion by Angela Magara, second Elaine Parker. There is usually a surplus but that is not determined until the end of the fiscal year.

The article was approved.

Art.13 Shall the Town vote to accept the provisions of public statutes relating to the collection of taxes by the Town Treasurer, (VSA 32 Section 4791) and vote to collect municipal taxes thirty days from mailing and not prior to August 1, 2013 and collect school taxes on November 13, 2013 and February 12, 2014, collecting half of the total school taxes on each of those dates?

Motion by Jan Waterman, second by Angela Magara.

Voter asked how the dates are determined. Linda Wells responded that the taxes are usually on the second Wednesday of August, November, and February. The Town office is open to the public just

three days a week. We also have a secure drop box to be used any time and postmarked taxes, are accepted. The article was approved.

Art.14 Shall the Town voters oppose the construction of the Goddard college wood-chip incinerator until such time as the nano-particulate pollution dispersed into the atmosphere of Plainfield be proven not to be a health hazard to the residents thereof?

Motion by Rhea Wilson, second by Sam Davis.

Rhea Wilson read from a handout which stated that: Goddard is proposing to remove small oil burners and replace them with a one large woodchip burning plant with a back up wood burning system; the college has 130 acres and the college has chosen to put the plant in the only place that abuts a residential neighborhood; they will build on this spot with the building twice the size of the nearest dormitories with big industrial doors and tractor trailer trucks driving up to them and there will be a 35 foot smoke stack; all of this will be about 200 feet from our residences; neighbors are concerned about the serious hazards this may pose; scientists are saying that wood burning is no better for the environment or no better for global climate change than oil heat, and quite possibly could be worse than oil heat; the newest research on particulate pollution suggests they are extraordinarily dangerous to health; the Goddard plant will be as bad as current oil burners on campus or worse with the ultra fine particulates it emits. The statement continued: Over the next few years scientists will learn much more on these issues; right now we have no Federal standards on ultra fine particulates and we have EPA waiting for a study due to be completed next year on green house gas effects of wood burning; what is the rush to do something right now that may turn out to be a terrible environmental mistake? The voters are being asked to pass a non-binding resolution opposing construction of the new plant at Goddard at least until we know that the ultra fine particulates emitted are safe in a hope that this show of concern will have some influence on Goddard.

The moderator inquired if there was anyone from Goddard to speak on the issue. Hearing none he reported that the neighbors have someone to speak. Rhea asked for permission from the town to allow an expert on the health issues from Massachusetts to speak. Alex Thayer requested credentials for this expert. George Springston posed a question as a point of order, to allow someone from the outside and present some part of a debatable argument. It is unlike having our representative or state agency speak with factual information. Charlie had spoke with the Secretary of State's office prior to the meeting and it is fine if it is okay with the voters. If there is an objection we will vote. Diana Douglas had questions about the article and stated the process doesn't make sense if there is no one from Goddard.

Dr. William Sammons, spoke up stating he is a pediatrician, he has been licensed in VT and he is has been looking at this issue of emissions from wood burning and biomass burning for about four years. He has testified to the Canadian Parliament, Senate committees, House of Representative committees, and other community groups including meetings with the EPA.

Charlie stopped his testimony as he had not been given permission to speak and advised Dr. Sammons that the voters will decide if they would like to hear him speak. If there is no objection, we will continue to let him speak. More questions arose about his credentials. There were objections by some to let him speak. Charlie called a vote. All in favor of allowing him to speak? There was not a clear 2/3 voice vote, so another vote was taken by show of hands. The count was 32 in favor of him speaking and 49 opposed. Did not get a 2/3 vote to allow him to speak.

Discussion continued. Karen Janulis spoke as one of the neighbors opposing the construction. She expressed her dismay about the project, feels no one has any clue about what will happen. She stated there are untruths stated by Goddard; local schools have biomass plants with no scrubbers; the children, staff, and community are breathing trillions of nano particles; medical costs will skyrocket and we will be in a wasteland; she was very upset people did not want Dr. Sammons to speak.

After discussion about the article language and disappointment of some to let him speak. The voters asked if the defeated vote could be rescinded and could we revote to reconsider letting Dr. Sammons to speak. Charlie stated that we could reconsider the decision as long as a person that was originally opposed to him speaking makes the motion to permit him to speak. Bob Barasch moved to allow Dr. Sammons to speak, Marty Levin seconded the motion. The vote was approved by a 2/3 vote with 67 in favor and 18 against. The reconsideration vote was passed.

Dr. Sammons gave a slide presentation. He can be contacted at drsammons@aol.com Some facts he presented: Burning wood emits dioxin, and very small particulates; not regulated in VT or at federal standards; is not carbon neutral and is dirty and not cost efficient; biomass is most expensive; permits do not deal with particles and toxins that are the most dangerous; no current regulation on particulates; letters have been sent by physicians to EPA pointing out all medical literature; plants with sophisticated systems have higher particulates than gas or oil; life expectancy: many Vermonters are already exposed to high levels of particulates with older wood stoves; do you want to do more to increase this exposure; impacts are significantly larger on children; children in high particulate areas have a 20% permanent loss of lung function; no safe threshold to these particles; as soon as you start getting exposure you have health effects. His question to Goddard is why use wood instead of oil or gas.

Alex proposes we vote this down and at same time acknowledge peoples concerns. She stated we still have to base our decision on what we know. Steve Farnham expressed dismay with Goddard for not coming to speak on this issue. They stated the output of the plant would equal four woodstoves. Steve seconded Alex's proposal. Discussion continued on the disappointment with Goddard not attending Town Meeting.

Greg Light moved to call the question, Leda Schubert seconded the motion. Vote to stop debate with a show of hands was 48 in favor and 30 opposed. Not a 2/3 vote and discussion continues. More discussion ensued about validity of the graphs in the presentation. More discussion about Goddard not being transparent through the process with the neighbors.

Bob Barasch called a question to stop debate, Jan Waterman seconded the motion. The vote to stop debate passed with a vote 58 in favor and 16 opposed. Then voted on the original motion and the article was defeated 32 in favor and 43 opposed.

Art.15 Shall the voters of the Town of Plainfield instruct the Selectboard to enact the following resolution to protect citizen health and safety, water bodies and other natural resources, in relation to tar sands oil transport through Vermont?

WHEREAS, the oil industry appears to be planning to use an aging oil pipeline, built in 1950, to bring Canadian tar sands diluted bitumen through Vermont on its way to Portland, Maine for export; and

WHEREAS, the mining, drilling, and processing of tar sand requires a vast and destructive industrial operation that emits 3-5 times more carbon pollution per barrel than conventional U.S. crude oil, among many other problems; and

WHEREAS, pipelines carrying tar sands have a greater likelihood of leaks and spills because of the corrosive properties of tar sands, and such spills are more costly and difficult to clean up than conventional oil spills, as demonstrated by a 2010 tar sands spill that contaminated the Kalamazoo River in Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Town expresses its opposition to the transport of tar sands oil through Vermont, and its deep concern about the risks of

such transport for public health and safety, property values, and our natural resources; and

2. That the Town shall require every fuel vendor, as a precondition for doing business with Town, to provide complete and current lists

of the refinery sources of origin for all fuel the vendor sells, and thereby direct the Town's purchases as much as possible toward vendors whose refinery sources do not use any material derived from tar sands; and

3. That the Town encourage the State of Vermont and other northeast states to support policies phasing out fuel purchases as quickly

as possible from vendors whose refinery sources of origin use any form of tar sands, and support policies such as a Clean Fuels Standard to help keep such fuels out of the region's fuel supply; and

4. That the Town call upon the Vermont State Legislature and the U.S. Congress to ensure thorough environmental impact reviews of

any tar sands-related pipeline proposals, including the health and safety impacts of potential tar sands oil spills, along with clear guidelines for tracking the origins and chemical composition of pipeline contents and feedstocks; and

5. That the Town transmit a copy of this resolution to all relevant state, federal and Canadian officials, and the CEOs of Portland Pipe

Line Corporation, Montreal Pipe Line Limited, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobil, and Enbridge Inc.

Motion by Jan Waterman, second by Elaine Parker.

Heidi Wilson presented the tar sands facts: The Portland-Montreal Pipeline has been pumping light crude oil from Maine to Montreal for 62 years. It was not designed to withstand the hot liquid sandpaper that is tar sands diluted bitumen. After reversing the flow of Enbridge's pipeline through Quebec, the plan is to pipe tar sands products through VT's Northeast Kingdom to Portland for export. Tar sands bitumen is almost a solid. It must be diluted with toxic additives in order to pump it. It is acidic, abrasive, pumped at high pressure and temperature. Tar sands are three times more likely to cause pipeline ruptures than regular crude oil. And when they do spill, the damage is greater, the public health risks larger, the clean-up harder, the costs higher. This is the biggest construction project and waste effecting natives downstream. There are lots of studies confirming this information. This could directly affect our waterways and our environment. Erik Gillard: There are three

pipelines of which one pipes crude oil. The bitumen from tar sands is diluted with toxic chemicals. Enbridge in ten years averaged 1 1/2 spills per week in their pipelines.

Deb Stoleroff stated the pipeline may go through the northeast kingdom and our waterways.

Ryan Gillard added the importance of the town resolution. Increased extractions and combustion of tar sands. Climate scientists' state this will be increase the intensity of sever weather events. The town purchases fuel from two sources, (Packard is tar sands free, Alco needs to be asked). We are not alone; many other towns are discussing this issue as well.

Bram Towbin read a letter we received from the Canadian Consulate General, attached to these minutes for the record.

The article was approved.

Art. 16 Shall the Town of Plainfield increase the property tax exemption available to all qualified people, to include all veterans 50% or more disabled, from \$20,000 of appraisal value to \$40,000 of appraisal value in accordance with 32 V.S.A. §3802 (11) to be effective on April 1, 2013?

Motion by Steve Farnham, second by Karen Storey.

This proposal will impact taxes \$10.30 per \$100,000 assessment. This was on the warning a few years ago and voted down. The veterans are asking a number of towns to consider again to raise up to the maximum of \$40,000. The article was approved.

Art. 17 Shall the Town voters authorize an annual appropriation of \$2500 to the Conservation Fund?

Motion by Sarah Albert, second by Daniel Marcus.

There were questions about the language of the warning. The purpose is to have the appropriation added to the Selectboard budget annually without a petition. George Springston supports the Conservation Fund. This helped with Cross VT Trail, and Littlewood Farm projects. The Conservation Commission reviews applications for funding, the Selectboard makes the final decision.

Charlie Cogbill moved to amend the article to read: The Selectboard shall include an appropriation for the Conservation Fund in its annual budget. Motion seconded by Leon Marasco.

Another amendment was moved to read: The Selectboard shall include an appropriation not less than \$2500 for the Conservation Fund in its annual budget. Motion seconded by Leda Schubert. The amendment on the amendment was approved.

The original amendment was approved.

Then the original motion as amended was approved.

Art.18 To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Thanks to the board from Deb Stoleroff.

Elaine Parker suggests Goddard be told about the dismay for their lack of participating here today.

Erik Gillard made a motion that The Town of Plainfield instruct the Selectboard to write and send Goddard a letter expressing the disappointment in their absence at town meeting where we discussed the controversial Goddard biomass plant project for two hours and we request power holders to attend a community meeting with Plainfield residents. Elaine Parker seconded The motion. The motion was defeated.

More discussion ensued about Goddard and whether this is the proper forum.

Laura Zeisel thanked everyone for the food bank donations. She stated that the Girl Scouts Brownie Troop sold cookies and when they got money donated to them, they bought cookies and donated them to the food bank.

Alice Merrill moved to adjourn at 4pm, Elaine Parker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Linda B. Wells

Minutes approved by the Selectboard at a duly warned meeting,
Monday, March 21, 2013.

Dave Strong

Bram Towbin

Alice Merrill