

**Town of Plainfield
Select Board Meeting
July 10, 2017
Draft Minutes**

PRESENT: Ross Sneyd (Select Board Member), Betsy Ziegler (Select Board Chair), Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Daniel Hardy (Traffic Issues Discussion), Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus), Patrick Martin (Fire Chief), Michael Billingsley (Emergency Management Director), and Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner).

Betsy Ziegler called the Select Board meeting to order at 7:00pm.

AGENDA

- Review Agenda
- Public Comment/Announcements: Old Home Days Organizers, Skate Board Park, Other
- Town Clerk's Report: Warrants, Other
- Road Report
- Fire Department Report: Pat Martin
- Library Grant Resolution
- Constable Reappointment – August and September
- Traffic Issues Discussion
- Trash Issues at Recreation Field
- Old Home Days
- Skateboard Ordinance
- Approve Minutes, Other Business
- Adjournment

REVIEW AGENDA

- Ross Sneyd added an Update on the Website to the agenda and Ziegler added a brief discussion on the Needle Drop-Off issue. **Sneyd made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Alexander Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

TRAFFIC ISSUE DISCUSSION: DANIEL HARDY

- Daniel Hardy was present to learn of any updates regarding the issue of vehicles speeding by his house on Brook Road, a topic that he had raised at the last Select Board meeting. He stated that something needs to be done before the winter months and that he believes that the only way to resolve the problem are either speed bumps or a traffic camera. Sneyd noted that a fuller discussion of the issue was scheduled for later in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ziegler stated that volunteer organizers, and those who would like to participate as part of the event, are needed for this year's Old Home Days. She enumerated several activities that she hopes will be included again this year. Thayer also noted that the yard sale at the Grace Methodist Church on Saturday again will be part of the Old Home Days event.
- Thayer noted a community dinner that will be held on 7/25/17 at the Grace Methodist Church. There will be no charge, however, participants will be encouraged to contribute to the stone wall rebuilding effort.
- Thayer mentioned that the Town is currently soliciting for both a Health Officer and an Animal Control Officer. Anyone interested should submit a letter of interest and resume to the Town Clerk's Office.
- Thayer reported that volunteers had recently gathered at the Town Cemetery to help right some headstones that had tipped over.
- Thayer noted that the new Constable, Kathleen Hayes, had been called to the Recreation Field over the July 4th holiday weekend to address a littering problem involving some young people, which was resolved.
- Thayer noted that she heard that there was detritus from work being done at the Skateboard Park that was dangerous. Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells stated that she had contacted Dan Gadd regarding this after receiving an email from the person who mows the grass at the Recreation Field that there was trash, construction debris, and dog droppings in the area. Gadd will be checking the Skateboard Park regularly to help avoid such problems in the future.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT: WARRANTS

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells reported that two bids had been received for hauling 4,000 cubic yards of sand: one at \$7.15 per cubic yard, totaling \$28,600; and the other at \$7.17 per cubic yard, totaling \$28,680. It was decided that Road Foreman Mike Nolan would be consulted before making the decision.
- Wells noted that she would be away from the office starting 7/11/17 and returning on 7/18/17. The office will remain open as usual during that time, staffed by Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer Carol Smith.
- Wells presented an Access Permit request, already approved by Nolan, for Stephen and Lisa Pratt at 915 East Hill Road. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the Access Permit for Stephen and Lisa Pratt at 915 East Hill Road. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Wells presented a Single Vehicle Weight Permit request for Mike Lemieux Trucking, Inc. Thayer requested that before granting the permit, a condition be added that vehicles must follow the posted speed limits. **Thayer made a motion to add the condition that vehicles must follow the posted speed limits before granting a permit to Mike Lemieux Trucking, Inc. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** After a brief discussion on the weight of the vehicle, **Thayer made a motion to approve the Single Vehicle permit request for Mike Lemieux Trucking, Inc. with the condition that vehicles must follow the posted speed limits. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** Road Commissioner Bram Towbin asked if restrictions, for example Cabot Creamery's spraying of whey wastes on fields that ends up on the roads, could be added as a condition for a vehicle permit.

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve warrants of 7/6/17, 7/7/17, and 7/10/17. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

ROAD REPORT

- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin reported that he has received complaints about roads not being graded. He commended Road Foreman Mike Nolan and Road Crew member Steve Maclaren for their outstanding efforts and commitment to the job, citing examples of their dedication and work ethic despite being down one person on the Road Crew and recent weather conditions not being conducive to the amount of road resurfacing needed.
- Towbin noted that the slope below the old railroad bed is deteriorating and the debris is flowing down and clogging culverts on Recreation Field Road and entering the Winooski River. The Friends of the Winooski River have been looking into grants to address the issue. Ziegler stated that someone from the State recently was taking photographs and measuring washout areas on Recreation Field Road, and is looking into the possibility of obtaining FEMA funds to tackle the problem. He had stated that more and bigger culverts are needed there. Towbin noted that while the State has concerns regarding silt entering the Winooski River, when the Town applied twice for funding to trap the silt, both proposals were denied.
- Towbin reported that in conversations with Green Mountain Power regarding the removal of a utility pole located on the sidewalk leading up to the Park and Ride, it appears possible that the anchor on the pole by the Fire Station can remain where it is and that the work to remove the pole in the sidewalk may begin in the fall. That pole has caused problems with pedestrians and to the person plowing the sidewalk in the winter. Ziegler noted that the sidewalk leading up to the Park and Ride is part of the Lower Village Sidewalk Study, and recommendations from the study were to remove the pole in the sidewalk and install a barrier to prevent people from slipping off the sidewalk and falling into the yard below. The study also recommended that the Town itself fund that portion of the project because the work could be done more inexpensively if the State is not involved in the funding.
- Thayer noted the open position in the Road Crew, stating that anyone interested can obtain an application at the Town Clerk's office or submit a letter of interest and resume by 7/21/17.
- Towbin asked Fire Chief Pat Martin about the possibility of locating a stop sign by the Fire Station where the Plainfield Co-op parking lot exits onto Main Street. The issue would be addressed during Martin's Fire Department Report later in the meeting.
- Towbin reported that there is a request for bids out to demolish the house at 280 Cameron Road. Asbestos testing found nothing of concern. Discussion followed on the recycling component of the demolition project.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: PAT MARTIN

- Fire Chief Pat Martin agreed that a stop sign is needed where the Plainfield Co-op parking lot exits onto Main Street, with his only concern being where it is placed. It was determined that a good location would be right in front of the utility pole by the Fire Station. **Sneyd made a motion approve the installation of a stop sign at the exit of the Co-op parking lot onto Main Street. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Towbin noted that he still has not heard back from the vendor regarding the "no littering" signs.

- Martin reported that four different quotes have been received for the new fire truck and explained the process that went into choosing the best option for both equipment and service. Emergency One out of Ocala, Florida, the company that built the other two current fire trucks, had been determined to be the best choice at a total cost of \$318,000, including all of the add-on equipment. The timeline for building the fire truck is almost one year and payments will not begin until the truck is received and checked out by the Fire Department. Noting that the Select Board will need to approve the final cost, **Sneyd made a motion to authorize Chief Martin to enter into contract negotiations with Emergency One of Ocala, Florida, for the purchase of a fire truck at approximately \$318,000 and present the contract to the Select Board for approval. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** Martin will forward the contract to the Select Board prior to its 7/24/17 meeting, which he will attend.
- A brief discussion followed on the types of calls the Fire Department has faced this spring and summer as well as work resulting from damage from recent storms.

OTHER BUSINESS: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Emergency Management Director Michael Billingsley reported that the final version of the Local Emergency Operational Plan (LEOP) will be completed by 7/14/17 and will need to be approved by the Select Board at its next meeting. Thayer, who has received the appropriate training, will be the one to sign the LEOP on behalf of the Select Board.

LIBRARY GRANT RESOLUTION

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve and sign the Cutler Library grant resolution that will be submitted in August. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** A public hearing on the agreement is scheduled for the 7/24/17 Select Board meeting at 7:30pm.

CONSTABLE REAPPOINTMENT – AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

- Ziegler stated that George Cushing, who is one of two current Plainfield constables, should be reappointed for August and through part of September to allow new Constable Kathleen Hayes to complete classroom training. It was decided that both Hayes and Cushing should attend the 7/24/17 Select Board meeting to discuss the issue.

TRAFFIC ISSUES DISCUSSION

- Ziegler read aloud a letter to the community she had drafted regarding vehicles speeding in Plainfield, which she proposed posting around town and on local social media outlets. The note read as follows:

Dear fellow Plainfield community members,

Summer is finally here, our special season to be out of doors. For some this is a sit on the front lawn, a walk on a country road or through our village, or a bike ride. Unfortunately, a number of pets have been killed by drivers and we regularly receive reports of excessive speeds and near accidents. So when driving though Plainfield on your way to work or an errand, remember to drive safely and cautiously. The speed limit on our dirt roads is 35 miles/hour throughout our town and 25 miles/hour throughout our village. Please slow down so we can all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Thank you.

The Plainfield Select Board

Sneyd made a motion to approve the letter and post it on social media and in various places around town. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Thayer offered to format the letter that will be posted around town to draw attention to it.

- Discussion followed on various ideas to consider regarding the speeding problem, including: seeking advice from the Sheriff's Department and/or the League of Cities and Towns; consulting with the local roads program based at Saint Michael's College; posting more stop signs; installing speed bumps and possibly conducting a pilot program to explore their effectiveness and community acceptance; soliciting ideas from the community through surveys and community meetings; narrowing roads; employing radar signs and other alternatives; considering a possible role for the Town Constable; posting other signs regarding speed limit enforcement; handing out business cards stating that the Town values everyone who lives and visits Plainfield and thanking people for driving slowly; allocating additional money from the Highway Department for more Sheriff's Department patrols/enforcement; adding speed limit signs along roads; lowering speed limits; gathering information on the locations and times where speeding regularly occurs and communicating that information to enforcement authorities; considering soliciting a bid for contracting with the State Police for patrolling instead of the Sheriff's Department; employing traffic strips on roads that provide data in terms of speed; issuing speeding tickets rather than warnings; and contacting Fleet Permit holders regarding the speed of their trucks. In terms of moving forward on some of the above suggestions, Thayer offered to contact Brett Myer at the Sheriff's Department for additional ideas, including the use of traffic strips, and invite him to the next Select Board meeting. Sneyd will obtain information about radar signs from Montpelier's Public Works Department and other signage regulations from the League of Cities and Towns. Ziegler noted that \$8,000 had been allocated in this year's Town's budget for an additional radar sign. Sneyd suggested drafting a special article for discussion at Town Meeting for community input regarding additional options and a possible increase in funding for speed limit enforcement. Thayer offered involving kids in a project to monitor speeding. Ziegler assured the community that the Select Board is taking the issue seriously by trying to come up with creative solutions, and invited the public to come forward with additional ideas.

TRASH ISSUES AT RECREATION FIELD

- Ziegler noted the growing concern in the community regarding trash and dog droppings left at the Recreation Field. Discussion ensued regarding posting signs at the Recreation Field asking people to carry out their trash and clean up after their dogs in public spaces; employing dog waste stations; constructing and employing waste containers; and options for the emptying of trash containers. Ziegler offered to send out photos and contact Positive Pie about helping to keep Mill Street Park free of pizza boxes and beverage cups. Sneyd will contact Dave Strong about constructing trash and recycling containers. Thayer will purchase a box of black trash bags for the Town Constables to give to kids at the Recreation Field in hopes that they fill them up and remind people that their help is needed. Ziegler noted that the Select Board will continue to consider solutions to address this problem.

ROAD REPORT: CONTINUED

- Earlier in the meeting, Towbin reported that he had spoken to Road Foreman Mike Nolan, who was comfortable with either of the bids received for sand hauling. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the bid from Gravel Construction Company of Wolcott, Vermont for 4,000 cubic yards of sand at \$7.15 per cubic yard for a total of \$28,600. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

OLD HOME DAYS

- Ziegler noted that Old Home Days is coming up on 9/9/17 and that a committee is needed to help organize the event. Both Ziegler and Thayer stated their willingness to be on the committee. Because two Select Board members will be involved in meetings to organize the event, the meetings will need to be warned. Discussion followed on planned activities for the event. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact either Ziegler or Thayer. The first meeting of the organizing committee was scheduled for 7/17/17 at 6pm, which Thayer will warn.

SKATEBOARD ORDINANCE

- Thayer briefly reported on a recent, positive interaction with some young people skateboarding in the Village.

UPDATE ON THE WEBSITE

- Sneyd reported that the current webmaster, who had been contacted to review the two proposals submitted for redesigning the Town's website, has stated that he had submitted a proposal of his own and wishes to be considered for the webmaster position. Given his interest in the position, a brief discussion followed on whether it was appropriate for him to review the other applicants.

APPROVE MINUTES

- Thayer and Ziegler noted a couple of changes to the draft minutes from the 6/26/17 meeting. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/26/17 regular Select Board meeting as amended. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/5/17 special Select Board meeting as submitted. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

ADJOURNMENT

- **Sneyd made a motion to adjourn at 9:10pm. Thayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff