

**Town of Plainfield
Select Board Meeting
August 14, 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), Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus), Dan Gadd (Recreation Committee), George Cushing (Constable), and Daniel Hardy (Traffic Issues Discussion).

Betsy Ziegler called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

AGENDA

- Review Agenda
- Public Comment/Announcements: Old Home Days Next Meeting 8/22/17, Safety Forum 8/16 Postponed, Other
- Town Clerk's Report: Warrants, Other
- Road Report: Cameron Road, Mowing, Bean Road., Ad for Opening, Other
- Recreation Committee Report/Recreation Field: Dan Gadd
- Approve Constable VCJTC Training Letter
- Michael Billingsley: Grant Applications
- Participation at VLCT Town Fair 10/7 and 10/8, Appoint Select Board Delegate
- Traffic Issues, Continued
- Skateboard Ordinance
- Town Hall Insulating and Long-Term Plan
- Update on Website
- Approve Minutes, Other Business
- Adjournment

REVIEW AGENDA

- After it was determined that no adjustments were needed, **Ross Sneyd made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. The motion was approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS: OLD HOME DAYS NEXT MEETING 8/22/17, SAFETY FORUM 8/16 POSTPONED, OTHER

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells reported on the successful community yard sale that was held on 8/12/17, which raised \$456.50 for the Plainfield Fire Department. Wells thanked all that were involved in the event.
- Ziegler noted that donations toward the rebuilding of the stone wall at the Grace Methodist Church have covered the entire cost of the work. Ziegler thanked those who had contributed in some way to make that happen.

- Ziegler announced that the Old Home Days Committee will be meeting on 8/22/17 at 6pm at the Municipal Building. Ziegler encouraged anyone with ideas or is otherwise interested to attend.
- Ziegler reported that the Safety Forum co-sponsored by the Town and the State Police Barracks in Middlesex has been cancelled due to a change in personnel who will be conducting the Forum. Ziegler hopes that the new officer, Sergeant Jerry Partin, will attend the next Select Board meeting.
- Reflecting on the recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia, Alexandra Thayer noted the inclusive guiding principles in Plainfield's Town Resources and Policing Policy that was passed in May.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT: WARRANTS, OTHER

- Wells presented information regarding dates, hours, and times of the Sheriff Department's patrols in Plainfield between April and July of this year for the Select Board to review, noting the increase in patrols in July. Sneyd raised the possibility of including a warned article at Town Meeting asking voters if they want to increase the amount that the Town pays for Sheriff Department patrols and/or if they would want to spend additional funds to hire the State Police to deal with both speeding and break-ins. Ziegler noted that she had spoken with an official from East Montpelier regarding the cost and coverage of State Police patrols in that town.
- Wells reported that Vermont's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA) had recently conducted a random inspection on the Town Garage and Water/Wastewater Plant. The Town will be receiving citations for a couple of violations at the Town Garage, which may result in a fine. The code violations include a too-narrow stairway that needs to be replaced and an exit door that requires a panic bar and removal of a deadbolt. Wells has contacted someone to do the repair work. Thayer suggested contacting the League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), who had recently conducted an inspection at the site, yet did not note any problems with the stairway or door.
- Wells noted that she has talked with Dan Gadd about liability to the Town concerning the stakes sticking up from the ground at the horse shoe pit at the Recreation Field. In a call to VLCT, Wells was advised to take photographs for VLCT to make sure that the liability risk to the Town is low. Wells has also talked with Gadd about posting signage at the skateboard park regarding helmet use and other safety issues.
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the following four warrants: two for 8/4/17 and two for 8/11/17.** Ziegler noted that according to a recent Open Meeting Law training, a second to motions is not needed because it is such a small board. **The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve a Fleet Permit for Hutch Crane and Pump Rental Corporation.** Thayer raised the issue of the weight of the trucks and the impact they have on local roads. Wells noted that a sticker will be affixed to the approval document requiring that the company contact the Plainfield's Road Foreman in the spring before using the roads to avoid damage to them. **Thayer stipulated that the motion be approved with the condition that the sticker regarding use of the roads in the spring accompany the approval as well as that all trucks will comply with the speed limits on roads in the Town of Plainfield. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the Access Permit application from Patty Edson at 1640 Upper Road, which had already been signed by the Road Foreman. The motion was approved.**

ROAD REPORT: CAMERON ROAD, MOWING, BEAN ROAD., AD FOR OPENING, OTHER

- Wells noted that Road Foreman Mike Nolan is still waiting for one bid and is not yet ready to discuss the purchase of the new truck.

- Wells reported that the roadside mowing tractor that the Road Crew has been using needs a new electric solenoid. Nolan is hoping that the company that owns the machine will come and fix it so that the mowing can be finished up by the end of this week.
- Wells stated that the Bean Road project has been delayed because the culvert is not ready. It will possibly arrive by 8/21/17, which means the work probably will not be done until September.
- Ziegler noted that the crosswalks in the Village are scheduled to be repainted on 8/16/17.
- Thayer reported that Road Commissioner Bram Towbin would like the advertisement for hiring a new Road Crew member extended. Wells agreed to re-advertise it in a number of places. Thayer noted that there is a road crew internship program operating in Barre that she has spoken about to Towbin.
- Wells gave an update on the Cameron Road house demolition project, noting that items will be moved from the house this week and the house itself will be demolished by the end of next week.
- Wells noted that the painting of the Town Hall Opera House will begin next week. Ziegler stated that the color decided upon was wheat for the main body with white trim.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT/RECREATION FIELD: DAN GADD

- Dan Gadd from the Recreation Committee was present to provide a report on the Recreation Field. Gadd noted that the skateboard park was the big project this summer and is approximately 90% completed. He listed a number of community people who are helping with work. There is now a chained metal trash can down there, which he and Chloe Budnick will try maintain. Ziegler gave Gadd a pair of gloves and will give another pair to Budnick, along with other items to assist with their work. Gadd reported on other improvements, including: a newly installed horseshoe pit; looking into getting new sand for the sandbox; and following up on interest in a mountain bike loop. Regarding the picnic shelter, Thayer noted interest from two different sets of people who would like to engage local youth in its construction, which will serve to get youth invested in its stewardship. Discussion followed regarding: designing and fundraising for the picnic shelter; addressing illegal activity in the area; posting signs concerning the use of helmets, hours of operation, removing one's own trash; and cleaning versus replacing existing signage.

APPROVE CONSTABLE VCJTC TRAINING LETTER

- Discussion centered on which aspects of training the new constable, Kathleen Hayes, should undergo for the non-law enforcement position. Outgoing Plainfield Constable George Cushing advocated that Hayes should attend the full training and requested that the Select Board enter into executive session to discuss the issue, which the Select Board considered to be unnecessary. Noting that the Select Board had already decided that Hayes's role would be in a non-law enforcement capacity, Sneyd suggested that Hayes should attend only those training sessions recommended by the academy for that type of position. **Sneyd made a motion to approve up to \$500 for training of the new constable at the academy. The motion was approved.**

MICHAEL BILLINGSLEY: GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Ziegler noted that Emergency Management Director Michael Billingsley had informed her about some upcoming grant opportunities. A FEMA grant was announced today, applications for which will be due in November. Alice Merrill will be gathering information on it as part of her job as Plainfield Grant Administrator, however, if the Town decides to apply for it and chooses to hire

Merrill to write it, she would need to be compensated above and beyond what she currently is being paid. Billingsley, Merrill, and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Planner Laura Ranker may be able to attend the next Select Board meeting to further discuss what would be involved in the application once more information is gathered. Sneyd noted that some grant applications include building the cost of writing the grant into it.

PARTICIPATION AT VLCT TOWN FAIR 10/7 AND 10/8, APPOINT SELECT BOARD DELEGATE

- Thayer noted the upcoming Vermont League of Cities and Towns Town Fair, scheduled for 10/4/17 and 10/5/17 in Killington, and raised the question of whether a delegate from the Select Board should attend. It was determined that the decision to send Thayer to the event would be made at a later date.

TRAFFIC ISSUES, CONTINUED

- Regarding what the Town of Plainfield should be doing about traffic issues, Ziegler stated that in discussion with East Montpelier Town Manager Bruce Johnson, she learned that they contract annually with the Vermont State Police from Middlesex to primarily monitor traffic on Towne Hill Road and County Road for approximately 40 hours per month at a cost of \$33,000 per year. Ziegler noted that that figure is approximately four times the amount that the Town of Plainfield spends on patrols. Resident Daniel Hardy was present to again advocate for installing speed bumps by his house on Brook Road. Thayer noted that in order to consider speed bumps, the Select Board would need to hear from the Road Crew and fire and emergency services personnel in terms of how speed bumps would impact their work. Sneyd repeated his proposal that the issue of increasing Town funding for police patrols be presented to the voters in a warned article at Town Meeting, adding that an additional article might also address the issue of installing speed bumps. In addition to consulting with the road and public safety personnel, gathering more information on costs and drainage issues associated with speed bumps, Sneyd suggested possibly scheduling a public hearing to get broader input. Thayer will contact Road Commissioner Bram Towbin and Fire Chief Pat Martin for their input and request that they put together some information for discussion for the first Select Board meeting in September. Sneyd will follow up with Towbin, who also sits on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, which can implement traffic control mechanisms, on the use of speed strips. Sneyd will also obtain information on radar sign costs. Thayer will speak with someone in the Richmond Fire Department regarding his thoughts on speed bumps in terms of their impact on rescue vehicles. Discussion followed on issuing speeding tickets versus warnings, inviting Brett Meyers from the Washington County Sheriff's Department to the first Select Board meeting in September, and Thayer's creation of "drive slowly" yard signs to distribute to the community.

SKATEBOARD ORDINANCE

- Thayer explained various details in the draft ordinance that she had prepared for review. Discussion ensued regarding simplifying the language in the proposed ordinance or instead creating a policy stating that skateboarding is not allowed on Town streets/roads versus an ordinance. Thayer will further discuss the issue with others as well as streamline the existing language to include the following points: that skateboarders should operate only on the sidewalks, that they should keep a safe distance from pedestrians, that they should cross streets only at crosswalks, and that they do

not cross streets from between cars. Ziegler asked if Thayer would look into whether it was possible for the Town to have a policy as opposed to an ordinance. The issue will be further discussed at the next Select Board meeting.

TOWN HALL INSULATING AND LONG-TERM PLAN

- Ziegler noted the attempt to include insulating in the Town Hall Opera House painting project. The Preservation Trust of Vermont, holder of the easement, disagreed, stating that insulating the entire building needs to be done, not just a part of it. Ziegler proposed that the Town Hall Opera House's next capital improvement plan include insulating the building. Thayer expressed frustration at the Preservation Trust's decision, noting that there was no basis for it and that it will result in costing the Town more money down the road.

UPDATE ON WEBSITE

- Sneyd recommended that the Select Board move forward on offering the job to one of the two candidates for the webmaster position. He agreed to present a summary of the two options for review at the next meeting, and requested that the item be scheduled for earlier in the agenda. He will ask the candidates to come back within 90 days with a specific proposal on either improving the current website or creating a new website, explaining what the functions and platform will be, and how to move forward after the 90 days to get the website launched.

APPROVE MINUTES, OTHER BUSINESS

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/24/17 regular Select Board meeting as submitted. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/3/17 special Select Board meeting as submitted. The motion was approved.**
- Approval of minutes from the 7/17/17 and 7/31/17 special Select Board meetings was tabled until the next meeting.
- It was determined that minutes from the 7/5/17 special Select Board meeting had already been approved.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Thayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff