

Town of Plainfield Special Select Board Meeting
September 13, 2021
Minutes - approved

Present in person were Jim Volz, Select Board Chair, Sasha Thayer, Select Board member, and Ed Hutchinson (community member and permit applicant) and participating by Zoom, George Cushing (community member) and Eric Blaisdell of the Times Argus.

Jim Volz called the meeting to order at 7:33 AM.

Request for Approval of Right of Way Permit for Edward Hutchinson and Alexander Thayer - Select Board member Sasha Thayer recused herself for this agenda item as she is the co-applicant. Thayer explained that the reason for the Right-of-Way Permit application is that their septic tank is across the road and their septic line runs under the road. The septic line is broken and needs to be replaced. Thayer explained the notations on the application relating to pipe depth and closing of the road for the pipe replacement. She explained that the permit form gives a depth to 7 feet, but their pipes are about four feet below the road surface. Road Foreman Mike Nolan told her that that the 7 foot depth is for electrical lines, and said that four feet or the current depth will be alright for a septic line replacement and stated that because of the road narrowness, it would be better to close the road entirely to get the work done, rather than close only half of it at a time. Road Foreman Nolan also advised her to contact Twinfield School about the timing of the school buses. Thayer did so and was informed that between 8:30 AM and 2:30 PM busses wouldn't be going through. Permission is required for a road closure, so closing the road from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM on September 14, 2021 is included on the Right-of-Way Permit application and on permit to be signed and Road Foreman Nolan's approval of the current four foot depth for the pipe is also on the application and the permit to be signed.

Tammy Farnham raised the issue of notifying those using East Hill Road by signs of the road closure from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM on the 14th by signs at each end of the road and where other roads come into East Hill Road. There are four roads, Brook Road and Main Street and also Gray Road and Fowler Road. Tammy suggested using the construction warning signs the town had made and additional signs providing information about the date and time of the road being closed. Jim Volz agreed that this could be important for someone planning to get to an appointment. Thayer agreed this was a good idea and Tammy volunteered to print up and laminate four signs providing notice of the road closure and date and time which Thayer could pick up and then post the signs on those roads. **Tammy moved for approval of the permit for use of right-of-way, with the signage discussed. The motion was approved unanimously by Jim Volz and Tammy Farnham. Tammy moved to authorize Jim Volz to sign the permit just approved and the motion approved unanimously by Jim Volz and Tammy Farnham.**

Pedestrian Bridge Off-Site Activity Project Change: Tammy explained that the Pedestrian Bridge construction involves the storage of some materials removed from the construction side until it is returned as part of the construction. The initial plan had been for the use of the Town Hall/Opera House parking lot to be used to store equipment. Material removed is being stored in this parking lot and the State requires an amended permit to allow for the storage of materials there as well as equipment. Tammy said that all the material there may not be used in the project. She has been in touch with Keith of the Friends to let them know that some of the materials may be available for the work on the parking lot.

George Cushing asked whether the need to get the permit was going to delay the project and increased the cost. Tammy explained that this wouldn't cause a delay and the materials are already there, this is to provide authorization for that. **Tammy moved to allow her to sign an Off-Site Activity Project Change to authorize the storing of materials on the Town Hall/Opera House parking lot and the motion passed unanimously.**

Business Signs: Tammy Farnham explained that the construction had taken away some parking for businesses in Plainfield, so she had spoken with the Friends about the possibility of business customers being able to use the Friend's lot for parking. They said that is alright and Tammy was proposing that the Town provide signs

showing the possibility and location of extra parking. The cost would be about \$10 to \$12 per sign. Both Volz and Thayer agreed this is worth it to support the businesses. **Tammy moved that the Select Board spend the money to get a couple of signs for temporary parking for the businesses in the hydroponic store building and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Other Business: Sasha raised contacting the Sheriff's Department about problems with vehicles in town and seeking the OK for the board to do that. All agreed. Tammy also noted that the State did turn off the red blinking light. Jim noted that it's dangerous if you are in the area on Main Street on the other side of the stop light and are going up to Rte 2, it would be necessary to stop and check if cars are coming on Rte 2. Sasha also mentioned concerns of cars being stopped at the lights on Rte 2 and then cars deciding to go around other stopped cars against the light and suggested putting up No Passing signs to make clear that this isn't allowed. George Cushing mentioned that since the Town pays the Sheriff's Department to patrol, it would be better for Sasha to let the Sheriff's Department know of these problems, rather than put up more signs.

Adjourn: Tammy moved to adjourn and the motion passed unanimously at 8:01 AM.