

Plainfield Select Board Meeting
March 28, 2016
Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Ross Sneyd (Select Board), Bram Towbin (Select Board Chair), Betsy Ziegler (Select Board), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Kathy Light (Friends of the Opera House), Michael Billingsley (Hazard Mitigation Committee), and Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus).

Bram Towbin called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

The agenda was as follows:

- Election of Select Board Chair
- Announcements/Public Comment
- Town Clerk's Report
- Road Report
- Adoption of Personnel Policy
- Discussion of Employee Health Care Policy Change
- Old Home Days Update
- Creamery Street Update
- Resiliency Grant Update
- Review of Zoning Meeting
- Bus Shelter Update
- Report on Flood Meeting in Barre
- Report on Central Vermont Regional Planning Committee Meeting - Thank You to Bob Atchinson
- Approve Minutes

Betsy Ziegler made a motion to nominate Bram Towbin as Chair of the Select Board. Ross Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Towbin thanked Dan Gadd for his coordination of the very successful Easter Egg Hunt.
- Towbin announced that there will be a benefit dinner for the Waldorf High School production of *The Pirates of Penzance* on 4/1/16. Noting that due to the event caterer's late request for a liquor license, there might not be enough time for the Select Board to approve the authorizing paperwork. If received in time, Towbin will call a special meeting to act on the request.
- Michael Billingsley announced a special meeting of the Hazard Mitigation Committee on 3/31/16 to do a second evaluation of the Milone and MacBroom report in advance of a public hearing. Towbin noted that the report recommends various alternatives to deal with potential flooding hazards at the first and second bridges on the Great Brook coming into the Lower Village, and stated that decisions on which options to move forward with need to precede any applications for funding.

- Ziegler announced that the Conservation Commission is holding a special meeting on 4/4/16 at 7pm at the Town Hall Opera House where Brett Engstrom will present his work on Natural Communities.

REQUEST FROM FRIENDS OF THE TOWN HALL OPERA HOUSE

- Kathy Light, member of the newly formed and forming Plainfield Friends of the Opera House and co-director of the Goddard Community Gamelan ensemble, announced that the latter will be performing on 5/1/16 at 4pm at the Town Hall Opera House.
- Light is currently researching grants through the Vermont Community Foundation to fund a classical/chamber music concert series at the Town Hall Opera House to start in the fall. The funding would provide a guaranteed base amount for performers in addition to ticket sales to help book quality events that would draw people from a wide area to Plainfield. Because the Friends of the Opera House is not yet incorporated as a nonprofit, Light requested that the Town of Plainfield act as the fiscal sponsor in the grant application. Towbin expressed support for the effort, but noted concern over the possibility of any unknown financial obligations that might be incurred as well as any support potentially needed from Town staff to help administer the grant, such as writing checks or submitting reports. Discussion followed on possibly including administrative costs in the grant, advantages if the group became a formal committee of the Town, and potential models of disbursing funds. **Sneyd made a motion that the Town become fiscal sponsor for the Friends of the Opera House in relation to the Vermont Community Foundation grant application. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

- Linda Wells read the following list of proposed appointments:

Central VT Regional Planning Commission

Alternate Representative Bob Atchinson, 1-year term

Water and Wastewater Commission Mary Lane, 3-year term

Planning Commission Jean Hamilton, 3-year term

Ziegler made a motion to approve the proposed appointments as presented by Wells. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- Wells presented updated language from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns that both provided clarity on extending Medicare supplemental health insurance coverage for Medicare-eligible spouses of Town employees and declared the discontinuation of health insurance coverage for Town employee retirees because there will no longer be a carve-out in the Town’s insurance policy for retirees to continue their coverage through the Town. Wells recommended that the updated language on Medicare supplemental insurance for spouses and change in retirees’ eligibility for health coverage be reflected in the Town’s Personnel Policy. **Sneyd made a motion to adopt the new language. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

ADOPTION OF PERSONNEL POLICY

- Wells suggested that the Town’s Personnel Policy be adopted, including all changes and after a final review by employees, effective 4/1/16. **Ziegler made a motion to adopt the Town’s Personnel Policy effective 4/1/16. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

BUS SHELTER UPDATE

- Noting that Plainfield ranks high in terms of bus service ridership, Towbin stated that Green Mountain Transit Authority has offered the Town an additional bus shelter. The Town has indicated that it is interested in the new shelter and proposed plans are for it to be located at the Park and Ride in place of the current one, which in turn will be relocated to in front of the Post Office on Route 2. Towbin noted that some costs will be incurred due to the requirement of a light in the new shelter and that the Plainfield Development Review Board (DRB) has raised some questions regarding the relocation of the current shelter to Route 2. The Select Board agreed to move forward with next steps in responding to the DRB questions, acquiring the shelter, and exploring options, including funding, for lighting the shelter.

ROAD REPORT

- Citing that it is mud season, Towbin noted that he has received many calls about the road conditions, and in particular, questions about the kind of fill that is being used. Towbin believes that the Road Crew is doing a good job, but encouraged those who have questions or concerns to contact him.
- Towbin announced that the Town has resolved the issues with the company that provides uniforms to the Road Crew. The Town will either contract with a new vendor or make arrangements for employees to provide their own uniforms.

OLD HOME DAYS UPDATE

- Plainfield's Old Home Days event will be held on 9/17/16 and include a carnival company that will provide rides and concessions. Towbin noted that part of the reason to include the carnival company at the event is because the Town receives a portion of the company's proceeds that day, which can be put towards improving the current shelter that is badly in need of repair. Towbin assured that all the local features of the Old Home Days event will continue to be included.

CREAMERY STREET UPDATE

- Ziegler announced that a selection committee has reviewed proposals from three separate engineering firms for the sidewalk scoping study and selected the Dufresne Group as its first choice. **Zeigler made a motion to accept the proposal in the amount of \$28,400 from the Dufresne Group to carry out the sidewalk scoping study. Towbin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** Discussion followed regarding which side of Creamery Street the sidewalk would be built on and plans for painting fog lines.

RESILIENCY GRANT UPDATE

- Ziegler noted that the purpose of the grant is to form a committee, create a survey, and develop and implement projects to explore how the community can be resilient in the face of flooding and other adverse events. The Town has interviewed three applicants for the project coordinator position and selected Sarah McShane. The hiring process is on hold while salary and insurance requirement considerations are worked out, which hopefully will occur by the end of the week.

REVIEW OF ZONING MEETING

- Towbin provided an overview of the 3/21/16 zoning meeting, noting that the Town is updating a number of areas in the zoning regulations. Based on population density, there are three classes of zoning: Village, Rural Residential, and Forest and Agriculture. Major changes include the expansion of the Rural Residential designation and the creation of a Fluvial Erosion zone. Towbin encouraged residents to consult the five maps posted in the kiosk in the Village that detail the various floodplain designations and raise any questions or concerns during this discussion period. Discussion ensued regarding differing floodplain designations among various maps, challenges involved in modifying outdated map data, and proposed new setback distances.

REPORT ON FLOOD MEETING IN BARRE

- Towbin reported on a recent meeting he attended regarding a flood-control plan that Barre is moving forward with that includes installing woody debris-catching devices on Gunner Brook in Barre. Despite information to the contrary on the viability of debris catchers, including maintenance costs and efforts in removing the collected debris, Plainfield will be monitoring Barre's experience in its own consideration of how to deal with flood events caused by the Great Brook entering Plainfield.

REPORT ON CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING - THANK YOU TO BOB ATCHINSON

- Towbin explained the Central Vermont Regional Planning Committee's (CVRPC's) role in assisting with grant procurement and recommending priority projects to the State. Bob Atchinson is one of Plainfield's delegates to the CVRPC, and at a recent CVRPC meeting, Towbin and Atchinson presented a case for prioritizing State project work on Plainfield's Mill Street and Brook Street bridges, which resulted in advancing CVRPC's ranking of these projects. Towbin thanked Atchinson for alerting him to the process and his role in moving Plainfield up in the ranking process.
- Ziegler related her observations during a recent trip to Guatemala of that region's challenges in dealing with erosion issues.

LIQUOR LICENSE AND FLEET PERMIT RENEWAL REQUESTS

Towbin presented the following Liquor License Renewal request for approval:

- Country Club of Barre

Sneyd made a motion to approve the Liquor License Renewal request for the Country Club of Barre. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Towbin presented the following Fleet Permit requests for approval:

- Allen Lumber Co.
- GW Tatro Construction
- Donald Giroux's Trucking
- Harrison Redi-Mix Corp.
- Le Page Gravel Pit
- Marlin Environmental, DBA Hartigan Co.

- Walker Construction Inc.
- Winterset Inc.

Ziegler made a motion to approve the Fleet Permit requests as listed above. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

WEBSITE PROPOSALS

- Towbin noted a folder containing the proposals for managing the Town website and requested that Sneyd and Ziegler review them.

MINUTES

- Towbin presented minutes from the 2/22/16 Select Board meeting. **Ziegler made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2/22/16 Select Board meeting as amended. Towbin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Towbin presented minutes from the 3/1/16 Town Meeting. **Ziegler made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/1/16 Town Meeting as amended. Towbin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Towbin presented minutes from the 3/14/16 Select Board meeting. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/14/16 Select Board meeting as written. Towbin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm on a motion by Sneyd. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff