

Town of Plainfield
Plainfield Select Board Meeting
October 10, 2016
Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Ross Sneyd (Select Board Member), Bram Towbin (Select Board Chair), Betsy Ziegler (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Loona Brogan (Cutler Library), Marcy Shaffer Hale (Cutler Library), Bob Rosenfeld (Cutler Library), and Laura Zeisel (Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Board Member).

Bram Towbin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

AGENDA

- Announcements and Public Comment
- Road Report
- Friends of the Winooski Request
- Cutler Library Request
- Emergency Coordinator Discussion
- Chris Void, Opportunities for Young People in Plainfield
- Line Painting
- Town Website
- Minutes

Added to the agenda were: a report from Laura Zeisel regarding Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, the recent shelter removal at the Recreation Field, and the new piano at the Town Hall Opera House. **Ross Sneyd made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Betsy Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ziegler announced that the results of the Resiliency Committee survey have been compiled, which Sarah McShane will share at the next meeting. Members of the Resiliency Committee will be meeting this week with a representative from the Friends of the Winooski to look at and make plans for the site where the picnic shelter was recently removed.
- Towbin reported on the recent removal of the picnic shelter at the Recreation Field by a group of residents led by David Strong. The shelter had been eroding, leaning into the river, and causing safety concerns. The materials have been removed, leaving only the light that overlooks the Recreation Field, and plans are being devised to possibly replace it with something new. Towbin thanked those whose joint effort went into removing the structure.
- Towbin noted that he has recently met with the pastor at the Macedonia Church, who is a new member of the Recreation Committee. The pastor, who has been invited to come to a Select Board meeting to introduce himself, has offered to get volunteers to work on projects in the Town.

- Ziegler and Towbin reported on the new piano that is now in place at the Town Hall Opera House. He commended the Friends of the Town Hall Opera House for its work in raising \$5,000 to purchase the piano, which is just in time for the performance of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* this weekend. The piano will be dedicated to David Strong's mother, whose family contributed a great deal toward its purchase.
- Towbin noted that there will be a debate between the candidates for the Washington County 6 House Seat on 10/13/16 at 6pm at the Calais Elementary School.

ROAD REPORT

- Towbin noted that Road Foreman Mike Nolan was away and would not be present for the Road Report.
- There was a brief discussion of the proposed line painting on Towne Avenue and whether it was possible to complete the work this year. Nolan has measured the distance from Route 2 to Walker Lane as 325 feet. Ziegler will send the contact information for the line painting person to Towbin, and Towbin will then follow up with Nolan.
- Towbin noted that the Town Forest work has started. Due to a miscommunication, some stones were erroneously dumped on private property on Gonyeau Road. The situation is being remediated.
- Towbin stated that he will post the Facebook page of the Washington County Sheriff's office, where people can go for information and to voice any complaints.

FRIENDS OF THE WINOOSKI REQUEST

- Towbin connected Ann Smith, the executive director of the Friends of the Winooski River, by speaker phone to the meeting. He described a project regarding the steep embankment along the railroad bed that parallels Recreation Field Road and the Winooski River. If the embankment were to collapse, the result would likely seal off Recreation Field Road and incur a huge cost to the Town. The idea is to work with at least three private landowners who own parts of the embankment on a study project. Because Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells is an interested party, she will recuse herself and Towbin and Ann Smith will work with Assistant Town Clerk Carol Smith. In addition to the potential of damage to Recreation Field Road, Ann Smith noted that the erosion and resulting sediment runoff from the embankment ends up going into the Winooski River, which creates a water-quality issue. The Town of Plainfield would be the grantee for the study project with the Friends of the Winooski River staff doing most of the work. There would be no cost to the Town other than limited time spent on the project by some Town officials. **Ziegler made a motion to authorize the Town to act as agent and the Friends of the Winooski River to manage a grant to study the embankment issue over Recreation Field Road, which might also include areas up toward Lower Road and Middle Road. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Ann Smith described a second grant application with the Friends of the Winooski River being the grantee and the Town writing a letter in support of the project. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission will be developing a storm water master plan for Barre City, Barre Town, and Plainfield. In addition, Berlin is currently developing, and Montpelier has just completed, storm water master plans. These plans do not go into any detail and do not bring private landowners into the picture. The proposed grant will take these five storm water master plans as they are developed, look at the priorities, and try to develop them into viable projects to manage storm

water. Smith is asking each of the five municipalities to write a letter of support for the project. Discussion followed on how the project might help lessen the Town's burden in terms of its work to fulfill its obligations under Act 64. Smith noted that while there are some beneficial synergies between helping landowners and municipalities, the larger issue is protecting the water quality of the Winooski River. Towbin read aloud the proposed letter of support and minor edits were made to it. **Sneyd made a motion to approve sending out the letter as amended. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

CUTLER LIBRARY REQUEST

- Three representatives from the Cutler Memorial Library—Bob Rosenfeld, Loona Brogan, and Marcy Shaffer Hale—were present to discuss the Library's expansion project and respond to the Select Board's previous concerns regarding liability in connection with an application for a planning grant, which would be submitted by the Town on behalf of the Library, from the Vermont Community Development Program. The Library is working with Arc & Arrow Consulting LLC to help address some of the concerns. Rosenfeld presented Arc & Arrow's proposal for the Select Board to review and requested time at the next meeting to answer any questions. He assured the Select Board that the Town will not incur any costs related to the project and that the Library will reimburse the Town for any municipal staff time associated with applying for the grant. The grant application must be submitted by a municipality and the Library is requesting that the Town submit the application on its behalf as a community development activity that the Town would like to support. If the grant application can be submitted by the end of November, it is likely that there will be a decision on funding at the end of February, at which time the Town can revisit its commitment and decide to opt out. Discussion ensued on the possibility of the Library partnering with the Town on other grant programs, the challenge of the Town setting up and managing separate accounts for the Library's expansion planning project if funded, and whether future levels of Library funding from the Town will remain what it is today.

LAURA ZEISEL: REPORT FROM THE CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

- Laura Zeisel, the Plainfield board member for the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD), reported on what is going on at the District. She noted that a number of towns had voiced extreme opposition to CVSWMD's plans to purchase land in East Montpelier to develop a transfer station, and had threatened to pull out of the District if plans went forward. Primarily for that reason, CVSWMD has decided not to move forward with those plans. Focus groups that had been held as part of that planning process, however, identified the need for a place to dispose of hazardous waste. As a result, the District is considering if it should develop an area for disposing of hazardous waste on a more permanent basis beyond the five or six drop-off sites that are set up at different locations throughout the year. Beyond CVSWMD's own board members, input on what towns are looking for is being sought. It was noted that Ziegler had recently been appointed to the District's advisory committee from Plainfield. Towbin stated that Cabot Creamery generates byproducts and wastewater from its cheese-making process, which is spread on area fields. One idea that has been suggested is building a large bio-digester in the region. Zeisel suggested that Ziegler offer the suggestion at the next CVSWMD advisory committee meeting. Discussion followed on current and future composting efforts in the District and the possibility of offering a Plainfield composting workshop for households.

LINE PAINTING

- Towbin checked in with Town Clerk/Treasurer Wells regarding the availability of funding in this year's budget for the line painting to be done on Towne Avenue, which Wells verified was available. Ziegler will send to Towbin the name of the person to contact for the line painting.
- Wells inquired about the radar sign that had been sent out for repair. Towbin stated he will follow up on it with the repair person.

TOWN WEBSITE

- Sneyd stated that he has not been able to work on Town website planning as yet. Towbin requested that anyone in the community with ideas regarding the site forward the information.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR DISCUSSION

- Sneyd reported that he had posted the ad for the Emergency Management Director position to both Front Porch Forum and Plainfield People. Discussion followed on whether there were current-year budget funds available for training associated with the position. It was decided that the Select Board would appoint the sole applicant for the position, Michael Billingsley, and invite him to the next meeting to discuss funding possibilities for training. **Sneyd made a motion to appoint Michael Billingsley to the Emergency Management Director position with the understanding that budget specifics would be discussed at the next meeting. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

CHRIS VOID, OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN PLAINFIELD

- Towbin noted that a discussion he recently had with a young Plainfield resident, Chris Keene, centered on Keene's opinion on the lack of opportunities for young people and young families in Plainfield. Towbin had invited him to this meeting to discuss his concerns, but Keene was not present. Towbin will follow up with him.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MILL STREET PARK TRASH AND RECYCLING BINS

- Ziegler reported on difficulties associated with the trash and recycling bins at Mill Street Park. Towbin offered to put Ziegler in contact with the pastor at the Macedonia church, who had expressed interest in doing volunteer community service, to see if he and his parishioners would consider being responsible for the bins and if posting a sign there acknowledging their work was appropriate. Discussion followed on other ideas for collecting trash and recycling at the park, including the possibility of paying someone to do the work.
- Towbin noted that the problem of people leaving items on the stone wall in the Village persists and urged that the items be removed by those leaving them if not taken within a day.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ziegler noted that she will not be able to attend the next Select Board meeting.
- Towbin gave an update on the issue of neighbors' concerns regarding the possibility of blasting at Goddard College as part of its project to construct a woodchip heating facility. The issue is currently before the Act 250 Commission.

MINUTES

- Consideration of the minutes from the 9/26/16 meeting was tabled until the next meeting to allow time for Ziegler to forward her edits.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm on a motion by Sneyd. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff