

Town of Plainfield Select Board Meeting
In-person at the Plainfield Municipal Office and via Zoom
April 17, 2023
Minutes - Approved

Agenda:

Members Vote on Chairperson, Vice Chair
Public Comment
Fleet Permits Liquor Licenses
Michael Bingham Road Report
Alice Merrill - Letter of Intent Regarding Funding
Town Credit Card Policy
Plainfield Website Contributor Guide - Bob Fancher
Reflections on Town Meeting
Key Policy Issues in the New Year

- Marshfield Dam, regulation & taxation
- Route 2 Intersection Funding
- Enforcement of zoning rules

Appoints to Boards and various Positions including

- Potential New Town Attorney
- New Animal Control Officer

Other Business
Adjourn

Present: Select Board members Riley Carlson and Bram Towbin. Also present were Road Foreman Michael Bingham, Eric Blaisdell from the Times Argus, Town Administrative Assistant Kristin Brosky, Erica DaCosta, Plainfield Website Administrator Bob Fancher, Justice of the Peace Alice Merrill, Keith Swann of Friends of the Town Hall Opera House, Melinda V., and Laurie Veatch.

Towbin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Members Vote on Chairperson, Vice Chair:

Select Board Chair Jim Volz was unable to attend the meeting. Carlson noted Volz had given his approval for the vote to be held in his absence as well as stating he no longer wished to be Select Board Chair. **Towbin nominated Carlson for Select Board Chair and the motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment:

Erica DaCosta offered thanks to the team who provided audio and video recording of Town Meeting and asked that next year the meeting also be offered via Zoom.

Keith Swann discussed the Friends of the Town Hall Opera House interest in the Town applying for a Vermont Arts Council Digital Capacity Matching Grant. He shared that the Town match for a video projector, audio equipment, and assisted listening system would be approximately \$7,600.00. Carlson and Towbin stated their interest in supporting Swann’s proposal and will follow up with Town Treasurer Robin Miller. The issue will be discussed at a future Select Board meeting.

Fleet Permits/Liquor Licenses:

Towbin moved for approval of fleet permits for Limlaw Chipping, Moran Construction, Swan Sitework, and Kellyview Farm and the motion carried unanimously.

Towbin moved for approval of Positive Pie First Class, Second Class, and Outside Consumption liquor licenses and the motion carried unanimously.

Michael Bingham Road Report:

Bingham shared that the roads are in good shape and there is still enough gravel if needed. Towbin spoke as Road Commissioner, sharing that grants have been submitted for repairs to two bridges on Brook Rd. and two culverts on East Hill Rd. Towbin addressed resident’s complaints about noise associated with the VTrans Rt. 2 paving project.

Alice Merrill - Letter of Intent Regarding Funding:

Merrill discussed funding planning for the future Rt. 2 “Blinking Light” intersection project which VTrans projects will begin in 2028. Towbin provided information regarding the historical safety concerns related to the intersection and the potential cost to the Town for the project. Towbin shared that Ken Robbie of VTrans has been invited to the May 1, 2023 Select Board meeting.

Town Credit Card Policy:

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Plainfield Website Contributor Guide - Bob Fancher:

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Reflections on Town Meeting:

Select Board members thanked the Town Hall Opera House audio-visual team for providing remote access via YouTube to Town Meeting this year and expressed their interest in hearing

committee reports at next year's Town Meeting. Towbin mentioned his concern, which he had raised at Town Meeting, regarding the future need to fund repairs of the Plainfield water system.

Key Policy Issues in the New Year:

Marshfield Dam, regulation & taxation – Towbin discussed safety issues related to regulation of the Marshfield Dam and his concerns regarding the financial burden on the Town in the event of a flood emergency. Select Board members agree to take the issue up at a future Select Board meeting.

Route 2 Intersection Funding – See above under item “Alice Merrill - Letter of Intent Regarding Funding”.

Enforcement of zoning rules – Towbin stated that the Town will address zoning violations. Carlson reminded residents of the public hearing on the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance scheduled for June 5, 2023.

Appoints to Boards and various Positions including:

Potential New Town Attorney – Will be discussed at the May 1, 2023 Select Board meeting.

New Animal Control Officer – Will be discussed at the May 1, 2023 Select Board meeting.

Other Business:

Eric Blaisdell of the Times Argus asked how the Town Moderator will be selected and questioned why Town Moderator wasn't on the ballot. Carlson stated that the Select Board will appoint a moderator to serve for the next year and will follow up with Town Clerk Robin Miller to address the question of the ballot omission.

Adjourn: Carlson moved to adjourn at 6:44 pm and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristin Brosky, Town Administrative Assistant.