

**Town of Plainfield  
Select Board Meeting  
June 11, 2018  
Draft Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Member), Ross Sneyd (Select Board Chair), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Jodi Vilardi (Resident), Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner), John Harrison (Old Home Days Committee), Paula Emery (Old Home Days Committee), Jan Waterman (Conservation Commission), Charlie Cogbill (Conservation Commission), Becky Atchinson (Conservation Commission), Alex Forbes (Resident), Nicko Rubin (Tree Warden), Baylen Slote (Health Officer Nominee), and Dan Singleton (Washington County Forester).

Prior to its regular meeting, the Select Board held an executive session. The following minutes were recorded by Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells:

Ross Sneyd, Chair, Alexandra Thayer, Tammy Farnham, Town Attorney James Jamele, Water/Waste Water Chief Operator Greg Chamberlin, and Town Clerk Linda Wells were present.

At 6:30pm, **Sneyd made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1VSA section 313 relating to confidential attorney-client communications regarding the Gallison house. The motion was approved.**

At 7:00pm, **Sneyd made a motion to close executive session. The motion was approved.**

The Select Board requested that Clerk Linda Wells contact the Architectural & Planning firm of Keefe & Wesner and request copies of any additional documentation or photographs they may have while assessing the condition of the Gallison house property in August 2016.

**Ross Sneyd called the regular meeting to order at 7:05pm.**

**Agenda**

- Executive Session
- Review Agenda
- Public Comment/Announcements
- Town Clerk's Report and Warrants
- Road Report
- Old Home Days Update
- Emerald Ash Borer Discussion
- Town Health Officer Recommendation
- Local Emergency Operations Plan
- Emergency Management Director Update
- Approve Minutes
- Other Business
- Adjourn

## REVIEW AGENDA

- There were no changes made to the agenda.

## PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Recreation Committee Chair Dan Gadd reported that plans for the picnic shelter at the Recreation Field is moving along and that 6/17/18 will be the first work day. Gadd asked for volunteers on that day to help dig holes for the shelter's footers. Gadd explained the location and specifications of the proposed 16' x 24' shelter.
- Sneyd noted that a special meeting needs to be held to set the tax rate. Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells explained that towns cannot do anything regarding tax bills until the State approves a budget and sets the education rate.

## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT AND WARRANTS

- Wells presented information on appointments that need to be approved by the Select Board. Baylen Slote has been nominated for the position of Town Health Officer. The Vermont Department of Health is the entity that will officially make the appointment after the Select Board forwards its recommendation, which is slated to be considered later in the meeting. Wells presented two other appointments needing approval by the Select Board: **Sneyd made a motion to appoint Paula Emery as the Plainfield alternate commissioner to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and to appoint Dave Spence for a one-year term to the Cemetery Commission. The motion was approved.**
- Wells noted that street sweeping in the Village is scheduled to begin tomorrow and that the contract needs to be approved by the Select Board. It was decided that the issue would be taken up during the Road Report when Road Commissioner Bram Towbin is present.
- Wells reported that all the documentation on last October's storm has been provided to FEMA and a reimbursement of a little under \$10,000 is expected.
- Sneyd and Wells noted that the deadline for any invoices for fiscal year 2017-18 need to be submitted to the Town Clerk's office by 6/15/18.
- Wells noted that Energy Coordinator Bob Atchinson and Will Fitzpatrick from Efficiency Vermont recently conducted an energy audit of the municipal office building. She will inform the Select Board of the outcome when the findings are reported.
- Sneyd presented information from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding new requirements and fees for towns in the effort to clean up Lake Champlain. Road Commissioner Bram Towbin explained some of the new requirements, noting that he disagrees with the approach because it does not address the problem and that it places an unfair burden on small towns. Wells added that the fees, amounting to between \$1,000 and \$2,000, have not been budgeted for in the Town budget.
- Sneyd noted that there are free energy assessments available from Efficiency Vermont for businesses located in Plainfield. Interested parties need to respond by 6/20/18.
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve warrants of 5/18/18, 5/21/18, 5/25/18, 5/29/18, 5/31/18, 6/6/18, and 6/8/18. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve Fleet permits for EE Packard Enterprises, Packard Fuels, and Gregory A. Bartlett. The motion was approved.**

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve Single Vehicle permits for Raymond Laperle and Donald Moore, Jr. The motion was approved.**

#### **ROAD REPORT**

- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin reported that part of Recreation Field Road that had partially fallen into the Great Brook has been filled in using fill from the Bean Road blasting project.
- Towbin noted that an underground spring developed under Middle Road on the Barre Town line and a drainage area has been dug to address it.
- Towbin announced that the new 10-wheeler truck should be available in late June, early July.
- Towbin noted that the streets in the Village will be swept by a professional sweeper on 6/12/18 and possibly extending into the following day. Cars parked in the Village need to be moved by 7am. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$1,905 to Abare Lawn Care and Property Services for Village street sweeping. The motion was approved.**
- Sneyd noted that the problem of vehicles speeding on roads is again an issue and reminded people to be careful.
- Sneyd thanked Towbin for the speed radar signs that the Road Crew has set up.
- Tammy Farnham noted that she had resolved some of the issues on Flood Road and that the Road Crew had done work there to help address a resident's concerns. Towbin commended Farnham for managing a very difficult situation.

#### **OLD HOME DAYS UPDATE**

- John Harrison and Paula Emery were present to provide an update on the planning for Old Home Days, which has been scheduled for 9/8/18. Harrison requested guidance on the process of disbursement to pay vendors, which he will follow up on with Wells. Discussion followed regarding the length of time a law-enforcement officer is needed for the event. Alexandra Thayer suggested discussing with someone at the Washington County Sheriff's Department the possibility of using any leftover time that is contracted for on that day to cruise roads for speeders. Wells noted that law-enforcement coverage for Old Home Days comes from the Town's law enforcement budget, not the budget for Old Home Days. Sneyd will contact Bret Meyer at the Washington County Sheriff's Department and request that the officer on duty complete the time he will be contracted for patrolling roads for speeders. Emery urged anyone interested in participating in the parade or wanting a table at the Recreation Field after the parade to contact the Old Home Days planning committee. Farnham suggested getting Twinfield school students involved.

#### **EMERALD ASH BORER DISCUSSION**

- Washington County Forester Dan Singleton, Tree Warden Nicko Rubin, concerned landowner Alexandra Forbes, and members of the Conservation Commission were present to discuss the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer, specifically as it relates to Plainfield. Discussion ensued, including confirmed sightings of infected ash trees on Gore Road; how the insects cause damage to trees; how the insect is transported to new areas; prioritizing actions based on the assessment of risk; the lack of open and focused communication as it relates to the issue; possibly establishing an advisory committee to come up with recommendations; planning public education efforts and field trips to affected areas; the urgency for action; the education of loggers who handle infected wood; ecosystem equilibrium; surveying trees within the rights-of-way of Town roads to better understand the threat; felling ash trees versus using an insecticide; not cutting down unaffected ash trees so that those that are resistant can propagate this resistance; the fact that the entire state of Vermont

is under quarantine; and the increased risk of forest fires with downed wood on the forest floor. Sneyd requested that the Conservation Commission keep the Select Board informed of any ideas it comes up with, including conducting a survey of the Town Forest and roadsides and whether it recommends the establishment of an advisory committee. Singleton requested that the Select Board respond to the person at UVM Extension on the issue.

#### **TOWN HEALTH OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

- Baylen Slote, nominee for the position of Town Health Officer, was present. Thayer noted that outgoing Health Officer Justine Gadd has voiced her support for Slote's nomination. Slote provided information on his qualifications for the position. After all agreed to a start date of 7/1/18, **Sneyd made a motion to make a recommendation to the Vermont Department of Health to appoint Baylen Slote to the position of Plainfield Town Health Officer. The motion was approved.**

#### **LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

- Thayer noted changes she had made to the Local Emergency Operations Plan and requested approval of the amended version by the Select Board. **Thayer made a motion to approve the amended version of the Local Emergency Operations Plan. The motion was approved.**

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR UPDATE**

- In terms of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Thayer reported that she is still working on it and the latest draft is currently being reviewed by Laura Ranker at Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. Thayer is looking at what other towns have included in their plans. In addition, Thayer would like to convene a group of people to explore what the Town needs in terms of emergency management in an effort to begin to frame the position of Plainfield's Emergency Management Director.

#### **APPROVE MINUTES**

- **Sneyd made a motion to adopt the minutes from the 5/7/18 Public Hearing and the 5/14/18 regular Select Board meeting. The motion was approved.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Farnham recommended that the Select Board look at options to address concerns raised by residents related to parking and pedestrian safety at the Town Hall Opera House. Sneyd noted that he has been trying to get clarification on where the State is in terms of dealing with the Route 2/Main Street intersection and will include an update on it at the 6/25/18 Select Board meeting. Sneyd further noted that the State has agreed to put in a crosswalk traversing Route 2 in front of the Town Hall Opera House as part of the Pedestrian Bridge project, but that the project will not begin until construction season in 2020. Farnham agreed to contact the Friends of the Town Hall Opera House (Friends) to begin working on strategies to address parking and safety. Friends President Keith Swann announced that the Friends will be holding its annual meeting on 6/18/18 and will be encouraging residents to attend to further discuss the issue.

#### **ADJOURN**

- **Sneyd made a motion to adjourn at 8:55pm. The motion was approved.**

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff