

**Town of Plainfield
Select Board Meeting
June 25, 2018
Approved Minutes**

PRESENT: Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Member, participating by phone), Ross Sneyd (Select Board Chair), Tammy Farnham (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Sam Davis (Resident), Karen Janulis (Resident), Kate Hayes (Constable), Karen Storey (Zoning Administrator), Alice Merrill (Town Grants Administrator), Marushka Spates (Resident), Jamie Spector (Recreation Committee), Jim Volz (Resident), Jan Waterman (Conservation Commission), and Charlie Cogbill (Conservation Commission).

Ross Sneyd reported that the Select Board meeting had started at 7:00pm and went into executive session pursuant to 1 VSA §313 relating to confidential attorney-client communications regarding the Gallison House. No action was taken.

Sneyd opened the regular session of the Select Board meeting at 7:24pm.

AGENDA

- Review Agenda
- Motion to Meet in Executive Session Pursuant to 1 VSA §313 Relating to Confidential Attorney-Client Communications Regarding the Gallison House
- Public Comment/Announcements
- Goddard Neighbor
- Town Clerk's Report
- Road Report
- Blinking Light Intersection
- Recreation Field Shelter
- Emerald Ash Borer, Conservation Commission
- Approve Minutes
- Other Business
- Adjourn

REVIEW AGENDA

- Sneyd proposed changing the order in the agenda to begin with the Goddard Neighbor item. **Sneyd made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sneyd clarified that the trash generated from the Old Home Days event will not be burned by the Fire Department as was jokingly stated at the last meeting, but rather disposed of as State law requires.

- Sneyd reported that he was informed by Twinfield Union School Board Chair Patrick Healy that there will be a vacancy for a Plainfield resident starting in August and running through March 2019. The Select Board would like to appoint the new person in July and requested that anyone interested in serving should contact Linda Wells at the Town Clerk's office.
- Sneyd reported that the Cutler Memorial Library has asked someone from the Select Board to participate in the proposal review committee for the library's renovation study. Sneyd noted that despite the fact that no one from the Select Board is able to attend the first meeting, he will let Librarian Loona Brogan that the Select Board would like to remain involved.

GODDARD NEIGHBOR

- Goddard College neighbors Karen Janulis and Sam Davis were present regarding problems related to a youth group, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corp, camping on the college campus in the vicinity of Janulis's residence. Janulis noted that this constituted a change in land use and asked that the Select Board require Goddard College to apply for a permit for a change in land use. Zoning Administrator Karen Storey reported on the action she has taken to address the complaint, noting she could not identify a clear violation within the existing Plainfield Zoning Regulations. Discussion followed resulting in Sneyd agreeing to contact the person at Goddard responsible for the group.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells reported that she is working to close the books for this fiscal year and is waiting for the State to pass its budget so that the Select Board can set the Town's tax rate.
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the warrants of 6/15/18, 6/15/18, 6/22/18, 6/22/18, and 6/29/18. The motion was approved.**
- Sneyd noted an application for an access permit from Eric Abare of 3277 Country Club Road to be located on the easterly side of Highway #16 approximately 700 feet from the intersection of Country Club Road and Mitchell Road. Road Foreman Mike Nolan had placed a restriction that it include a 30-foot, 15-inch culvert. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the application for an access permit for Eric Abare at 3277 Country Club Road. The motion was approved.**
- Wells presented draft minutes that she had recorded from the 6/21/18 Select Board conference call.
- Wells informed Sneyd that he needs to sign warrants by 6/28/18 so she can close the books for this fiscal year.

ROAD REPORT

- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin had contacted the Select Board prior to the meeting to advise that he would not be present at the meeting, but that there was nothing to report.

BLINKING LIGHT INTERSECTION

- Sneyd reported that VTRANS, which is working on a redesign of the US Route 2/Main Street intersection, has been in contact with the Select Board regarding review of possible design options. VTRANS had indicated that it would not be ready to discuss any of the proposed options before August 2018. Alexandra Thayer recommended using the Town Hall Opera House as the venue for the meeting so that there would be adequate room for residents interested in attending.

RECREATION FIELD SHELTER

- Recreation Committee member Jamie Spector was present to provide an update on construction of the shelter at the Recreation Field. Spector noted that David Strong had informed her that there is a

matching-funds Building Facilities grant available from the State, which requires documentation of local investment in the project. Town Grants Administrator Alice Merrill stated that the grant application process is relatively simple, the submission deadline is the end of July, and, if successful, funds will be allocated in the fall. The Recreation Committee is looking for authorization from the Select Board for Merrill to work on the grant application. Spector listed a few additional amenities the Committee would like to see added at the shelter: electrical outlets, a trash can, and a drinking fountain. Thayer noted that picnic tables, if attached as part of the shelter, would likely qualify as an expense that the grant would match. Merrill noted that what was needed tonight from the Select Board was authorization to submit the grant application, authorization to hire Merrill to write the grant, and agreement to sign a letter of support for the project. **Sneyd made a motion to authorize Alice Merrill to apply for a Recreational Facilities grant for the shelter at the Recreation Field. The motion was approved.** It was agreed that if Merrill's time preparing the grant substantially exceeds the three hours she has estimated it will take, Merrill will inform the Select Board. Merrill will draft the letter of support and send it to the Select Board.

EMERALD ASH BORER, CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- Conservation Commission members Jan Waterman and Charlie Cogbill were present to brief the Select Board on recommendations regarding the newly discovered presence of the Emerald Ash Borer in Plainfield. Recommendations included assembling a task force that would include some members from the Conservation Commission, the Tree Warden, a Hazard Mitigation Committee member, and interested stakeholders from the public. Waterman also noted information that the Conservation Commission had gathered and forwarded to the Select Board. Tammy Farnham recommended that the task force also include someone from the Road Crew. Sneyd noted that a call should go out via the Town website and social media outlets for residents interested in serving on the task force, that the commissions and committees should make their own appointments, and that a date be set for the Select Board to make the appointments. Cogbill recommended that the number of people on the task force be a set figure and that the role of the task force be defined along with how long the task force should serve in that role. **Sneyd made a motion that the Select Board create a special task force to explore the issues presented by the Emerald Ash Borer invasive insect and that the task force include representation from the Conservation Commission, the Tree Warden, the Hazard Mitigation Committee, the Road Crew, and other interested citizens and stakeholders. The task force will comprise seven members and serve until 4/1/19, giving the new Select Board after Town Meeting an opportunity to revisit the issue. The motion was approved.** Waterman noted a meeting and field trip sponsored by the Marshfield Conservation Commission on the issue on 7/8/18 at 3:00pm at the Marshfield School House Common, where anyone from Plainfield is welcome to attend. Waterman added that the task force will be dealing with ash trees only in the public right-of-way along the roads and on Town properties and that if the task force indicates that an informational meeting on the issue is needed in Plainfield, the Conservation Commission can organize it. Waterman and Cogbill noted that the State should give the towns much more information and direction and coordinate a management strategy as much as possible rather than each town doing it on its own. The Select Board will take up the task force issue again at its 7/23/18 meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES

- Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/11/18 regular meeting as amended; the 6/21/18 special meeting as presented by Linda Wells; and the 4/23/18 regular meeting as written. The motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

- Sneyd made a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff