

Plainfield Select Board Meeting
July 11, 2016
Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Betsy Ziegler (Select Board Member), Bram Towbin (Select Board Chair), Ross Sneyd (Select Board Member), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), David Hill (Resident), David Diamantis (Resident), Patrick Healy (Twinfield School Board Chair), Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus), Melinda Vieux (Resident), George Cushing (Town Constable), David Strong (Resident), Karl Bissex (Resident), Alice Merrill (Resident), Yoko Kishishita (Resident), Tim Phillips (Resident), Charles Cogbill (Conservation Commission), Paula Emery (Resident), Sarah Albert (Conservation Commission), Patrick Tibbetts (Resident), Jen Bradley (Resident), George Springston (Resident), Rose Paul (Resident), Becky Buchanan (Conservation Commission), Jan Waterman (Conservation Commission), and Michael Billingsley (Hazard Mitigation Committee).

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

AGENDA

- Announcements/Public Comment
- Alice Merrill, Candidate for Grant Administrator
- Patrick Healy, Twinfield School, Volunteers Needed to Shape Future
- Town Forest, General Discussion
- Stop Signs, General Discussion
- Resiliency Committee
- Hazard Mitigation Committee Recommendations Regarding Milone & MacBroom Study
- Minutes

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Towbin announced that there will be a production of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* at the Town Hall Opera House on 7/15, 7/16, and 7/17.
- Betsy Ziegler announced that the Old Home Day Committee is seeking additional community members to help organize the event, which will be held on 9/17/16.
- Towbin reported on his recent meeting with the Sheriff's Department regarding speeding and the decrease in revenue from citations issued despite the universal feeling in the community that incidents of speeding had not gone down.
- Towbin noted some troubling graffiti found, which he has reported to the State Police and Sheriff's Department.
- Ziegler reported that Andrea Day from the Dufresne Group has written up a draft of residents' concerns regarding the Lower Village Pedestrian Study. Any additional comments should be emailed to Ziegler or to Day's temporary replacement, Brian Baker.
- Towbin noted that a video of the discussion process for the Hazard Mitigation Committee's recommendations for the new bridges is posted at www.plainfieldhazard.com.

ALICE MERRILL, CANDIDATE FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

- Noting a recent RFP issued by the Select Board for a Grant Administrator to manage existing Town grants and seek new ones, Towbin announced that Alice Merrill had submitted a proposal for the position. Discussion followed on the amended job description, in particular that the position would not include the writing of extensive grant proposals and that the Select Board would provide direction in terms of seeking new grant opportunities. Former Select Board member David Strong urged approval of the amended job description and the hiring of Merrill due to three grants currently underway that need attention. **Ross Sneyd made a motion to adopt the amended job description. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** Immediately following, **Ziegler made a motion to hire Alice Merrill as Grant Administrator. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

PATRICK HEALY, TWINFIELD SCHOOL, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SHAPE FUTURE

- Towbin introduced Patrick Healy, Chair of the Twinfield Union School Board, and thanked him for his service. Healy noted that volunteers were needed from Plainfield and Marshfield for a 706B Committee. He stated that the School Board had voted to work with Cabot and Danville on a possible merger and that the 706B Committee will be exploring such a move, specifically in terms of financials, and draft Articles of Association. The 706B Committee will be composed of five representatives from the Twinfield group, two representatives from Cabot, and four from Danville. Healy noted a time commitment of 2-3 meetings per month starting in September and running through January for a possible vote on Town Meeting Day. Anyone interested should contact Patrick Healy at patrickh468@gmail.com by 4pm on 7/21/16.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- Sneyd read aloud a permit request by Washington Electric Cooperative to perform work on Fowler Road near the residence of Aldo Gray that will include cutting and trimming trees, chipping brush, and installing utility poles, anchors, guidewires, conductors. The permit request will extend from July 2016 to December 2016. As Road Commissioner, Towbin noted that Road Foreman Mike Nolan is comfortable with the work to be done. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the permit request by Washington Electric Cooperative to perform work on Fowler Road. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Ziegler noted a Fleet Permit Request from Mike Brown of East Montpelier for a four-axle dump truck. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the Fleet Permit Request from Mike Brown. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Towbin presented the Washington County Sheriff Enforcement contract in the amount of \$7,500 for the period of 7/1/16 through 6/30/17, noting an increase from \$28.50 to \$28.75 per hour. Following a brief discussion, **Ziegler made a motion to approve the Washington County Sheriff Enforcement contract for \$7,500 for the period between 7/1/16 and 6/30/17. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Towbin announced that Alexandra Forbes has expressed interest in being a Lister for Plainfield. **Ziegler made a motion to approve the appointment of Alexandra Forbes as a Lister. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

TOWN FOREST, GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Towbin noted a recent discussion via social media regarding problems with how the Town was going about managing the Town Forest. Maxfield Road resident Patrick Tibbetts stated his opposition to the use of the Town Forest for anything other than its original purpose of providing firewood to residents in times of need and cited a number of ways in which his quality of life was being affected by people using it, including garbage, noise, bonfires, vehicles parked overnight and turning around in his driveway, and the discharging of firearms. Discussion ensued with various points of view presented and culminating in Towbin stating that the Town Forest is a public resource and that the Conservation Commission, the Town Constable, and the Select Board need to address the quality of life issues expressed by the resident and find common ground to try to mitigate them. He thanked Tibbetts for coming forward with his concerns and the Conservation Commission for its work.

STOP SIGNS, GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Ziegler provided a brief history regarding the need to address traffic patterns in the Village. She noted the Town's adoption of the new Traffic Ordinance in December 2015 and available funds in June 2016 that allowed for some of its implementation to move forward. Towbin thanked Ziegler for her work and noted the public process that preceded the installation of the stop signs. He posed several questions he had received from residents not present, including the possible use of yield signs or speed bumps instead of stop signs and the increase in fuel costs resulting from having to stop. Discussion followed with many present citing the positive impact of the stop signs in increasing safety for pedestrians, especially children. Towbin noted the need to improve communications regarding such proposed changes and bring more townspeople into the process prior to implementation. It was agreed that there is a need to warn drivers of the upcoming stop sign at the intersection of Main Street and Creamery Street.

BUILDING AT 13 CREAMERY STREET

- Towbin noted that the building on the corner of Main Street and Creamery Street diagonally across from the Firehouse is coming up for auction on 7/21/16.

RESILIENCY COMMITTEE

- Ziegler noted that a community survey is being developed by the Resiliency Committee to determine ways in which residents think that Plainfield is resilient and identify what areas need to be improved. The survey is expected to be completed and out within a month. The next meeting of the Resiliency Committee is on 7/20/16.

HAZARD MITIGATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MILONE & MACBROOM STUDY

- Towbin briefly reviewed the process that the Town has undertaken to address the problem of woody debris flowing into the Village via the Great Brook during weather events. The recent engineering study by Milone & MacBroom had recommended a number of alternatives. As a result of subsequent public discussions that explored the alternatives, the Hazard Mitigation Committee has issued the following:

Committee RESOLUTION:

as follows: **“Committee recommendation to coincide with M&M recommended option #4: replacement of Bridges 1 & 2 at 1.0 bank full structures, with stream bed modifications.”** Moved by Bram Towbin, 2nd George Springston – passed by voice vote with no abstentions.

See Milone & MacBroom “Great Brook Bridge Analysis Report”
February 15, 2016

Page 26 – Alternative 4 (Brook Road)
and
Page 29 – Alternative 12 (Mill Street)

Combined Recommendation

Page 32 – Alternative 16 (1.0xBF bridge at Brook Rd. and Mill St.)
paragraph 2 “We thus recommend that both bridges be replaced and enlarged.”

Recommendation Details –
Page 32 – Section 5.5 “The Preferred Alternative”

- Hazard Mitigation Committee member Billingsley explained the resolution, noting that the Committee had rated the options in terms of cost, safety, impact, and effectiveness. The Committee recommended that the combined choice of Alternatives 4 and 12 be approved as a goal before planning the next step, which would be to undertake an engineering study to determine what the bridges would look like and cost. Towbin noted the scale and cost of the project and urged residents to understand the chosen options. Discussion followed on possible next steps going forward and the need to also consider projects currently underway and see them through to completion. **Sneyd made a motion to endorse the Hazard Mitigation Committee’s recommended options of #4 and #12 in the Milone & MacBroom report. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** Copies of the full report are available online and at the Town Clerk’s Office.

OTHER

- In terms of the recent pledge by Towbin and Sneyd of \$100 each towards the inspection of the Gallison house across from the Town Hall Opera House that the Town is considering buying, Ziegler asked when the stipend for Select Board members was to be paid. Towbin noted that it was paid one-and-a-half years into the term. A brief discussion followed, including residents contributing to the inspection cost of the Gallison house.

MINUTES

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/27/16 Select Board meeting as amended. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm on a motion by Ziegler. Towbin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff