

**Town of Plainfield
Select Board Meeting
September 11, 2017
Approved Minutes**

PRESENT: Ross Sneyd (Select Board Member), Betsy Ziegler (Select Board Chair), Alexandra Thayer (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), George Cushing (Constable), Melinda Vieux (Resident, Skateboard Policy Discussion), Daniel Hardy (Resident, Traffic Issues Discussion), Bram Towbin (Road Commissioner), and Bob Atchinson (Energy Coordinator).

Betsy Ziegler called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

AGENDA

- Review Agenda
- Public Comment/Announcements: Old Home Days Report, Safety Forum 10/18/17
- Town Clerk's Report: Warrants, Other
- Road Report: Cameron Road, Bean Road, Other
- Changes to Right-of-Way Policy Review
- Traffic Issues Discussion: Safety Signs, Traffic Study, CVRP Vehicle Counting Tape, New Radar Sign
- Street Lights Installation and Purchase Plan, Continued
- Skateboard Ordinance and Skateboard Park Sign Discussion, Continued
- Website
- Approve Minutes, Other Business
- Adjournment

REVIEW AGENDA

- Ziegler added Approval of Colors for the Town Hall Opera House. **Ross Sneyd made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS: OLD HOME DAYS REPORT, SAFETY FORUM 10/18/17

- Village resident Melinda Vieux noted the annoying noise created by skateboarders around her house, most recently this past Labor Day, and expressed safety concerns in terms of skateboarders not crossing streets at crosswalks. Vieux also noted the sound of loud mufflers on cars that routinely pass in front of her house. Alexandra Thayer presented Vieux with the draft skateboarding policy currently under consideration by the Select Board, and noted that discussion on the issue is scheduled for later in the meeting.
- Constable George Cushing noted that Karla Haas Moskowitz recently had told State Police that she was no longer Plainfield's Animal Control Officer. Thayer stated the importance of Moskowitz contacting the Select Board about it directly, noting that Moskowitz had agreed to stay on until a replacement was found. Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells will advertise the Animal Control Officer position again.

- Cushing stated his dismay about the social media poll taken by a Select Board member regarding posting signs on telephone poles, to which Thayer responded that it was merely to assess the public's opinion and that she took no position when posing the question. Melinda Vieux added that there was a law prohibiting posting signs on telephone poles.
- Thayer shared a humorous story regarding speeding signs that she had received from a resident.
- Prior to exiting the meeting, Vieux stated that she was not in favor of what was being suggested in the draft skateboard policy.
- Ziegler thanked everyone who had participated in last weekend's successful Old Home Days event. Cushing stated that the State Police had been given no direction on where to be during the event, which Ziegler noted will be addressed in future planning.
- Ziegler noted the safety forum scheduled for 10/18/17 at 7pm at the Town Hall Opera House. The Vermont State Police and the Washington County Sheriff's Department will be present to discuss what they are doing to address safety issues. Ziegler encouraged community members to attend to share their concerns and ideas.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT: WARRANTS, OTHER

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells asked if the Select Board was planning to purchase another radar sign. A brief discussion followed on the vendor who supplied the current radar sign and issues associated with service.
- Road Commissioner Bram Towbin noted three areas that Road Foreman Mike Nolan has identified that need some paving and seal coating, which Nolan would like to move forward with before winter. They are: 1) Hudson Avenue at its intersection with Mill Street, at a cost of \$1,100; 2) Towne Avenue, at a cost of \$1,500; and 3) a portion of Main Street, at a cost of \$4,200. The total cost for the three projects is \$6,890, which Wells assured is available in the budget. **Sneyd made a motion to approve \$6,890 to Green Mountain Paving and Seal Coating for projects on Hudson Avenue, Towne Avenue, and a portion of Main Street. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to adopt warrants dated 8/21, 8/23, 8/25, 8/28, 8/31, 9/5, 9/6, 9/8, and 9/8. The motion was approved.**
- **Sneyd made a motion to approve a catering/liquor permit for Positive Pie for an alumni dinner at Goddard College on 10/7/17. The motion was approved.**
- Wells presented information regarding the purchase and installation of new streetlights. Discussion followed on the cost of the lights and Green Mountain Power's fee to install them.

ROAD REPORT: CAMERON ROAD, BEAN ROAD, OTHER

- Towbin noted that Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) has only two working electronic traffic recording devices of the four that Towbin had requested to be sited on Plainfield roads. Ziegler stated that in a recent conversation with CVRPC's Dan Currier, he had recommended siting two devices at a distance from each other on the same road. It was determined that the devices would go on Brook Road, after which they might possibly be moved to other roads. Brook Road resident Daniel Hardy agreed to speak with Currier in terms of their exact locations based on Hardy's knowledge of where most of the speeding occurs.
- Towbin reported on the Bean Road box culvert project, noting that the ledge that was found when excavating has been blasted away and will be used elsewhere. The box culvert has been delivered

and placed and the project will be completed this week after the guard rails are installed. Towbin will post a web page with pictures and a description of the project.

- Towbin reported on the completion of demolishing the house at 280 Cameron Road that was in danger of falling into the Great Brook. Towbin noted that contractor Jason Merrill did a great job, which included removal of the septic system and capping water lines. A brief discussion followed regarding the possibility of using the now-vacant public property as a pocket park; however, the danger posed in terms of the steep cliff dropping down to the Great Brook and lack of parking would likely make it unsuitable for that purpose. Towbin stated the importance of new fluvial erosion zoning regulations in preventing the construction of structures in such precarious sites in the future. Ziegler thanked Towbin for all his work in seeing the project through to a successful conclusion.

CHANGES TO RIGHT-OF-WAY POLICY REVIEW

- Thayer presented a draft of the Right-of-Way Use application and permit, noting that she had made changes to the language in the permit based on discussion at the last meeting. Discussion followed on adding in a condition stating that prior to filling in the trench, the contractor is responsible for scheduling a meeting with the Road Foreman to visually inspect and photograph the work to ensure that everything is in compliance with the permit before final approval is granted. Further, it was determined that the permit should include a \$30 permit fee plus a \$10 recording fee for a total of \$40. **Thayer made a motion to approve the application and permit for Right-of-Way Use with the inclusion that within 48 hours of completing the work and before the trench is filled in, the applicant must schedule a meeting at the convenience of the Road Foreman to visually inspect, photograph, and approve the work. The permit fee will be \$30 plus a \$10 recording fee for a total of \$40. The motion was approved.**

TRAFFIC ISSUES DISCUSSION: SAFETY SIGNS, TRAFFIC STUDY, CVRP VEHICLE COUNTING TAPE, NEW RADAR SIGN

- Ziegler noted a number of actions that can be taken to address speeding concerns, including a vehicle count/traffic study by Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, a new radar sign that Sneyd will follow up on, and the “drive slowly” lawn signs that Thayer has created and is distributing. Pertaining to the latter, anyone interested in a sign should contact the Town Clerk’s office or call Thayer at 454-1131. Brook Road resident Daniel Hardy agreed to provide information on who to talk to in Hinesburg and other towns regarding their experience using speed bumps. Sneyd suggested the possibility of deploying temporary speed bumps to better understand the issues involved. Hardy suggested changing the speed limit on paved roads leading in and out of the Village from 35 to 25 miles per hour, similar to the speed limit on the unpaved portions. Ziegler noted the lengthy process that needs to be followed when changing speed limits. Ziegler also noted the idea of surveying the community at Town Meeting regarding the use of speed bumps and if the Town should allocate more funds for police patrols. Thayer stated the need to consult fire and rescue personnel and the Road Crew regarding any concerns they may have about speed bumps, and noted a brochure put out by the Vermont Agency of Transportation that provides a lot of information on setting speed limits in Vermont towns.

STREET LIGHTS INSTALLATION AND PURCHASE PLAN, CONTINUED

- Ziegler cited Energy Coordinator Bob Atchinson's request via email to approve the \$685 purchase of two more street lights. Atchinson's email stated that Green Mountain Power (GMP) can install them all in one day, including a free installation at Martin Meadow, with the reduced cost of running the new LEDs being the payback for the cost of installation over time. Noting that both the cost of the lights and GMP need to be paid upfront, Sneyd stated that the Town cannot pay with future savings. Discussion followed on whether to continue to negotiate a \$660 previous GMP charge that is in question. Because Atchinson believes that that charge is not valid, Thayer suggested that Atchinson and Wells discuss the details of the situation between themselves before speaking again to GMP to negotiate the charge.

SKATEBOARD ORDINANCE AND SKATEBOARD PARK SIGN DISCUSSION, CONTINUED

- Thayer presented a current draft of the skateboard policy for review. Ziegler requested that the language be strengthened to indicate that skateboarders must cross at marked crosswalks. It was decided that the Recreation Commission should be given the draft to review and that public opinion be gauged by posting the draft on Front Porch Forum and Plainfield People. The policy will be voted on at the Select Board's 9/25/17 meeting.

WEBSITE

- Sneyd reported that the position was offered to one of the candidates, who turned it down due to a change in her situation that will not allow her time to do the work. Possible options going forward are to reconsider two previously submitted proposals as well as opening up the position to others. Sneyd suggested that Town committee or commission members who routinely post to the current site be invited to the next Select Board meeting to discuss any issues they might have with using the site. Ziegler noted that she will not be present at the next meeting, and asked Sneyd to assume chair duties in her absence. The total budget for the website for this current year is \$3,500.

APPROVAL OF PAINT COLORS FOR THE TOWN HALL OPERA HOUSE

- Ziegler noted that the Town Hall Paint Committee that is looking into paint colors for the Town Hall Opera House has proposed, and the Preservation Trust of Vermont has approved, warm yellow with white trim. **Sneyd made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Town Hall Paint Committee for warm yellow with white trim for the Town Hall Opera House. The motion was approved.**

APPROVE MINUTES, OTHER BUSINESS

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/28/17 regular Select Board meeting as written. The motion was approved.**
- Thayer noted that minutes from the 8/22/17 special Select Board meeting were approved at the special meeting on 8/29/17. Ziegler will send out the minutes from the 8/29/17 special Select Board meeting for approval at the next meeting.
- Thayer noted that Wells had agreed that the municipal budgeting workshop coming up at the end of September was a valuable training for Thayer to attend and has submitted Thayer's registration.

- Sneyd read aloud a thank-you note from the American Red Cross from Vermont and New Hampshire. It was determined that it was in response to a donation made by the Town through the Social Concerns Committee process and approved at the last Town Meeting.
- Thayer thanked Blue Cross/Blue Shield for providing the smoothie bike at Od Home Days. Ziegler thanked SunCommon for providing the bounce house. Discussion followed on other successful activities at the event. Ziegler noted that the Old Home Days committee will meet once again in October to review the event and begin planning for next year.
- Energy Coordinator Bob Atchinson reported that he has had recent conversations with Green Mountain Power (GMP) regarding its charges for work on Route 214 and Harvey Hill, which have not yet been productive. Atchinson believes, however, that the charge for the work on Route 214 will be reversed. Discussion followed regarding details involved in installing the needed street lights at Martin Meadow and the monthly maintenance fees for all the Town street lights. Referring back to the Harvey Hill charge, Atchinson noted the miscommunication between himself and GMP about adjustments needed for that street light, stating that GMP should have let him know that his request was confusing rather than sending out a crew to do an adjustment did not make sense. Atchinson is waiting for GMP to send an itemized bill so it is clear exactly what work was involved in the \$660 outstanding charge. Ziegler requested that Atchinson speak directly to Wells so both are on the same page regarding communications with GMP on the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff