

**Plainfield Select Board Meeting
September 26, 2016
Approved Minutes**

PRESENT: Ross Sneyd (Select Board Member), Bram Towbin (Select Board Chair), Betsy Ziegler (Select Board Member), Linda Wells (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Keith Swann (Videographer), Cindy Wyckoff (Minutes Recorder), Mike Nolan (Road Foreman), Marty Levin (Resident), David Strong (Town Hall Opera House), Sarah Albert (Conservation Commission), Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus), Brett Meyers (Washington County Sheriff's Department), Sam Davis (Resident), Karen Boufford (Resident), Andrea Stefani (Resident), Felicia Stefani (Resident), Dan Towner (Resident), Ken Smith (Resident), and Greg Chamberlin (Water/Waste Water Commission).

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

AGENDA

- Announcements and Public Comment
- Town Clerk's Report
- Road Report
- Speeding Ticket Revenues
- Residents' Concerns Regarding Goddard Project
- Review of Old Home Days Celebration
- Town CDL Testing Policy
- Crime Remediation Discussion: Neighborhood Watch? Cameras?
- Line Painting Follow Up
- Minutes

Towbin added appointing someone to the Hazard Mitigation Committee, Betsy Ziegler added appointing someone to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Advisory Board, and Ross Sneyd added advertising the Emergency Management Director position. **Sneyd made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Towbin announced that on 10/1/16, Paul's Trash will begin collecting trash and recycling between 8am and 12pm on Saturdays at the Park and Ride. The operation may eventually move to in back of Black Bear Diesel. Ziegler noted the sign posted by the company on a telephone pole advertising the service. Towbin stated he will let the company know that signs on telephone poles are not permitted and suggest that they advertise through social media.
- David Strong reported that on 10/1/16, the picnic shelter at the Recreation Field will be taken down. In exchange for their labor, the Select Board agreed to giving some of the materials to members of the group doing the demolition. Towbin stated that Road Foreman Mike Nolan will take the poles. Noting that clearing the site is part of the Resilience Project, Strong stated that a buffer will be planted next spring to stop the erosion of the river bank.

- Strong noted that the new roof on the Town Hall Opera House should be completed by early next week, stating that repairs are needed to some rotted fascia boards underneath the roof. The roofers are trying to reproduce the profile for the replacement boards to match the original materials for historic reasons. Strong will give a final report once all of the work is completed. Towbin thanked him for his work on the project.
- Strong reported that an emergency fund appeal is being mounted by the Friends of the Town Hall Opera House to replace the piano at the facility. There is a quality piano available that has been offered at half price in the amount of \$5,000. The board of the Friends of the Town Hall Opera House suggested raising the funds in memory of Strong's mother, who was a pianist, and Strong is appealing for support from members of his family. Hopes are that the piano will be there in time for the beginning of the opera series on 10/14/16. In terms of disposing of the existing piano, Towbin noted the restriction on moving ivory, if the piano contains any, across state lines. People wishing to donate money for the new piano should contact Strong via email at dstrong@vtlink.net and indicate the amount they would like to pledge.
- Conservation Commission member Sarah Albert presented a printer's proof for the two signs to be posted at the Town Forest parking lots specifying the hours of operation. She will contact Road Foreman Nolan for poles on which to mount them.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells, noting the State's effort to go paperless, requested approval from the Select Board to delegate authority to her to receive Act 250 applications, which she will circulate and post. **Sneyd made a motion to designate Linda Wells as the recipient of Act 250 applications. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Wells asked if the Select Board had approved the draft permitting language for the Use of Right-of-Way. After determining that the language had been agreed to but not voted on at a previous meeting, **Ziegler made a motion to approve the Permit for the Use of Right-of-Way language as amended. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Wells and Towbin presented the names of people to be appointed to various boards and committees as follows:
 - Betsy Ziegler to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Advisory Committee;
 - Nicholas Hooker to the Recreation Committee;
 - John Jablonsk to the Recreation Committee;
 - Susan Grimaldi to the Hazard Mitigation Committee; and
 - Justine Gad as Health Officer.

Sneyd made a motion to approve the appointments as listed above. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

ROAD REPORT

- Towbin confirmed with Road Foreman Mike Nolan a meeting the next day with a resident.
- Nolan reported that the Road Crew is still working on smoothing roads and cleaning culverts and ditches. Nolan noted that a culvert needs to be replaced at Martin Meadow, which he hopes can be done this year, but may not due to the need for blacktopping over it.
- Towbin noted a recent request by Gary Graves to paint a yellow center line on Towne Avenue to alleviate some traffic confusion with cars exiting the Health Center. It was suggested that Nolan

perhaps touch base with Graves, and due to the cost of line painting—one dollar per foot—that Nolan measure and report back to Towbin the distance from Route 2 to Walker Avenue. Towbin stated that there may be money in the budget because the Town may not purchase a second radar sign, noting that he has sent the damaged one out for repair. **Ziegler made a motion to spend up to \$2,000 to paint a center yellow line on Towne Avenue. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

- Sarah Albert asked Nolan about the possibility of smoothing the upper part of Gonyeau Road so that it might be more welcoming to people using the road to go to the Town Forest and whose cars do not have high clearance. Towbin requested that discussion be tabled due to it being a Class 4 road that may have other State requirements.

SPEEDING TICKET REVENUES

- Towbin welcomed Brett Meyers from the Washington County Sheriff's Department and briefly reviewed the issue of the steep decline in the Town's ticket revenues. Meyers compared data over the past few years with regard to local speeding and other violations and discussion ensued on various factors affecting the revenues coming to the Town. Sneyd acknowledged the value of a police presence as a deterrent to speeding and other violations.
- Plainfield resident Andrea Stefani asked Meyers about officer training, particularly when dealing with people who have mental health problems. She inquired as to how to let law enforcement know not to use a Taser on someone with epilepsy, from which both she and her daughter suffer. Meyers advised that the person calling in to law enforcement should alert them to the situation and noted that Sheriff's Department personnel do not carry Tasers. Towbin stated that he would pass on the concern to the State Police as well.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS REGARDING GODDARD PROJECT

- A group of residents, some of whom live in close proximity to Goddard College, was present to voice concern about Goddard's plan to possibly implement blasting in order to build a foundation for its proposed woodchip heating plant. The residents claimed that because the possibility of blasting was not included in the original permitting application and is a material change, Goddard needs to file an amended application for both an Act 250 permit and a municipal zoning permit, not just an extension to the existing permits. This would give the residents party status in the process. The residents requested that the Select Board write a letter to Act 250 District 5 Environmental Coordinator Clancy DeSmet requiring Goddard to file an amended application; provide additional details on what steps would be taken to prevent damage to neighbors' properties and wells, and to the Town's water and sewer lines; and how it would indemnify neighbors and the Town if damages from blasting occur. Plainfield's Water/Wastewater Treatment Facility Chief Operator Greg Chamberlin noted both his concern regarding the lack of communication from Goddard directly and what the Town's responsibilities and liabilities would be in the event of damage. Discussion followed on the prospect of a fracture to the asbestos cement pipes that serve Goddard College, which might release asbestos into the water supply in the area, including the Northwood Apartments, and possibly into the wastewater system. After a brief discussion on next steps, **Sneyd made a motion to authorize Chamberlin and Town Attorney James Jamele to together contact Goddard College promptly to explore how blasting might affect the water lines, including the issue of liability, and report back to the Select Board. The authorization includes the Select Board's**

consent for Jamele and Chamberlin to write a letter to request information. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

REVIEW OF OLD HOME DAYS CELEBRATION

- Towbin and Sneyd expressed their deep appreciation for all the work Ziegler put in to coordinate the recent, very successful Old Home Days celebration. Ziegler acknowledged the names of all the individuals, businesses, and organizations that contributed in a number of ways to the event. She recommended considering a few changes for next year, including changing the event back to the second Saturday in September, having two or three organizers instead of just one, enlisting the help of more volunteers, and cutting down on the number of activities in order to focus on those that were more well-attended. Towbin suggested possibly recruiting the help of Eagle Scouts as part of the group's community project activities.

TOWN CDL TESTING POLICY

- Towbin reviewed his and Road Foreman Nolan's recent experience attending a lecture on Commercial Driving License (CDL) Testing Policy for Towns. Both Towbin and Nolan are now certified in Reasonable Suspicion training to recognize the effects of alcohol and marijuana. While noting that there are possible concerns with the mechanics involved in some of the provisions, Towbin recommended that the Town adopt a CDL Policy, but tabled the issue until the next meeting when Town Clerk Wells was present and it could be more fully discussed.

CRIME REMEDIATION DISCUSSION: NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH? CAMERAS?

- Towbin noted that there were no residents present to discuss the issue and questioned whether the item should be removed from future agendas. Sneyd stated crime remediation was not a simple issue and noted that there are differences between such concerns in the Village and farther afield. A brief discussion followed regarding possible ways in which both residents and the Town can deter criminal offenses. Ziegler recommended, and Towbin and Sneyd agreed, that they further explore the idea of neighborhood crime watches to find a workable formula for Plainfield.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Sneyd agreed to post the position description for the Plainfield Emergency Management Director to both Front Porch Forum and Plainfield People, and indicate that interested people should submit a letter of interest and resume to Town Clerk Wells prior to the next Select Board meeting on 10/10/16.
- Towbin will also remind people that Vermont law prohibits posting signs on telephone poles.

CATERING PERMIT REQUEST

- Lucky Penny LLC, also known as Down Home Kitchen, has requested a catering permit for a concert at Goddard College's Haybarn Theater on 10/14/16. **Ziegler made a motion to approve the catering permit request from Lucky Penny LLC, also known as Down Home Kitchens, for a concert at Goddard College's Haybarn Theater on 10/14/16. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

MINUTES

- **Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the 9/12/16 Select Board meeting as written. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm on a motion by Ziegler. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff