

Town of Plainfield Special Select Board Meeting
July 28, 2023
Via Zoom
Minutes - Approved

Agenda:

- Changes to Agenda
- Public Comment
- Approve Memorandum of Understanding for State Debris Management
- Fence Contract for Park & Ride Debris Collection Site
- Adjourn

Present: Select Board members Riley Carlson (Chair), Bram Towbin, and Jim Volz. Also present were Emergency Management Director Michael Billingsley and Plainfield resident Yoko Kishishita.

Chair Carlson called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Changes to Agenda:

Towbin requested to add to the agenda discussion of a phone call he received from Fire Chief Greg Light. Select Board members agreed to add this item to the agenda following public comment.

Public Comment:

Chair Carlson opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

Discussion of Phone Call from Fire Chief Greg Light:

Towbin shared that Light had informed him that the fire truck warranty expires soon and repair work needs to be completed this coming Tuesday. Light had shared with Towbin the need to bring the truck to NH for repairs and requested compensation for time and mileage which he estimated would be under \$500. **Towbin moved to reimburse Greg Light up to \$500 for the transportation of the fire truck to NH and back for repairs. The motion carried unanimously.** Carlson will discuss disbursement of the reimbursement with Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Miller.

Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for State Debris Management:

Carlson gave an overview of the subject, sharing four options the Select Board might take for managing flood debris including taking no action, gathering more information prior to approving the memorandum of understanding, approving the memorandum of understanding with a plan for contracting with the State for curbside flood debris removal on a given date, or exploring a proposal made by Michael Billingsley for a fenced centralized location for residents to drop off flood debris at the Plainfield Park and Ride. Volz clarified that Billingsley's proposal would be instead of roadside pick-up of debris. Carlson further clarified that the Select Board could opt to do both curbside and a centralized pick-up of debris.

Towbin requested that Billingsley describe the proposed centralized plan for flood debris management. Volz stated that Road Foreman Michael Bingham had voiced support for the curbside pick-up option. Billingsley shared that he had received a database from the State this morning that showed that 75 Plainfield households have requested flood related assistance with 37 of those requests specifying the need for help with debris removal. He shared that the flood debris in the lower village and Rt. 2 along the Winooski River is potentially contaminated with sewage and petroleum products and therefore could not safely be left curbside for removal due to the potential for rainwater to leach contaminants into the water system. He added that waste left curbside also cannot be monitored. He explained that for the Town to be reimbursed by FEMA for removal of flood debris the waste must be monitored and sorted into six categories. He shared information provided to him by State Debris Manager Steve Young which indicates that towns are not required to do debris pick-up or provide dumpsters but expressed the opinion that when a presidentially declared disaster has been made and FEMA reimbursement is available that towns should consider the option of providing assistance with debris removal. He explained that if the Town opts for roadside collection the collections must be monitored and it would be recommended that the Town hire a Debris Manager. He described his recommendation for installation of a central collection point at the Plainfield Park and Ride, which is the only eligible spot in town, sharing that a waste contractor has already reviewed and approved the proposed site and that environmental conservation would automatically sign off on it so there would be no obstacle to permitting. He proposed that the contractor who agrees to pick up the waste at the Park and Ride monitors and records the waste being dropped off, directs residents to sort the waste appropriately, and assures that the waste is from a Plainfield resident. He expressed that a centralized drop off location reduces liability for the town as long as the site is secure. He shared that he has received a quote for a fence at approximately \$8,000, a percentage of which is reimbursable by FEMA. He also indicated that the proposed fence would not hinder the movement of the transit bus which uses the Park and Ride to turn around. He shared that a row of hay bales along the side would prevent leeching of contaminants into the drainage ditch. He further explained that with this option the administrative costs would be reduced as the contractor would take responsibility for this aspect.

Carlson pointed out that some of the 75 referenced households in need of assistance are actually Marshfield residents. Towbin inquired of Billingsley about the use of the existing fenced Plainfield water treatment plant parking lot. Billingsley responded that that area includes a lot of grass which would not be a suitable surface for piles of waste which will take up about 80 feet. Carlson asked Billingsley for clarification regarding who would hold responsibility for monitoring the waste removal were it done roadside. Billingsley referenced an email from Steve Young which stated that a Debris Manager must be hired in the event of roadside collection. Volz expressed his concern that residents would carry the burden of transporting debris should the central collection site be approved and stated his interest lies in doing what is most helpful to those impacted by the flood. Carlson pointed out that in his reading of Young's email that the burden of monitoring only falls to the Town should the Town hire their own waste haulers rather than contracting with the State. Towbin stated that the Select Board is interested in assisting residents in disposal of flood waste in a way that is also cost effective. Billingsley added that roadside waste will need to be sorted at the roadside by residents and that he has hazmat suits, gloves, and masks available for residents.

Volz expressed his understanding that the MOU assumes roadside pick-up. Billingsley corrected Volz, stating his understanding that the MOU is broad enough to include either roadside pick-up or central drop-off. Carlson stated that the draft MOU the Select Board received listed Billingsley as the Debris Manager and the representative from Plainfield. Billingsley stated that he does not consent to being Debris Manager for roadside collection. Carlson volunteered to serve as the Debris Manager; Volz encouraged Carlson to connect with Town Administrative Assistant Kristin Brosky for administrative support.

Volz moved to approve the MOU between Vermont and the Town of Plainfield for debris management with the modification that Riley Carlson replace Michael Billingsley where he appears as Debris Manager. The motion carried unanimously.

Fence Contract for Park & Ride Debris Collection Site:

Select Board members voiced support for opting for roadside collection over a central drop-off. **Carlson moved that Plainfield pursue a roadside collection method through state contracts for the approved MOU.** Billingsley suggested if the Select Board opts for roadside collection that they should connect with State Waste Management Director, Steve Young, to request a consultation between Carlson and the state contracted waste haulers. Carlson stated he would contact Young. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Volz thanked Billingsley for all the work on pursuing information to address the need for Town debris removal. He also thanked Carlson for volunteering to serve as Town Debris Manager.

Towbin shared that a well-meaning resident on Recreation Field Rd. has removed a truckload of debris from the Winooski as well as piled debris on the roadside. He commended this person's enthusiasm and volunteering. He acknowledged that the debris should be considered contaminated and asked Billingsley if he or the Town Health Officer could post a warning about the dangers of entering the river and handling contaminated flood debris. Towbin also asked for information regarding disposal of silt from waterways which was deposited on resident's property. Billingsley stated that the State Waste Manager hasn't given direction regarding this issue; Billingsley suggested that the silt be piled parallel to the waterway approximately three feet away from the water's edge where rainfall and erosion will gradually take it back into the waterway. Resident Yoko Kishishita who lives adjacent to the Brook Rd. bridge in the village requested help from the Town to address the 1 ½ to 2 foot deep silt deposits that cover her property. Billingsley suggested that the silt on Kishishita's property may be considered clean fill as it arose from the Great Brook which may be useful to some local contractor. He suggested she advertise locally.

Billingsley announced there will be a FEMA Town Hall at the Plainfield Town Hall Opera House on Thursday August 3, 2023 from 7-9 pm. He shared that FEMA representatives will be in attendance to meet with Plainfield residents for assistance with making claims. He will advertise on the Facebook Plainfield People page and Front Porch Forum. He announced also that he has hazardous waste clean-up supplies available to give away on Sunday July 30, 2023 from 1-4 pm which will be advertised as well.

Adjourn: At 6:24 PM, Carlson moved to adjourn. The motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristin Brosky, Plainfield Town Administrative Assistant.