

**Town of Plainfield
Plainfield Select Board Meeting
November 14, 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), John Jablonski (Recreation Committee), Sarah McShane (Resiliency Committee), Mike Nolan (Road Foreman), and Rose Paul (Cross Vermont Trails).

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

AGENDA

- Announcements and Public Comment
- Town Clerk's Report
- Road Report
- Sarah McShane – Resiliency Committee
- Rose Paul – Cross Vermont Trails
- Health Insurance for Town Employees
- Radar Sign – Repair or Replace
- Cameron Road Buy Out – Update
- Side Walk Study Input
- Bus Shelter in Front of Post Office
- Minutes
- Adjourn

Towbin adjusted the order of a few of the agenda items and added a report from the Recreation Committee to the Announcements and Public Comment section. Ross Sneyd added an update regarding the Cutler Library. **Betsy Ziegler made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Sneyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Jablonski, representing the Recreation Committee, requested approval for the purchase of an \$1,100 new liner for the skating rink to get it up and running for this coming season. Jablonski also noted that a few shovels were also needed to maintain the ice. After discussing other potential Recreation Committee needs and determining that the funds were available, **Sneyd made a motion to approve up to \$1,250 to purchase a new liner and shovels for the skating rink at the Recreation Field. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- Towbin stated the need for someone with expertise to help install a cement pad for the bus shelter to be located at the Post Office. Towbin will send the exact dimensions to Jablonski, who will see if he knows of anyone who may be able to help with the installation.

RADAR SIGN – REPAIR OR REPLACE

- Towbin reported that the repair company has quoted \$1,450 as a minimum to get the Town’s radar sign working. After briefly discussing other possible options, it was decided that repairs be made to the Town’s radar sign. **Sneyd made a motion to authorize spending up to \$1,900 for repairs, including shipping costs, to the radar sign. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- After a brief discussion regarding line painting on Towne Avenue, **Sneyd made a motion to spend up to \$750 for L&D Safety Marking to paint lines on Towne Avenue. Towbin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.** Road Foreman Mike Nolan will contact L&D Safety Marking to make arrangements for the work to be done as soon as possible.
- Towbin noted that someone is interested in taking the Town’s 5,000-gallon chloride tank.
- Regarding the cement pad that needs to be installed for the new bus shelter to be placed at the Post Office, Nolan reported that Karl Bissex had worked with the Town to install the cement pad at the Park and Ride location. It was agreed that the bike rack should be included in the installation. Towbin will follow up with Bissex.
- Nolan reported that all the Town equipment is ready for plowing and sanding, but due to the current mild weather, the Road Crew has been doing some ditching work.
- Nolan noted that he had gotten cost figures on posts and tags needed to inventory and map all of the culverts on Town roads. With two stakes and tags at the ends of each of the 342 culverts, the cost would be over \$12,000. Nolan suggested that the project be phased in by doing some roads each year. A brief discussion followed on the possibility of finding students who might be interested in helping with the project. Towbin noted that a line item needs to be created for it in next year’s budget.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

- Town Clerk/Treasurer Linda Wells presented a petition from residents on Country Club Road for lowering the road’s speed limit. Wells noted that the petition did not contain the needed 50 signatures. The Select Board will further consider what action to take.
- Wells presented a service contract for Kevin Hudson to plow and sand the Town’s sidewalks, which Towbin signed.
- Wells presented a contract agreement with Elmhill Inc. DBA Maplehill School/Maplehill and Community Farm for help at the Town Forest, which Towbin signed.
- Wells noted a 9.25% increase in the cost of health insurance for Town employees. She stated that since the State’s Health Exchange took effect, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is no longer able to come out to the Town to explain policy options due to the fact that premiums no longer include standard commissions to cover VLCT’s costs. While VLCT is still available to answer general questions, it would cost the Town approximately \$1,700 for VLCT to come out for a meeting to present detailed information. Blue Cross/Blue Shield is also available for questions. Wells suggested that the Select Board hold a special meeting to further discuss the issue, choose the best option for employees, and set some dates for the upcoming budget process.

SARAH MCSHANE – RESILIENCY COMMITTEE

- Sarah McShane provided an update on the Resiliency Committee’s activities. The community survey generated 668 responses and the results will be posted to the Cutler Library’s website and possibly

to the Town's website as well. Survey results showed that there was significant support for the protection of flood plains, that many residents did not know where public facilities were during an emergency event, that there was a sense of strong community connections, that the Town adequately gets out information, and that there is appreciation for the work of both the Select Board and former Emergency Management Director Rob Bridges. A riparian planting will take place in late April/early May 2017 at the Recreation Field where the shelter was dismantled. On 12/14/16, the committee will be holding a meeting at the Cutler Library where the Washington County Sheriff's Office will be invited to discuss a neighborhood watch initiative and ways to build stronger connections between neighbors. In February or March 2017, the committee is hoping to partner with the Fire Station to have an emergency preparedness party at the Fire Station. A regional event will take place in early spring 2017, where other resiliency committees will share success stories. McShane noted that project champions are needed to continue efforts beyond the project, which hopefully will stem from the group that comes together at the 12/14/16 meeting. Ziegler added the Resiliency Committee's participation in Old Home Days and thoughts on different ways to gather stories on people's connection to Plainfield. A brief discussion followed on ways to coordinate the purchase of plants for the riparian planting. Towbin suggested that Nicko Rubin from East Hill Tree Farm in Plainfield be consulted as a local source for plants. Towbin thanked McShane for her work on the project.

NEIL HOGAN RESIGNATION LETTER

- Towbin read aloud a letter from Neil Hogan, who announced that he is stepping down from the Plainfield Development Review Board (DRB) in March. Towbin thanked Hogan for his service and called for anyone interested in serving on the DRB to contact Linda Wells.

ROSE PAUL, CROSS VERMONT TRAIL ASSOCIATION

- Towbin introduced Rose Paul from the Cross Vermont Trail Association, who was present regarding the process for warning an article to be voted on at the 2017 Town Meeting. The article would be asking for the Town of Plainfield to help fund the building of a bridge connecting the Cross Vermont Trail across the Winooski River in East Montpelier. The City of Montpelier has pledged \$5,000, but will increase the amount to \$8,000 – one dollar per resident – as a challenge to other local towns to donate in a similar manner. The bridge will be an asset to Central Vermont and a vital link in getting people off the main road who wish to bike between towns or with small children. Paul explained that the location of the proposed bridge would be just before the control building at the hydro dam on Route 2 leading into Montpelier. The bridge and approaches on either side of the river will all be built at the same time. Paul explained that the Cross Vermont Trail is a 90-mile trail linking 17 villages and town centers across Vermont, from Lake Champlain to the Connecticut River, going right through Plainfield Village. The proposed bridge is a critical link. Based on the 2010 census figures, Plainfield's population is 1,243, and represents the equivalent amount of funding that the article would be requesting on Town Meeting Day. Towbin explained that the Select Board can put articles on the warning, but the policy has been to go through the petition process for issues that are not directly related to the Town. Paul agreed to going through the petition process. A brief discussion followed on whether it might include a parking area for those who wish to use portions of the trail.

SIDE WALK STUDY INPUT

- Ziegler gave an update on the Pedestrian Sidewalk Scoping Study, describing the areas that are being studied. The purpose is to create a walkable pathway around the entire Lower Village. Community input is still being sought and Towbin agreed to post a summary of the project and survey questions on Front Porch Forum and Plainfield People. Paper copies are also available by contacting Ziegler directly. Ziegler stated that the project manager from the Dufresne Group will be coming to the next Select Board meeting and can answer questions. Towbin noted that undertaking projects such as this serve to leverage interest from the State in addressing other needed improvements such as the dangerous intersection where Main Street meets Route 2.

CAMERON ROAD BUY OUT – UPDATE

- Towbin provided an update on the buyout process regarding the house on Cameron Road that is in danger of falling into the Great Brook. After the Town was turned down for a FEMA grant, other funding has been secured and an offer on the property is about to be made. Towbin reiterated the reason why the Town is involved, stating that if the house does fall into the Great Brook, the Town will face significant clean-up costs and difficulties in recouping the money, the debris might clog bridges on the Great Brook leading into the Village, and first responders will be put in danger dealing with the situation. Ziegler added that there would be a large amount of sediment that would go into the Great Brook that would further erode that side of the bank.

CUTLER LIBRARY REQUEST

- Sneyd gave a brief update on the Town's fiscal sponsorship of a planning grant for which the Cutler Library is applying. Sneyd has offered to be a liaison between the Library and the Town. In terms of involving the Town's grant administrator, Alice Merrill, Towbin noted that the Library should be responsible for covering any costs associated with Merrill's time. Towbin underscored the fact that no taxpayer money will be involved and that the Town is participating in the effort because the grant will be good for the community.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- Ziegler asked about the status of hiring a part-time municipal maintenance person. Sneyd responded that the job description had been approved by the Select Board and Wells was going to advertise the position.
- Discussion continued on a petition submitted by residents living on Country Club Road seeking a solution to the speeding problem. Towbin read aloud the text of the petition, which requested that the Town recommend to the State that the speed limit on the road be lowered. Sneyd recommended that they not consider Country Club Road in a vacuum and reach out to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission for advice on how to address both this and similar problems on other Town roads. It was decided that they further deliberate on the issue when they convene for the upcoming special meeting. Ziegler noted that the Town had recently passed a Traffic Ordinance that included speed limit changes and entailed a lengthy and involved process.
- Towbin reported that he has been in contact with Washington County Mental Health to discuss what mental health services are available. A public meeting may be scheduled within the next month and a half.

MINUTES

- **Sneyd made a motion to adopt the minutes from the 10/24/16 meeting as submitted. Towbin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**
- **After a brief discussion, Sneyd made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from the 9/26/16 meeting. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm on a motion by Sneyd. Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Wyckoff