



Town of Plaistow ♦ Board of Selectmen
145 Main Street ♦ Plaistow ♦ NH ♦ 03865

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 25, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: 6:31pm

PRESENT: Michelle Curran, Chairman; Lawrence Gil, Vice Chairman, John Sherman, Daniel Poliquin (6:40 PM); Charles L. Blinn, Jr.; Jason Hoch, Town Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Vinci is present to discuss the tragedy at Heffner's Gas Station in Haverhill, MA. A young mother was unnecessarily killed. He believes that a light would have prevented the death. He sent a letter to the Haverhill Mayor and would like to see a joint conversation happen between Haverhill and Plaistow. He has not heard anything from the Police Chief or Highway Safety Committee.

M. Curran states that our Planning Coordinator Leigh Komornick was at a joint meeting discussing this light. We have been working on this jointly with Haverhill, MA, for 4 years. She states that Plaistow has been making plans for a light at Hazeltine Road. She acknowledges that the intersection is dangerous and the Highway Safety Committee has discussed this.

T. Vinci states that he would like to go to the press to force Haverhill, MA to provide a light at the intersection. He believes Haverhill, MA needs to be responsible.

J. Hoch states that he will be happy to have a conversation with Haverhill, MA to discuss this.

D. Poliquin arrives at 6:40 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING:

M. Curran states that this public hearing is to accept and expend under authority of RSA 31:95-b, up to \$170, 275 from 2006 Assistance to Firefighter Grant.

► *Motion by L. Gil and second by C. Blinn to accept and expend under authority of RSA 31:95-b, up to \$170, 275 from 2006 Assistance to Firefighter Grant.*

J. Sherman asks about the replacement equipment.

J. Hoch states that there are not a lot of makers of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment. This is considered to meet industry standards and this is what most of the SNHAZMAT District is using.

J. Sherman states that he did not see this in the Capital Improvement Plan.

J. Hoch states this is a large amount of money and the Fire Chief was pursuing grants to prevent using tax dollars.

J. Sherman asks what the life span of this equipment is.

J. Hoch states that it could be 5-10 years because of the evolving industry standards. The cascade piece is something that lasts longer.

J. Sherman asks what will happen with the old equipment.

J. Hoch states that this will be used for training.

J. Sherman states that he is very interested in this project and supports it. He was asking questions for informational purposes. He is interested in the best equipment being available for our firefighters.

VOTE: 5-0-0 U/A

DUSTON & STANWOOD DRAINAGE:

Highway Supervisor Dan Garlington and Engineer Phil MacDonald are present to discuss plans for Duston Avenue and Stanwood Avenue drainage improvements. The scope of the work captures a variety of issues on both streets.

D. Poliquin asks if the 12 inch pipe going across Stanwood Avenue is adequate.

P. MacDonald presents a map showing pre-construction drainage plans. The pipe is well within the capacity of the flow. This is designed on a ten year storm.

M. Curran and D. Poliquin state that they are abutters to the property and will participate in the discussion but will not be voting.

P. MacDonald states that the residents did not have significant issues with the storms/floods this spring. He explains the flow of water that drains into the wetlands.

D. Poliquin asks if the additional burden on the piping is an issue.

P. MacDonald states that the flow will go into the catch basins and they can support the 10 year storm figures.

D. Poliquin asks if this can support all the water coming from the Safety Complex.

P. MacDonald states that there are storm events that could exceed this. This is designed to handle 4 inches of rain in a 24 hour period. More water than that and the

water may pond in the area, will back up and cross the road like it does now for a period of time.

M. Curran states that when we get heavy rain her parking lot is flooded and she would like to know if this will be improved.

P. MacDonald states that their needs to be dredging to prevent this.

M. Curran states that her concern is that this is going to impact her property further. Even when she cleans the area of debris, it still drains slowly.

D. Garlington states that the catch basins have a sump bottom and this contains a little water. He states this is a cleaning issue that needs to be addressed by the State of New Hampshire because it is their road. He believes some of this is due to the construction that was done on the back of the property adjacent to M. Curran. Disturbing the soil does affect the situation and will settle back down.

L. Gil asks if filling the pond is figured into the calculations.

P. MacDonald states that S.E. Cummings does have plans and he has spoken to them. He states that he has gotten their assurance that it will not impact the area.

D. Garlington states that this is just an underground retention pond.

J. Sherman asks what the disadvantages to Option A is.

D. Garlington states that Duston Avenue currently has no catch basins. This plan brings it down to the culvert, we are basically unloading in the same area and allowing it to flow the way it does.

P. MacDonald states that the conditions will not change. We are trying to protect the road.

M. Curran asks if you are confident this will not affect basements.

P. MacDonald states this will not affect basements.

M. Curran states that she is concerned with the pond overflowing and affecting her property.

D. Garlington states that after a storm he did a field inspection and the area seemed to recuperate quickly.

M. Curran states that she is concerned with the culvert that is backing up on her property. She states that at time the water can be almost knee deep.

P. MacDonald states this is a separate issue that comes from the grading on Main Street.

D. Garlington states that in his experience he sees that the system is not failing, it is the debris that is clogging the basin. If you rake it, the water flows well. This is part of routine checking.

L. Gil asks if the ditch running along Duston Ave. can be alerted to absorb the water.

M. Curran states that this area is filled with natural fill of cat-n-nine tails, frogs, ducks, etc.

P. MacDonald states that this is the area that needs to be dredged.

M. Curran would like to see this area addressed to correct the problem.

P. MacDonald states that this is on private property and would require wetland approvals.

D. Poliquin states that there is a decent access from a driveway behind the parking lot.

M. Curran is concerned with the problems that exists and believes that adding to the water will not correct the problem.

P. MacDonald states that we are not adding to the flow, we are directing the same water differently.

M. Curran states that if it is not flowing naturally and absorbing some of the water on its way to her property, it will be adding.

J. Hoch states that our motivation is to protect the road.

D. Poliquin states that the catch basin on the corner of his property and does not protect the property because we are getting additional flow from the railroad. If we move the catch basin to the edge of the hot topped area it would correct the issue.

D. Garlington states that the culvert is there because they dammed up the flow when they put the driveway in.

P. MacDonald states that other than dredging we cannot accomplish keeping the area free of water.

M. Curran states that she is concerned that this is going to flood her parking lot and yard. She does not want to create a larger problem for the living spaces and basements of her property or her neighbors. She wants to look at all possibilities to take the water off the road and not create a sink hole for her.

J. Sherman asks what the advantage of this project would be.

P. MacDonald states that in Option A we would not have construction on Main Street and we would not have to go to DOT. This project is less expense. There is no change to the drainage pattern and things will flow in the same manner that they currently do. The disadvantage is that if the pipe in the front failed there would be cost in the future.

L. Gil asks if the 12 inch CPE Pipe slope is reversed, all that water is just sitting there and draining back to catch basin 1.

P. MacDonald states that this is correct. Catch basin 3 flows to catch basin 2 and catch basin 2 flows into catch basin 1. Option B would reduce the flow to the parking lot.

L. Gil asks if you were to drop a catch basin in the parking lot and connect it to the pipe wouldn't that correct M. Curran's problem?

P. MacDonald states that this is on Main Street and we do not know what kind of piping there is in the area. This is in the State's right-of-way and we would need permits. We need to dig this up to even know what structures are there and what the grades are.

M. Curran asks how this affects the gas lines.

D. Garlington states that we go below structure and above pipe.

L. Gil asks if anything can be done to the wetlands to improve the situation. He asks if there is enough pitch to improve the flow.

M. Curran is concerned that this is all being diverted to her property.

D. Poliquin states that in Option B a larger pipe would be added and you could maintain an outlet.

D. Garlington states that very little would go into what is currently there.

J. Hoch states that there is a risk in Option B that there is a relatively flat pipe that makes a greater potential for back-up and maintenance issues. Combine this with our reliance on the State; we are not being able to control the drainage issues that may arise.

M. Curran states that this is just going to back-up on her property and she will have to deal with this. She already has a bad situation and this will just add to it.

J. Hoch asks if we are adding any more water drainage that has not gone there before.

P. MacDonald states that there will not be any more water.

M. Curran states that a new pipe was added by a homeowner and this is going to pool in that area and affects her.

D. Garlington asks what the water situation was in the spring.

M. Curran states that there was water on the side and in front of her property.

D. Garlington states that either option is going to be an impact. If you change this it is going to affect the property across the street. This is not more water this is just water getting there quicker.

M. Curran feels this will cause more water because it will not be absorbed in other areas.

D. Garlington states that Stanwood Avenue is going to run into their pipe. The water coming down Duston Ave. has very little absorption. There is very little hold back. It will have some restriction and may run slower.

P. MacDonald states that the road is like a T-Pee and nothing crosses the road. Whether the water is in a pipe or in a paved gully nothing changes. This is going to flow the same as it does now. The only difference is the pooling is going to be diverted and the water is going to get there quicker. This is not a change.

D. Garlington states that if there is a flat spot on Duston Avenue it is in the area near M. Curran's Building.

P. MacDonald states that you are not going to be able to quantify the increase in water. It depends on the situation, type of storm or time of year.

J. Sherman asks if there are 2 drains on Main Street and asks if they are at a low point.

D. Garlington states that the parking lot is in between the 2 drains.

P. MacDonald states that anything from the railroad tracks drains down Duston and does not drain into the State's system.

J. Sherman asks if Option B is a better solution.

P. MacDonald states that there are some issues that need to be worked out but it has better potential.

D. Garlington states that his gut feeling is that Option B is a better plan.

J. Sherman asks how big of an issue the trench permit would be.

P. MacDonald states that typically the contractor presents the plan and secures the permit.

J. Sherman asks how long this will delay the process.

P. MacDonald states that it could take 2 weeks but he needs to research this.

J. Hoch states that when we approached this project it was to improve the quality of the roads integrity. Now we are talking about drainage in the surrounding area. We need to decide what our preference is. He states he is looking at the numbers and in Option B we are looking at \$100,000. We can pave the road 3 times for this money. If we are going this route we will need to reevaluate our goals.

M. Curran states that the drainage is an issue for the driveways, roads and their front yards. The water is not going anywhere and is eroding. She is concerned how this is going to negatively impact her property.

D. Garlington states it is not always the Town's obligation to solve the property owner's problems. We need to look at how to solve the hotspots on Stanwood Avenue.

M. Curran asks if the issues can be solved by repaving.

D. Garlington states that this needs to be reclaimed and paved.

J. Hoch states that we need to look at the bigger picture and not lose site of our goal.

L. Gil asks if there is anything that the railroad or the State could do to alleviate M. Curran's property issues.

P. MacDonald states that the railroad has their own drainage and the State would have to do something similar to Option B. He states that you could have an open ditch on the South side, a paved gutter on the north side and on the other side there would be an 18 inch ditch. This would ultimately cause the water to go exactly how it is going now.

J. Sherman states that these types of projects never end. You need to have boundaries on what you are going to resolve.

► *Motion by J. Sherman and second by C. Blinn to proceed with Option A.*

M. Curran states that both parties pointed out Option B was better. She is taking this personally because it is going to increase the load on the back pond and affect her property.

VOTE: 3-0-2 M. Curran and D. Poliquin abstain.

Discussion of the State Road and silt in the drainage area.

► *Consensus of the Board is to direct the Town Manager to pursue the State looking at their portion of this.*

MINUTES:

► *Motion by J. Sherman and second by D. Poliquin to approve the minutes of June 4, 2007, as amended.*

VOTE: 5-0-0

CORRESPONDENCE:

J. Hoch states that the Town received a notice from NHDOT that they will be conducting environmental and archeological studies in the vicinity of Roadstone Drive and Route 125, four reports from DES regarding Beede vicinity well testing and none exceed the standards/guidelines, MVPC newsletter, package from Conservation Commission regarding wells and letter from DRA reviewing statistical update.

HEALTH:

J. Hoch states that Recreation Director Carli Malette and Health Officer Dennise Horrocks conducted training with the Summer Recreation Staff and created a document of summer recreation health guidelines. He informs the Selectmen that there will be an Introduction to Continuity of Operations Planning training to be held in Derry and Nashua in July. He states that there will also be a DVD of the training that all the Selectmen should watch. He states that M. Curran completed the NIMS training. He states that all the Selectmen should complete this course. This will become a requirement for grant funds in the future.

RECREATION:

J. Hoch states that the Smith Field Park located on Ingalls Terrace will be closed from July 2 – August 10, 2007 from 8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday thru Friday due to the Recreation Program. Residents may use the playground at Pollard School during those hours. J. Hoch states that the Recreation Commission voted in favor of having no dogs at any Plaistow Recreation sponsored events on any venue. He states that the School District currently has this policy with signs posted. People do bring dogs and sit along the side of the fields.

M. Curran states that at the last meeting we discussed having dogs on leashes.

J. Sherman asks about pursuing a dog park.

J. Hoch states that he is looking for a recommendation from the Board.

M. Curran asks if this means all recreation sponsored events including summer concerts.

J. Sherman states that this is a recommendation from the Commission pursuant to our conversation last week.

M. Curran states that you are taking away the rights of one person for another. She does understand that the Commission is acting on the side of safety.

C. Blinn states he does see both sides of the argument. He states that he was at Hampton Beach and saw a lot of people out with their dogs.

D. Poliquin states that there have not been any incidents and he does not want to take away people's rights. He states that dogs should be under the control of their owners and parents are responsible for their children running up to the animals.

J. Hoch states that he will draft two ordinances for the Board. There will be three options one for leashes, one for no dogs and one to do nothing.

PLANNING/ZONING:

J. Hoch states that the Zoning Board of Adjustment will be hearing the appeal of administrative decision on June 28th at 7:00pm. J. Hoch will be presenting information related to the appeal for the Board of Selectmen. He asks for members of the Board of Selectmen to attend.

M. Curran will be attending the ZBA meeting.

J. Hoch reviews the schedule for the Special Town Meeting. J. Hoch states that the Planning Board recommended L. Gil be reappointed to the Rockingham Planning Commission.

► *Motion by J. Sherman and second by D. Poliquin to reappoint L. Gil to the Rockingham Planning Commission.*
VOTE: 4-0-1 L. Gil abstains

FIRE:

J. Hoch states that Jay Guzofski and Anthony Alvino have been promoted to the position of Lieutenant in the Fire Department.

► *Consensus of the Board is to send letters of congratulations to the Firefighters.*

WATER:

J. Hoch states that the Town is still awaiting a proposal from one firm for waterline assessment. The company has run into a holdup with Beede PRPs who are

uncomfortable with the possibility that the firm may be working for the Town on another project. He spoke with James Chow at EPA about this and he did not see a problem since this would involve separate divisions of the company. He states that he has slowed the process down to try to allow this company the opportunity to submit a bid since the water line assessment is not an emergency project. He would like to have three proposals to review and this proposal is anticipated to be a strong proposal.

J. Sherman asks if this is worth pursuing with our legal counsel.

J. Hoch states that this is not needed at this time.

DOG LICENSES:

J. Hoch states that the warrant for civil forfeiture for unlicensed dogs from the Town Clerk is in the signature folder. The effective date for this is July 2, 2007.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES:

J. Hoch states that he attended the Cemetery Trustees session on the Selectmen's behalf on Tuesday. This training had good background information and a good resource for potential future questions.

ZBA:

J. Hoch states that the ZBA is recommending that Daniel Lloyd be appointed as an alternate to the ZBA.

► *Motion by J. Sherman and second by D. Poliquin to appoint Daniel Lloyd as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.*

VOTE: 5-0-0 U/A

► *Consensus of the Board is to have Daniel Lloyd meet the Board of Selectmen.*

PRIMEX:

J. Hoch states that N. Carr has followed up with Primex about the Prime Program. The Joint Loss Management Committee will be reviewing the items that are outstanding and he expects that by fall we will have this completed.

DONATION POLICY:

J. Hoch presents the Selectmen a final draft of the Donation Policy.

Consensus of the Board is to vote on the donation policy at the next meeting.

ASSESSING SERVICES:

J. Hoch presents the Selectmen with a Draft RFP for Assessing Services. He is still collecting updated numbers of parcels from the Assessor's but would appreciate any comments from the Board. His intent is to send the RFP to the DRA's approved list of vendors.

TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS:

J. Hoch states that the acoustic tile drop-ins have been approved by Donald Sargent as part of his donation. He states that the Committee chose the paint colors to represent the 1890s.

M. Curran states that the Committee came up with choices and we thank them for their time and ideas.

Discussion of darkening the color pallet and different fabric options.

M. Curran states that she will bring a color pallet of her choice to the Town Hall for review.

► *Consensus of the Board is to make a decision at an upcoming meeting.*

BOSTON POST CANE:

J. Hoch states that a resident submitted the name of a 101 year old person that lived in Town for over 50 years and is now living in assisted living.

► *Consensus of the Board is that this is a good candidate for the Boston Post Cane.*

SELECTMEN REPORTS:

J. Hoch states that the Recreation Commission met last night. He states that the Home Depot Volunteers worked at Smith Field and did a great job. Training for Summer Staff was conducted today. 88 children are registered for the first week and 120+ for all the other weeks. The Commission will not meet in July and their next meeting is August 5th. He reminds people of the summer concerts at Pollard Park. The Commission did discuss the potential for purchasing the abutting property on Ingalls Terrance and their first reaction was that they would love to have more parking. They are aware that the financial aspect would fall on Selectmen but they are interested in obtaining the property.

C. Blinn does not have a report.

L. Gil does not have a report.

D. Poliquin presents the statistics for service use at Family Mediation and discusses their fundraising efforts.

M. Curran states that the Planning Board voted 3-0 in favor of a special town meeting. She reviews the plans that came before the Board. She completed her NIMS training and states that it was not difficult and she found it informative.

NONPUBLIC MINUTES:

► *Motion by J. Sherman and second by C. Blinn to approve the nonpublic minutes of June 18, 2007.*

VOTE: 5-0-0

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 10:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Carr