



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: Monday, August 23, 2010

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:41 pm

SELECTMEN:

Chairman, Daniel Poliquin
Selectman, Michelle Curran
Selectman, John Sherman

Vice Chairman, Charles Blinn
Selectman, Robert Gray
Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

AGENDA:

MINUTES:

Motion by J. Sherman to approve Minutes of August 9, 2010 with change to pg 3, (4th paragraph) add "but agreed with J. Sherman that the Planning Board should hold a public hearing".

2nd by R. Gray.

Vote 3-0-2.

Abstain: M. Curran & C. Blinn.

Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ken Veroneau from Laurel Avenue, a native of Plaistow approached the Board and discussed his concerns about the rail station. He did not understand why the Town was so anxious to get the train station here while Bradford was so anxious to get rid of it due to sound and noise pollution. He was concerned with the location of where the engines would park overnight and with passing trains blowing their horns 8 to 10 times.

D. Poliquin noted there would be more public discussions held about the train station pertaining to updates as they come.

Jacki Freeman from Kelleher Avenue discussed her concerns relating to her asthmatic son. She read her paperwork pertaining to layover stations from US EPA regarding lung damage and aggravated asthmatic bronchitis. She discussed the layover station not being beneficial to her area because she has young children and a large number of residents are elderly. She also inquired about where the additional tax money would be coming from.

D. Poliquin discussed \$24,000 of loss of revenue for the year and the cost analysis of 4.6% that would be coming back to the Town.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the unknowns; funding; information to community; details at present time not being known; details being worked; and Town applying for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant.

J. Freeman inquired when abutters would be notified about meetings.

S. Fitzgerald discussed public information session; residents being invited; and tentative scheduled date of September 15.

J. Sherman discussed sounding evasive only because we don't have all the answers yet; things in process; items needing to be finalized; and the BOS's positive reputation for providing information to people when they have it.

Joan Veroneau from Laurel Avenue inquired as to what the determination was that helped to decide to bring a layover station to Plaistow.

S. Fitzgerald discussed having 2,000 feet from the MBTA station; being closer to the trains subsidy; and cost benefit on an interstate level. He noted throughout this there would be public information sessions.

J. Veroneau inquired why the train pursuit had just come up instead of years ago. She noted the train station didn't bother her, it was the layover station that did.

D. Poliquin discussed 20 years ago a vote was taken in Town as to whether or not the residents would want a train station and it was in the affirmative. It was pursued, funds were set aside, but it was never completed. The opportunity has now been presented by the MBTA and it is all in timing and grants along with being approved by the Board and having the public's opinion.

M. Curran discussed public hearings; being in the beginning process; at a stage where decisions need to be made; other things will be taken into consideration such as noise, dust and residents concerns; and things will be done to help lessen the impact on residents.

J. Veroneau inquired if any other sites were looked into.

M. Curran discussed other sites being looked at and the Westville area being less costly.

D. Poliquin discussed industrial property being sold and if it was used to its full potential it would be more of an impact to residents.

J. Freeman discussed property values going down.

D. Poliquin discussed Assessing agent looking into the property issue; amount of footage; layover station and boundary lines not being an issue.

J. Freeman inquired if any of the Board members lived in their neighborhood.

M. Curran discussed looking at property in their area for her parents; herself being near the rail road tracks and living near the Beede superfund site.

J. Freeman inquired if a layover station was needed to have a railway stop in Plaistow.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the cost benefit; and having no cost benefit if you just bring trains to NH.

J. Freeman inquired how everyone in the neighborhood would be invited to the public hearing, would letters be mailed or would it only be posted at the Library.

S. Fitzgerald noted it would be publicly posted and discussed tonight's sign-up sheet.

CHIEF SAVAGE & MIKE DORMAN – DOG KENNEL

S. Savage discussed dog kennel; August 11th recommendation; volunteers; cost; funding; location; scope; fundraising; donations; timetable and a community effort.

S. Fitzgerald discussed appeal from the Plaistow/Kington area shelter pertaining to animals after the recent storm.

R. Gray inquired about AC and heating.

S. Savage discussed resource for room air conditioner; proper ventilation and possible heat being propane.

J. Sherman inquired about the capacity.

S. Savage discussed eight or ten boxes depending on the size of the boxes and type of animals.

M. Curran thought this was a great idea and supported the idea however she had concerns: Part-Time Animal Control Officer; Highway personnel (lucky to have the current people they do have); Police Chief personally soliciting connections and how it would be perceived that a local official was requesting money. She was in favor of letter writing and coordinating with Town Manager.

S. Fitzgerald discussed drafting an appeal letter and running it by the Board.

Motion by J. Sherman to direct the Town Manager to begin working with the Town Kennel relocation and to launch a fundraising campaign and work with Police Chief as presented in the memo dated August 11, 2010.

2nd by M. Curran.

Vote: 5-0-0.

Motion passes.

CHIEF SAVAGE & MIKE DORMAN - RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE REGARDING SPEED LIMITS

S. Savage discussed Highway Safety Committee agenda and changing Town roads to a lower speed limit from 30 to 25 miles per hour: Westville Road, Pollard Road, East and West Pine, Hale Spring Road and Greenough Road.

Motion by M. Curran to accept the Chief and Highway Safety Committee's recommendation to reduce the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on Westville Road, Pollard Road, East Pine Street, West Pine Street, Hale Spring Road and Greenough Road.

2nd by J. Sherman.

D. Poliquin noted the Board needed to hold a discussion before making a Motion.

M. Curran agreed.

D. Poliquin discussed his personal opinion and driving on these roads; not agreeing with the Chief's recommendation; changing the speed would not slow drivers down even if it was posted at a lower speed; drivers not currently paying attention to the current 30 mph and suggested posting more speed limit signs. Drivers do not pay attention, they drive what they feel is comfortable and he does not see a benefit to having a consistent speed limit throughout Town. He discussed the Traffic Study and awaiting the review.

M. Curran inquired about a cost analysis of changing the posted signs.

S. Savage discussed approximately \$75 per sign but they had not currently done an analysis.

M. Curran inquired about the statistics regarding speeding tickets being written.

S. Savage noted he could investigate but did not currently have that information with him.

R. Gray discussed the motion on the floor; not currently supporting the motion; the possibility of supporting it at a later date; a more intense ordinance or law with recognition from the residents on those streets; number of Officers on the streets; report from Police Chief regarding if these streets get changed what would the plan be to enforce these streets; what the overall plan would be; ability to put more officers on these streets and, if so what would the cost analysis be to do such.

M. Curran withdrew her motion. She discussed the possibility of changing the speed on Westville and Greenough Roads and having better enforcement on them.

S. Fitzgerald noted he did not recommend the Chief's recommendation. The Highway Safety Committee took a vote on the recommendation; he abstained from their vote, and suggested the Police Chief come in this evening to discuss with the Board of Selectmen.

REVIEW OF TOWN MANAGER'S PERFORMANCE

J. Sherman suggested doing the Town Manager's review in Non Public.

Consensus of the Board was to review the Town Manager's performance in Non Public.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

S. Fitzgerald discussed:

- Plaistow First Committee - Bob Harb agreed to be interim chairman until one was elected to the committee;
- Numerous visits to the Vic Geary and the meeting tomorrow with the Police Chief for an ice cream social at the Vic Geary;
- Being in contact with the EPA regarding the Access Report;
- Highway Safety Committee's recommendation;
- NHDOT's offer to acquire drainage easements for Town owned property;
- Congresswoman Carol Shea Porter's upcoming visit to Town Hall on Wednesday; and
- Request from Commissioner Campbell to have Sean present an update on the NH Rail Authority on this Friday in Concord.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Consensus of the Board was that there was no other business to discuss.

SIGNATURE FOLDER:

D. Poliquin discussed signature folder and manifest were going around.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

M. Curran discussed attendance for lunch with seniors last week at Vic Geary. Lunch was given by Meals on Wheels and there was a raffle for a Smart Car. She had a wonderful time.

C. Blinn discussed no meetings last week.

J. Sherman discussed:

- No meetings since the last BOS meeting;
- CIP meeting scheduled for August 31;
- Plaistow First meeting scheduled for September 1; and
- Legislative Bulletin - No Extension for Telephone Tax and State Wide Emergency Notification.

R. Gray discussed:

- Attended Rockingham County Meals on Wheels - had a fantastic time with the senior citizens;
- Planning Board meeting last Wednesday: welcomed new Recording Secretary, Laurie Pagnottaro; approved contractor storage yard at 144 Main Street, Rebar and Mesh Inc., (fabrication of rebar material, nothing stored outside); Public Hearing for Ron Brown on Sweet Hill Road was denied based solely on not being submitted on time; and review of conditional approval of Reserve at Snows Brook.
- Memo to BOS regarding parking along Main Street – he read the memo.
- Attending Red Sox game for Recreation trip tomorrow night.

D. Poliquin discussed:

- Attendance at Highway Safety Committee meeting last Friday – discussed reductions of speed limits in Town; Master Plan wording; proposal for crosswalk from Kelly Road to Carli Way for Rec field; stop sign on Main Street/Haseltine; and another sign to be erected at the old Shaws plaza;
- Landfill open Wednesday evening from 4pm – 8 pm; and
- One more concert in the park this Wednesday (RS 5) and another one on August 29th, Lee Lewis & the Doo Wops.

NON PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Matters of a Public Employee and (e) Legal

Motion by R. Gray to go into Non Public under RSA 91-A:3,II (a) Matters of a Public Employee and (e) Legal Matters.

2nd by J. Sherman

Board members polled:

D. Poliquin = yes

C. Blinn = yes

M. Curran = yes

R. Gray = yes

J. Sherman = yes

Public Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey DeProspero