



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: Monday, January 30, 2012

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:37 pm

SELECTMEN:

Chairman, Daniel Poliquin
Selectman, Charles Blinn - excused
Selectman, John Sherman

Vice Chairman, Michelle Curran
Selectman, Robert Gray
Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

AGENDA:

MINUTES:

Motion by J. Sherman to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2012 with correction to page 7.

2nd by R. Gray.

Vote: 4-0-0.

Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one from the Public present to speak.

2012 ARBOR DAY/TREE CUTTING TOWN FORREST - Jill Senter/Tim Moore

J. Senter discussed May 4th Arbor Day and Earth Day; Pollard School attendance at Arbor Day/Earth Day; planting trees at the Library; Pollard School within walking distance so Children of Pollard School can participate; poster contest; cutting back on prizes; one prize per grade; meeting with Library Director and Laurie Houlihan; previous plan for trees at the Library; reviewing plan; trees listed on plan are known to survive in that area; coming back before the Board of Selectmen when she has more details; and Board of Selectmen will pick winners of the poster contest in late April (possibly April 30th). She invited the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation meetings which take place at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month.

D. Poliquin discussed putting trees at PARC.

J. Senter discussed difficulty with regards to getting children to PARC; buses required for children; Principal Michelle's discussion; children from Pollard able to walk to Library; PARC too far of a walking distance; no budget for buses (not in either Rec Budget or ConCom Budget) and 90 children or better for attendance.

J. Sherman discussed sports starting at PARC in the evening and suggested holding Arbor/Earth Day at night.

J. Senter noted she would discuss the suggestion with Carli. She noted the funds to pay for the cost of the trees being planted would come from the Forest Fund.

J. Senter discussed Forester Charlie Marino coming to the Conservation Commission meeting on March 15 at 6:30 pm to look over the plan for maintenance cuts. It has been 10 years since the last cut and the Commission will sit with Charlie to discuss. He will come to Plaistow during the day and take a look around and present his findings to the Conservation Commission. They are working on the conservation easement so this is a good time to do the cut analysis. The Boy Scouts have come to ConCom to discuss their future projects: possible bench somewhere along the trails to stop and sit; educational signs along the trails so you know what type of tree you are walking by; and a trail around the beaver pond. The Boy Scout projects will be discussed with Charlie and he will make suggestions on how to best utilize the Boy Scouts' help. One Boy Scout presented a bill for the upgrades to the bridge which was blocked. The bridge began to rot and the Scout made a new and improved bridge. The Commission voted to spend the money out of the Forest Fund because the rule of thumb is any improvements to the forest are paid through the Forest Fund. She requested the Board to vote to approve to cover the cost of the money for the project.

J. Sherman noted he would make the motion however he thought the Board of Selectmen should have a piece of paper in front of them indicating the use of funds.

J. Senter agreed.

J. Sherman inquired if there was ongoing maintenance of the trails.

J. Senter noted the Boy Scouts do maintenance twice a year as part of their community projects. Two of Troop 18's community service projects are cleaning the trails in the spring and the fall.

J. Sherman inquired if it was done this past fall.

J. Senter was not sure and was going to check with Chuck Fowler.

J. Sherman suggested to find out what maintenance they had done to the trails.

J. Senter noted she would.

J. Sherman and J. Senter discussed recommendations from Plaistow First.

J. Senter noted the Commission voted at their last meeting on all the recommendations.

S. Fitzgerald discussed the death of the Elm tree on the Town Hall Green and suggested it be replaced.

J. Senter discussed the dead American Liberty Elm from Keene; American Liberty Elms are a disease resistant tree; unknown why the tree on the Town Hall Green passed away; and dying tree clippings are suppose to be sent to Keene to determine why it was dying and it would have been replaced.

M. Curran thought replacing the tree was a good idea.

S. Fitzgerald discussed dedicating a tree to Ruth Jenne.

J. Senter discussed money being taken out of the Forest Fund to pay for the tree.

S. Fitzgerald noted the Conservation Commission would be meeting later this week to further discuss details.

T. Moore discussed holding a planting on Arbor Day on the Town Hall Green and then another planting with the Pollard School on May 4th.

J. Senter noted she would bring paperwork next week before the Board of Selectmen for them to approve and sign.

UPDATE ON THE REPAIR OF THE TOWN HALL DORMERS - Dave Bowles

D. Bowles discussed Town Hall dormers; previous leak; temporarily repaired; contractor suggested siding the dormers; money not budgeted; three proposals received; details; conversation with Interim Town Administrator Don McLelland and Mike Dorman; damage done by wind driven rain; and approval required from the Board of Selectmen to bring to Deliberative Session.

S. Fitzgerald discussed being uncomfortable with presenting information at Deliberative Session; holding conversation with Board of Selectmen; work should have been put in budget; repairs made to dormers in December; work held off but needs to be addressed for future to prevent future damages; and emergency repair funds for Town properties however situation is not an emergency.

M. Curran inquired if there was anything left over in this year's budget to encumber funds.

S. Fitzgerald noted no. He discussed looking at other budgets and finding funds for \$5,000 which may impact other lines; presenting to the Board to seek their guidance; recommendation to absorb in the budget; and the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen putting forth a budget that folks feel comfortable with.

D. Poliquin inquired what type of trim would be used: composite, wood, aluminum, or PVC.

D. Bowles discussed aluminum and matching the existing green trim.

D. Poliquin inquired if anything had been allotted in case they ran into rot below the existing siding.

D. Bowles discussed company; previous work; quote total; warranty for work; and other companies only giving coverage for one year.

D. Poliquin discussed budget and bringing information to Deliberative Session.

J. Sherman was in favor of bringing it to Deliberative Session and adding the money to the Operating Budget. He discussed the lean budget and absorbing the expense.

S. Fitzgerald discussed being able to prepare details and information for the Deliberative Session.

J. Sherman discussed emergency fund being used for unanticipated funds and the current situation was anticipated. Protecting the building was a reasonable thing to put in the Operating Budget.

M. Curran didn't have a problem bringing the information to Deliberative Session. She felt they could safely absorb the cost in the budget and noted it was unfortunate that they could not have been better prepared for this.

S. Fitzgerald thought it was wise and prudent to budget the funds. He discussed impact to other lines; good work in crafting a very lean and good municipal budget; and adding the funds would be good.

J. Sherman inquired what the total figure Dave was comfortable with adding.

D. Bowles noted \$4,675.

***Motion by J. Sherman to propose at Deliberative Session to increase the Maintenance Budget by \$4,675 as presented by Dave Bowles to fix the dormers on Town Hall.
2nd by M. Curran.***

J. Sherman thought this was an extraordinary circumstance that needs to get done. They were not making a last minute change, this was something that needed to be done.

R. Gray was concerned with aesthetics but agreed with John. He did not think it should come out of unanticipated funds and thought that was a terrible signal to say that they could absorb the funds in the budget if they were telling people it was a lean budget.

Vote: 4-0-0.

Motion carries.

J. Sherman noted he would send a note to the Budget Committee regarding their discussion.

S. Fitzgerald discussed at Deliberative Session they could add funds to the budget and did not need to add it to a line, they could just add it to the bottom number and then at a later time the Board could allocate the funds to a specific line item.

UPDATE ON NHDOT/PLAISTOW RAIL RFP - Tim Moore

T. Moore gave handout out to Board: Plaistow /MBTA Extension Project. He discussed funds awarded; RFP; review of RFP; recommendations to RFP; selection of consultants; and time frame for upcoming items.

D. Poliquin discussed getting information which they would be able to give to the public.

J. Sherman suggested alternatives to current listing; updates regarding legislative approval phases and posting the time line to the web site.

T. Moore agreed.

J. Sherman inquired where the no turning back point was (the go, no go decision).

T. Moore discussed handout: Estimated Year 2012/2013; Task Number B.3; and Task Status: BOS review findings from studies, make decision whether or not to continue with project.

R. Gray discussed Planning Board site plan approval.

R. Gray discussed proposed citizens petition warrant article and wording being amended on Saturday.

D. Poliquin discussed Petition Article wording.

Board discussed petition Warrant Article wording: Do you agree with this petition that you do not want a layover station anywhere in Plaistow? Yes or No. Intent: The intent of this petition is to give a voice to the Plaistow Voters who do not want a Layover Station.

R. Gray discussed possible outcome of the article and it not stopping anything that was currently going on.

J. Sherman noted based on the current wording it was not binding.

R. Gray discussed current wording and the possibility of it being changed on Saturday.

J. Sherman discussed commuter rail; quarterly reports to EPA; and changes. He inquired if the information was available and if they had seen it.

T. Moore note he had not seen the reports but was sure if they were required to do quarterly reports then they were done.

J. Sherman suggested getting copies of the reports.

S. Fitzgerald discussed studies may be located at the Haverhill Library.

J. Sherman inquired about the idling requirements.

T. Moore discussed EPA imposed 15 minute idling time; trains plugged in; and indication from MBTA was 30-45 minutes were required.

J. Sherman and T. Moore reviewed the task numbers presented.

S. Fitzgerald discussed geographic location to the Haverhill stop; cost; discussions from meetings; park and ride lot; unique feature which makes project economically feasible; rail line goes up to Maine; and capital corridor ridership.

T. Moore discussed MBTA; update to Haverhill's schedule in the 90's; gaps in the arrival of train times; gaps leave enough time to get to Plaistow; this information was thought about a long time ago; and to go further north would mean a serious schedule change.

J. Sherman discussed ridership and anticipated ridership. He inquired what would happen if ridership went down, would the Town get stuck with the layover station and had the wording regarding ridership been thought about and put in the agreement.

T. Moore discussed layover station; five trains coming to Plaistow layover station; no cost to them because the trains would already be here; lower ridership; and trains going to Boston and not coming back to Plaistow but stopping in Haverhill.

S. Fitzgerald discussed Pilgrim Partnership; commuter rail service to Rhode Island; strengthening transportation feature; providing people with quality of life improvement; controlling document that includes specifics rights and documentation; looking at information carefully; protecting Town's interest; and not interested in having layover facility without commuter rail service.

J. Sherman and S. Fitzgerald discussed timeframe for agreement.

J. Sherman suggested having this information available for residents to see.

M. Curran discussed educating the public but refining the process.

D. Poliquin thanked Tim for his work.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

S. Fitzgerald discussed:

- Meeting with Pennichuck Water Works and Underwood Engineering. Pennichuck currently serves a number of residents in Plaistow. Water and water resources will continue to shape residential and economical development in Town.

T. Moore discussed common theme throughout all the studies was that Plaistow should develop a Master Plan regarding water. All the right topics are there. It is currently in the natural resources plan and he suggested to separate water out. There is enough information for it to have its own chapter. He suggested to develop a strategy with the Town as to where the Town would want to go with water. He inquired if they wanted to provide potable water to everyone or did they just want to provide it for commercial. If it was free everyone would want it but it is not.

D. Poliquin discussed preliminary discussion regarding Beede residents.

S. Fitzgerald noted the discussion was only a preliminary discussion. He discussed the preliminary discussion; no financial support; support in front of the public utility commission; Fenton Keys study; taking advantage of previous study; technical support for water and water resources for the Town; seeking funding for the Town; and a number of grant opportunities available.

D. Poliquin discussed bringing water resources to the Route 125 Corridor.

Board discussed Master Plan and separating water from the Natural Resources section of the Master Plan.

- Meeting with David Hoyt and Red Torromeo regarding the proposed site for the Highway Garage.

J. Sherman inquired if they looked at other properties.

S. Fitzgerald noted they had not looked at other properties but discussed other properties.

M. Curran inquired if the piece of property had been signed off by EPA and DES.

J. Sherman suggested looking at all Town owned properties first.

S. Fitzgerald discussed not bring heavy industrial use to another property.

Board requested list for other sites and presentation from Sean.

- American Diabetes Association's North Shore Tour De Cure.
- Two vacancies in the Police Department. Moving forward with candidates and formal swearing in on February 27th at the Board of Selectmen meeting.

M. Curran thought the formal swearing in was a good idea.

- Upcoming meeting scheduled with Alex Vogt on March 5th with the Board of Selectmen regarding the rite away access and the effected property owners. Leigh to coordinate meeting as a Public Hearing for the Planning Board to notify the abutters of the potential properties.
- Sale of Town owned properties template to be reviewed by Town Departments.
- Town Report continues to move forward. Departments are finalizing reports.
- Planning Board meets this Wednesday regarding Tractor Supply subdivision/lot line adjustment.
- Deliberative Session is this Saturday at 10am.

D. Poliquin discussed Town owned properties and other towns owning properties within our Town.

S. Fitzgerald noted they discussed bringing this up at the Regional Selectmen meeting.

J. Sherman discussed pursuing ownership and deciding what they wanted to do with the properties. Locations are not prime properties, one abuts the Town of Hampstead and there is no access to it. It is tax exempt and pretty simple to get the ownership cleaned up

OTHER BUSINESS

R. Gray requested Sean to look into an issue that came up for him this weekend regarding car registrations. He was preparing documents and pulled out his car registration from last year and looked at the car registration fee in the municipal fee area. There was a breakdown and the money listed did not total up to the actual total. He inquired with the Town Clerk to find that the fee approved for printing/mailing was included in the fee and he suggested the fee be indicated on the letter that was sent to residents or at least posted in the Town Clerk's office. He noted that this year's registration also had an extra dollar tacked on.

D. Poliquin:

- Condolences given to the Reed Family. Topper Reed Cemetery Sexton for the Elm Street Cemetery and the Cemetery at Holy Angels on East Road has passed away.
- Deliberative Session is this Saturday at 10am on the 2nd floor of Town Hall and it is handicapped accessible.

- There are Candidate Offices openings still available. Residents are able to sign up through Friday until 5pm. The Town Clerk will be open from 3-5pm on Friday for sign ups only.
- This week is Recycle week.

SIGNATURE FOLDER

D. Poliquin noted the Signature Folder and Manifest were going around.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

M. Curran had nothing to report.

R. Gray:

- Town Report Advisory Committee is Tuesday at 5:30.
- Planning Board is Thursday at 6:30 pm.
- Deliberative Session is Saturday at 10 am.

J. Sherman:

- Budget Committee not meeting on their regular schedule. They will meet after the Deliberative Session.
- Town Report Advisory Committee meets tomorrow at 5:30. Overall it is in good shape.
- Plaistow First does not meet this week. They will meet next week, February 8th at 3:30 to discuss abutting properties.
- Deliberative Session is the first half of the Town Meeting which starts this Saturday, February 4th at 10am. All Warrant Articles will be reviewed and all attending can offer input to the Warrant Articles. First is the Operating Budget and then Warrant Articles.

D. Poliquin:

- No meetings since the last Board of Selectmen meeting.
- Rockingham Economic Steering Committee meets this Wednesday. They will review the updated projects list and will be moving a couple of things around.
- Deliberative Session is this Saturday.

NON PUBLIC RSA 91-A:3 II (c) matters of Reputation

*Motion by R. Gray to go into Non Public under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters of Reputation.
2nd by M. Curran.*

Board polled: D. Poliquin = yes; M. Curran = yes; R. Gray = yes; J. Sherman = yes

Public Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey DeProspero