



# *Plaistow First Committee*

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## **MINUTES**

### **PLAISTOW FIRST COMMITTEE MINUTES** **October 27, 2010**

Bob Harb Called the Meeting to Order at 3:36 p.m.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All stood and made a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Committee Members Present:** Bob Harb, Robert Gray, John Sherman, Dick Latham, George Melvin and Paul Sickel,

**Absent:** Dave Hansbury, Tim Moore and Charlie Lanza were **excused**.

**Present for Staff:** Leigh Komornick, Sean Fitzgerald and Mike Dorman

**Others:** Bob Harb thanked Dan Johnson of Plaistow Consultants for attending the meeting.

#### **FOREST LAND PRESENTATION**

Sean Fitzgerald gave a power point presentation to the Plaistow First Committee (copy attached). The purpose of this presentation was to clarify the procedure and purpose of a Town Forest, versus "forested lands" and other conservation and open space lands.

Following the presentation, John Sherman noted that an added benefit to a Town Forest versus residential development is that there are no costs of services to the Town.

Bob Harb inquired about the use of Town Forest for more hard core recreation uses.

Leigh Komornick noted that based on the Town's Forest Management Plan, completed in 2000 by Charles Moreno, there could be a certain portion used for more intense recreation uses.

George Melvin raised the issue of hunting in the Town Forest and whether it should be strictly prohibited or if bow hunting should be allowed. George asked the question of whether hunting is allowed in Plaistow's Town Forest? **Bob Harb noted that we would research this question and get back to him.**

Bob Harb commented on the reference made to the Town's Forest Management plan that there should be selective cutting conducted. George Melvin referenced the prior Forest Warden Jim Collins who didn't like the selective cutting.

Regarding open space, the question was raised as to whether open space lands set aside in a development are for the exclusive use of the residents or open to the public? Discussion ensued regarding this issue and whether it should be required that the enjoyment of the open space be allowed by all, not just the residents of the development.

Dick Latham added that another important reason for Town Forest is for possible water resources. **Committee members noted that this should be added to the needs and use of a Town Forest.**

Leigh Komornick asked Bob Harb if the Committee would be interested in having Charles Moreno, the author of Plaistow's Forest Management Plan, come speak to the Committee on November 10<sup>th</sup>. He would be able to discuss not only the Forest Management Plan, but the work he did for the Town of Raymond reviewing all of their Town-owned lands and rating them by natural resource vitality, etc...

It was agreed that Leigh Komornick would arrange to have Charles Moreno come speak to the Committee on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **REVIEW OF SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS & TASKS**

### **Usage Subcommittee (John Sherman, Dick Latham, and Charlie Lanza)**

John Sherman presented the findings of the Usage Subcommittee including all of the information added by Sean Fitzgerald on some of the Town owned properties. He noted that he would be presenting recommendations at the next meeting.

### **Needs Subcommittee (Bob Gray, Bob Harb, and George Melvin)**

Bob Gray noted that the information they had obtained needed to be reassembled into one report. The interviews they conducted with Town staff and local officials highlighted the need for more storage space, and that the Public Safety Complex expansion is of extreme importance.

Discussion ensued regarding the various deficiencies and improvement options, including the acquisition of land from Alden Palmer.

Other points of the Subcommittee were that a good facility for children to go to such as a Boys and Girls club is perceived as needed, and additional recreation facilities.

Bob Gray noted that he had a very interesting discussion with the Historical Society and noted all of the deficiencies with the building.

Bob Gray said that he learned from Ellie Peabody, who used to be on the Planning Board years ago, that the Planning Board required a piece of land be donated by each developer, that is why there are so many “stray” parcels around Town, including the piece at the intersection of Garden Road and West Pine Street.

Paul Sickel noted his frustration that the Planning Board had stopped doing this, as it may have afforded the opportunity for “neighborhood parks.”

Sean Fitzgerald said that there is a real need for a “Recreation Master Plan”.

Discussion ensued regarding various properties with valuable potential such as Alden Palmer’s land, the land behind the Pollard School, and others.

Bob Gray also interviewed the Fire Chief, who spoke about space needs at the Safety Complex and about the Fire Suppression system and the roof needed repair at the Pump House.

Bob Gray said that in regards to water and sewer, it appears that residentially, people are happy with wells and septic systems, but that it is still a need commercially. He pointed out that this would be a huge endeavor as it would involve distribution of treated water.

Committee members agreed that it would be appropriate to interview the businesses and see if this is an investment they perceive as needed.

George Melvin noted that the Town Hall has been “maxed out.” He also wonders why the Fire Suppression Line is not going any further than it is? He specifically referred to the businesses along Danville Road and wanting Fire Suppression.

Dick Latham responded that there is a plan to look the whole system. John Sherman said that there is perhaps a diagram, but no plan in place. The concept of businesses contributing to the expansion was discussed.

John Sherman noted that there is a need to update the estimate of graves in the Cemetery per acre, that he has this information at home and will look for it. This is needed in order to calculate the amount of land they will need for expansion of the Cemetery.

### **Disposition Subcommittee (Tim Moore, Dave Hansbury, and Paul Sickel)**

Paul Sickel reported that they had nothing for the Committee today as Tim Moore has been out of Town and Dave Hansbury tied up.

### **APPOINTMENT OF A NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Bob Harb asked if Dan Johnson had any comment. Dan Johnson noted that he would be interested, at a minimum, on serving on a Subcommittee.

★Regarding John Sherman moved, second by George Melvin, to add Dan Johnson to the Use Subcommittee. **So Voted.**

After further discussion, it was also decided to appoint Dan Johnson to the full Plaistow First Committee. John Sherman will speak to the Selectmen regarding this addition.

***One more follow-up issue was noted: the ownership of the land that the Pollard School is located on needs to be verified and possibly corrected in the Town's assessing database.***

### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2010 PLAISTOW FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

★George Melvin motioned, Bob Harb seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2010 Plaistow First Committee meeting with the correction to Dick Latham's name from Lathem to Latham.

**So Voted.**

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Plaistow First Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Town Hall.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

★George Melvin motioned, Bob Gray seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

**So Voted.**

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Leigh G. Komornick, Town Planner  
Plaistow First Committee  
Recording Secretary***

***As included in every set of minutes for informational purposes, the following is a list of the subcommittees, persons assigned to them, and their purpose:***

**Needs Subcommittee includes Bob Harb, Bob Gray and George Melvin.** Their purpose is to create a needs list of property and buildings after reviewing the Master Plan and interviewing the Board of Selectmen , Town Manager, Town Department Heads, Fire, Police, and any else the Subcommittee deems they wish to interview. This discussion should include water and conservation issues (to be more particular defined by the Selectmen shortly in response to a request from this Committee.

**Use (Usage) Subcommittee includes John Sherman, Dick Lathem and Charlie Lanza.** To review how Town property is presently being used and to recommend properties that should be used differently.

**Disposition Committee includes Tim Moore, Dave Hansbury and Paul Sickel.** Their purpose is to report on suggested properties that should be disposed of /sold by the Town;

**Acquisition Subcommittee includes all members of the Plaistow First Committee.** The purpose of this subcommittee is to report on properties the Town should consider acquiring and/or a plan for future Town acquisition of properties.

**As staff support to all of the subcommittees, Resource Assignments will be carried out by Leigh Komornick, Mike Dorman & Sean Fitzgerald.**