

PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2011

PLYMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Selectmen held a meeting on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Plymouth Public Library.

Present: William P. Hallisey, Jr., Chairman
John T. Mahoney, Jr., Vice Chairman
Sergio O. Harnais
Mathew J. Muratore
Belinda A. Brewster

Mark Stankiewicz, Town Manager
Melissa Arrighi, Assistant Town Manager
Nicole Rivers-Kustanovitz, Facilitator

GOAL-SETTING WORKSHOP

Nicole Rivers-Kustanovitz conducted a S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) workshop to help the Selectmen narrow their goals for the community and for themselves over the next year. The assignment they completed prior to the meeting identified the following as Plymouth's greatest strengths.

- Strong financial planning from 1997 on due to deregulation.
- Not nearing build out like other route 3 corridor towns north of Plymouth
- Veteran planning department
- Scenic views with the waterfront and history
- The school system
- The open space
- Tourism attraction (historical)
- Way of life (large town with small town mentality/feel)
- Location
- It's location-easily accessible from all
- Its history and coastal amenities
- People who care about the community
- Tourism
- Bond rating
- Development potential

The Selectmen also identified the biggest challenges in Town to be:

- Securing increased funding from Power Plant
- Delivering consistent and equitable services

- Cost control health insurance
- Beach access plan
- Not being proactive
- Ratio between residential and industrial
- The need for more family entertainment
- Solid waste
- The town needs to be more business friendly and attractive to new businesses
- The town takes tourism for granted and needs to be more focused on raising revenue through tourism and that includes revitalizing the downtown
- Need to focus on lowering costs and running the town and better plan for much needed capital expenditures
- Budgets

They also described Plymouth as diverse, large, and spacious with beautiful historic areas and beaches and a strong growth potential. It has many challenges and its residents can have a streak of obstinacy and stubbornness.

The Selectmen listed in their written exercise the following goals for the Town to achieve over the next 12 months:

- Entergy - Increased funding from Power Plant along with fuel rod safety; A pilot agreement with Entergy and a plan to put spent fuel rods into dry cask storage
- Solid Waste - To solve the solid waste issue and reduce waste costs and significantly improve recycling through curbside pickup
- Business Friendly - Opening Gould Road through Kingston; submitting zoning changes and restructuring changes

During the SWOT training and discussion, Board members identified other strengths, weaknesses, and challenges to the Town. For strengths, they discussed safety for the residents and visitors and the Town's proximity to hospitals and higher education. For weaknesses, they discussed the number of complaints, union obstructionism, the lack of planning, apathy, overall leadership, the economy, and the structural issues in public works. They also discussed that the Town needs to improve its infrastructure and permitting process to become more business friendly. They talked about the excessive number of committees, with relatively the same individuals involved, and that these committees have a lack of direction and are branching into areas where they have no authority. They talked about the weaknesses with the Town's current form of government. In identifying challenges, the Board talked about Entergy and the events in Japan, as well as negotiations with the power plant and the Town's limited control and authority – and that this is not understood by the public. They also discussed the unfairness of federal mandates and the nature of public expectations balanced with funding. They identified the challenge of tourism and the year 2020, as well as the need for more attractions and family oriented destinations/attractions. During this discussion, they also identified the need for more transportation opportunities and collaborations.

The Board reviewed what they had discussed and then identified five goals for the next year:

1. Achieve a signed contract/agreement with Entergy that includes a coalition and a collaborative effort on safety measures;
2. Implement a solid waste and recycling plan
3. Hold four meetings outside Town Hall in 2012
4. Assess the Town's website
5. Identify 3-5 Departments (town and school) and assess their structural efficiencies.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On a motion by Selectman Muratore, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Recorded by Melissa Arrighi, Assistant Town Manager

Formatted by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

A copy of the July 14, 2011 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's office.