

# ~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

**TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014**

TOWN HALL, MAYFLOWER ROOM

The Selectmen held a meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall in the Mayflower Room.

Present: Mathew J. Muratore, Chairman  
Belinda A. Brewster, Vice Chairman  
John T. Mahoney, Jr.  
Kenneth A. Tavares  
Anthony F. Provenzano

Melissa Arrighi, Town Manager  
Michael Galla, Assistant Town Manager

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Muratore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge, Chairman Muratore held a moment of silence to acknowledge the 3-year anniversary of the devastation suffered by Plymouth's sister city of Shichigahama, Japan, in the aftermath of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami events.

The Board also held a moment of silence in honor and memory of Chester Motyka, a former Town Meeting Representative and member of the Finance Advisory Committee who operated a successful business at the Plymouth Municipal Airport for over 50 years.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Donation for School Lunch Programs** – Town Manager Melissa Arrighi announced that Brad Cushing, a local business owner, has provided the Town with a donation of \$6,130.60 to be applied to any current outstanding balances on the School Department's free or reduced lunch programs. Mr. Cushing, she said, wants to ensure that those children whose families may not be able to afford such meals are not denied the same lunches offered to their peers.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Provenzano, the Board voted to accept, with gratitude, a donation of \$6,130.60 from Brad Cushing for the School Department's lunch program. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

**Demolition of Former DPW Garage / A.K. Finney Building** – Ms. Arrighi was pleased to report that the demolition of the former DPW Garage adjacent to Stephens Field (also known as the former A.K. Finney—mistakenly spelled in the past as “Phinney”—building) was completed, earlier during the day. The aesthetic improvement resulting from the removal of the deteriorating structure is remarkable, she said.

**308 Court Street** – Ms. Arrighi informed the Board that, in addition to the demolition of the former DPW Garage at Stephens Field, the Department of Marine & Environmental Affairs is working on permits for the demolition of 308 Court Street and 54 Taylor Avenue, both of which were purchased by Town Meeting with Community Preservation funds for the enhancement of Plymouth’s recreational resources.

**White Horse Beach Parking** – Ms. Arrighi indicated that Michael Galla, Assistant Town Manager, is working on a number of the short-term parking solutions that were recommended by the White Horse Beach Parking Committee. Mr. Galla held a meeting on January 29, 2014 concerning these short term solutions, she said, and he has communicated many of the concerns voiced at that meeting. During a recent meeting of the Manomet Village Steering Committee, however, some residents voiced their belief that the Town is not placing enough importance—nor making enough progress—on the matter of parking in the White Horse Beach area, she noted. Ms. Arrighi assured the Board that Mr. Galla will reach out to a number of the residents who participated on the Parking committee to identify some immediate action items that can be addressed before the summer.

**Water Street Sewer Interceptor & Reconstruction Project** – Ms. Arrighi discussed the Water Street Sewer Interceptor & Reconstruction Project, noting that the fundamental construction phase of the project began on Monday, March 3, 2014. Following some initial problems that were encountered during the first week of construction, she said, the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) has renewed its efforts and will be making significant advancement on the project in the coming weeks. Ms. Arrighi affirmed that the Town understands the impacts that this project will have upon residents and businesses, and it will do its best, she said, to complete the endeavor as quickly as possible.

**Human Resources and Labor Relations** – Ms. Arrighi provided the Board with a brief overview on the status of contract negotiations with the Town’s collective bargaining units. Prior to Human Resources Director Roberta Kety’s departure from employment with the Town (March 7, 2014), Ms. Arrighi noted that she and Ms. Kety met to review any outstanding issues related to open job postings, employee benefits, and labor relations. Negotiations are underway with COBRA (the unit representing the Town’s Department of Public Works and Library positions), she reported, and Plymouth’s Firefighters have enthusiastically agreed to train upon, and administer the use of, Narcan in emergency situations where the drug can be utilized to prevent death from drug overdose. In other labor relations matters, Ms. Arrighi indicated, the Firefighters have filed an unfair labor practice related to the negotiation of their contract, and the OPEIU unit will be impact bargaining on issues of job descriptions and internships.

**Potholes** – Ms. Arrighi informed the public that, when regional asphalt plants begin to reopen in the coming weeks, the DPW will assign three crews to address the number of winter-weather-precipitated potholes plaguing the Town’s 300+ miles of roadway.

**Human Resources Director Position** – In response to an inquiry from Selectman Mahoney, Ms. Arrighi indicated that her office has advertised the position of Human Resources Director, following the departure of Roberta Kety, who accepted a position with another community. Ms. Arrighi stated her intention to complete the interview process and fill the position by the end of April.

**White Horse Beach Parking (Reprise)** – Selectman Mahoney asked if a date had been set on which the proposed parking improvements for White Horse Beach will be brought forth to the Selectmen. Michael Galla, Assistant Town Manager, informed the Board that, following a review by the Town’s Parking & Traffic Task Force, he will bring forth two short-term parking options—which were developed by the White Horse Beach Parking Committee—for Taylor Avenue.

## **LICENSES**

### **POLE PETITION**

On a motion by Selectman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Tavares, the Board voted to approve the following Pole Petition, as detailed, below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **NSTAR Petition 1970232** – One petition covering the relocation of eleven poles on Water Street. These relocations are necessary for the Water Street reconstruction project. Approval is granted with the conditions set forth by the Engineering Department and the Town Manager’s Office.

### **VEHICLE FOR HIRE OPERATOR (NEW)**

On a motion by Selectman Tavares, seconded by Vice Chairman Brewster, the Board voted to grant a Vehicle for Hire Operator License to each of the following applicants, as detailed, below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **For Pilgrim Taxi:**

- Beverly Moniz (3 Suosso Ln, #2, Plymouth)

- ❖ **For Special Occasion Limousine:**

- Bryan Bouzan (12 Narragansett Dr, Plymouth)

Issuance of license is subject to review of CORI background check and driving record.

## **ONE DAY WINE AND MALT LIQUOR LICENSE\***

On a motion by Selectman Provenzano, seconded by Vice Chairman Brewster, the Board voted to grant a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor license to the following applicant, as detailed, below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Big Time Wrestling/Steve Perkins** (239 Causeway Street, Boston) requested a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for a pro wrestling event to be held from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on March 21, 2014 at Memorial Hall.

Liquor liability will be in place before the licenses are released.

\*One day liquor licenses shall automatically cover the day before and the day after the event for the purpose of proper delivery, storage and disposal of alcoholic beverages purchased.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES**

**Meeting Minutes** – The Board approved the minutes of the February 4, 2014 Selectmen’s meeting.

**Town Meeting Warrants** – The Board approved the warrants for the 2014 Spring Annual and Special Town Meetings, with updated corrections.

**Exclusive Vending Rights for Plymouth Pilgrims Baseball** – The Board granted Exclusive Vending Rights to the Plymouth Pilgrims Baseball Club for the Senior Lighted Babe Ruth 1 Field at the Forges Field Recreation Area, for only those dates and times during which Plymouth Pilgrims games are scheduled.

*[Note: these vending rights apply only to the specified field during the agreed-upon dates and times outlined within the contract between the Town of Plymouth and NECBL/Plymouth Baseball Corporation, and such rights will not interfere with other approved vending arrangements within the Recreation Area.]*

**Exclusive Vending Rights for Thanksgiving Parade** – The Board granted Exclusive Vending Rights to America’s Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration for the Thanksgiving Parade events to be held on November 22 and 23, 2014 along the parade route and at Pilgrim Memorial State Park (Water Street). The weekend-long event will include various activities including craft, merchandise, and food vendors on the grounds of the park and along the specified parade route.

**Acceptance of Gift of Conservation Land** – The Board accepted for the purposes of conservation a gift of 1.2 Acres of land located on Shallow Pond from One Hillside Estates LLC, shown as Lot 15-14 on a plan of land entitled “Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land and Special Permit for Village Density Development of Hillside Estates in Plymouth, Massachusetts,” as recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul McAlduff, chairman of the Plymouth Planning Board, thanked the Board for its participation in the blood-drive challenge that he issued at the Selectmen's meeting of January 28, 2014. Though the Planning Board won the challenge, he said, it is imperative to make citizens aware of the importance of life-saving blood supplies, and, thus, he directed residents to visit [www.redcross.com](http://www.redcross.com) for more information on how they can help.

Larry Rosenblum encouraged the Board to broaden the scope of the Town Meeting article related to the 1820 Courthouse / Municipal Center project, to allow for uses beyond a Town Hall. The feasibility study that was conducted on the site is limited, he said, and it proposes that the first floor of the 1820 Courthouse be utilized only as the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Rosenblum discussed the way by which he believes the language of the article should be changed to accommodate further creative possibilities for the site.

## **COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS & APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Muratore read the following list of citizens who applied to serve on the Town committees, boards, and commissions.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST: AFFIRMATION OF DESIGNEES**

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to reappoint the following designees who serve on the Affordable Housing Trust, for the terms specified, below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- Michael Galla      Designee of Town Manager's Office      Term exp. 6/30/2015
- Lee Hartmann      Director of Planning & Development      Term exp. 6/30/2015
- Laura Schaefer      Designee of Redevelopment Authority      Term exp. 6/30/2015
- David Ward      Designee of Plymouth Housing Authority      Term exp. 6/30/2015

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE: 1 SEAT AVAILABLE, 1 APPLICANT**

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to appoint the following citizen to serve on the Capital Improvements Committee. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- Ward J. Jaros      25 Chardonnay Lane      New Applicant      Term exp. 6/30/2016

## **HARBOR COMMITTEE: 2 SEATS AVAILABLE AND 2 APPLICANTS**

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to appoint the following citizens to serve on the Harbor Committee. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- John Boreland      71 Standish Avenue      New Applicant      Term exp. 6/30/2016  
Lobsterman
- Scott Dunlap      65 Russell Mills Rd.      New Applicant      Term exp. 6/30/2016  
Boat Yard Representative

## **MBTA ADVISORY BOARD: APPOINTMENT OF DESIGNEE**

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to appoint the following staff member as the Town's representative on the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's Advisory Board. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- Elizabeth Sullivan      Designee of Town Manager's Office      Term exp. 6/30/2015

## **HARBOR COMMITTEE: 1 SEAT AVAILABLE FOR CITIZEN-AT-LARGE**

Chairman Muratore indicated that the Board would consider the appointment of one (1) citizen-at-large to the Harbor Committee, for a term effective March 12, 2014 through June 30, 2015. There were two (2) applicants:

- Leonard D. Blaney      119 Shore Drive      New Applicant
- Kevin J. Foley      6 Cobbs Hollow      New Applicant

Chairman Muratore invited each of the candidates to interview before the Board, during which time Mr. Blaney and Mr. Foley were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and to answer questions posed by the Board. Following the conclusion of the interview process, Chairman Muratore read the names of the applicants and asked the members of the Board to cast votes for the candidates they wished to appoint.

By majority vote (5-0-0), the Board appointed Leonard D. Blaney to a citizen-at-large seat on the Harbor Committee, for a term effective March 12, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

## **INFORMATION ON POLARIS FOUNDATION**

Michael Jones provided a presentation to the Board on the mission of the newly-established POLARIS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. POLARIS, Mr. Jones explained, is an acronym for "Plymouth Occupational Learning Advancement Resources & Inspirational Services."

Out of a concern that Plymouth's youth are not reaching their potential, Mr. Jones said, the founders of the POLARIS Foundation recognized a need in the community to assist young people with high school diplomas or GED's to find career options that match their skills. POLARIS, he reported, will hold an event on the evening of Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at Main Street Sports in Plymouth to kick off its fundraising campaign.

Mr. Jones introduced fellow POLARIS founder Jeff Norton, a former member of the Boston Bruins and U.S. Olympic hockey teams, who participated in the meeting via teleconference. Mr. Norton spoke about the importance of providing guidance to high school graduates and college-age youth on finding those career paths to which they aspire or where their talents are best-suited. As part of POLARIS' fundraising efforts, Mr. Norton said, he has asked the Boston Bruins alumni association to hold its annual alumni hockey game in Plymouth, to raise funds for the foundation's cause.

Mr. Jones resumed the presentation with an introduction of his staff members, Mike Mahoney and Kerry Shobbs. It is the intention of the organization, he said, to identify and obtain office space, equipment, and website services to help launch the foundation and begin its career mentorship programs within the coming months.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Muratore thanked Mr. Jones and Mr. Norton for their efforts to assist Plymouth's youth.

## **DISCUSSION ON LIQUOR LICENSING AT FORGES FIELD**

Dave Dittmann, president of the Plymouth Pilgrims Baseball Club, asked the Board to consider his organization's request to serve alcohol during Pilgrims baseball games at Forges Field. The collegiate-level baseball club, a non-profit organization with seven local ownership partners, is committed to making the Plymouth Pilgrims the best team of its kind in the country, he said. Mr. Dittmann explained that, prior to filing for a series of One Day Wine & Malt Liquor Licenses, he would like to determine whether the Board would be amenable to his proposal.

Mr. Dittmann explained that the baseball club would like to offer beer and wine to spectators during its twenty home games at Forges Field for the 2014 season. Alcoholic beverages, he said, would be served in designated areas, only, to those with wristbands that affirm the proper checking of identification. Mr. Dittmann informed the Board that the baseball club is willing to hire a professional vendor to provide the service of alcoholic beverages during its games, even if it means that the baseball club must share its profits.

The Board discussed Mr. Dittmann's request.

Selectman Mahoney expressed his preference that the Board remain consistent with whatever policy exists on the service and consumption of alcoholic beverages in public areas. What the Board does for one organization, he said, it must be willing to do for another. Selectman Mahoney stated his belief that, rather than grant Mr. Dittmann an

exception to the current policy—should the Board wish to do so—the Board should simply consider changing its overall policy on the matter for all such requests.

Chairman Muratore noted that there is both a Selectmen’s policy and a Town Bylaw pertaining to the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public parks. If the Board wishes to consider granting Mr. Dittmann’s request, he said, the bylaw must first be revised.

Acknowledging the points made by Chairman Muratore and Selectman Mahoney, Selectman Provenzano speculated whether a revised bylaw could be crafted in a manner that would be specific enough to fully regulate the service and consumption of alcoholic beverages in public parks but broad enough to garner the support of Town Meeting. Selectman Provenzano pointed out that the time has passed for the submission of warrant articles for the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting; therefore, any revision to the referenced bylaw could not be considered until the 2014 Fall Town Meeting.

Selectman Tavares praised the work done by Mr. Dittmann and the Plymouth Pilgrims Baseball Club to bring minor league baseball to America’s Hometown. Though he is supportive of the team’s presence in Plymouth, Selectman Tavares stated his stalwart opposition to the service of alcoholic beverages in the Town’s recreation areas. The service of alcoholic beverages is not a necessary component of a baseball game, he said, as evidenced by the fact that teams within the popular Cape Cod League do not serve alcoholic beverages during their games. Echoing Selectman Mahoney’s comments, Selectman Tavares noted the precedent that the Board would set by allowing one organization an exception to Town policy, without granting the same courtesy to another.

Chairman Muratore opened the discussion to public comment.

Ward Jaros expressed appreciation for the accomplishments of the Plymouth Pilgrims Baseball Club but agreed with Selectman Tavares that the service of alcoholic beverages is not necessary to the success of the baseball team.

Ted Bubbins, Parks Superintendent, stated his professional recommendation that alcoholic beverages should not be allowed at Forges Field or any of the Town’s other parks and recreation areas.

Mr. Dittmann explained that collegiate-level baseball leagues have, for the most part, replaced what minor leagues used to be. While perhaps not necessary, he said, the service of alcoholic beverages at baseball games is part of the overall baseball experience that customers expect. Mr. Dittmann acknowledged that, from a timing standpoint, the Board may not be able to grant his request for the 2014 season, but he asked if the Board would consider his request for future seasons.

Selectman Mahoney and Selectman Provenzano expressed a willingness to revisit Mr. Dittmann’s request, following the 2014 baseball season. Ms. Arrighi noted that the Fall Town Meeting warrant opens and closes during the month of August, and, therefore, any discussion to revisit the request must be scheduled prior to that time.



## **PROPOSAL FOR HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND**

Roger Monty and Malissa Kenney from the ARC of Greater Plymouth presented a proposal to raise funds for the installation of handicap-accessible playground equipment within one of the Town's public parks.

Mr. Monty offered a summary of the programs provided by the ARC of Greater Plymouth, noting that the non-profit organization—which serves residents of 10 towns from Hanover to Bourne—has roots in the community dating back to 1966. Fully incorporated in 1974, he explained, the ARC provides a range of support services for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Mr. Monty, who serves as the executive director of the organization, stated that the ARC feels an obligation to not only provide service to those with developmental disabilities, but to give back to community as a whole.

Mr. Monty explained that the ARC's interest in establishing a handicap-accessible playground stems from the story of a wheelchair-bound family member of an ARC client who could only watch her sibling play at Nelson Park from the sidelines. Since that time, he said, the ARC researched what options were available to handicapped children in the Plymouth area, finding few. Following an offer from Sullivan Tire to serve as an initial donor for the proposed project, Mr. Monty indicated, the ARC would like to formally partner with the Town of Plymouth to identify and establish a location for a fully-accessible playground in the community. Because the nearest handicap-accessible playgrounds can be found in Barnstable and Fall River, he noted, the establishment of such equipment in Plymouth will be a draw for families from the entire South Shore area. The ARC, Mr. Monty stated, is willing to write grants and raise money to fund the project.

Malissa Kenney, the ARC's Director of Family Support and Adult Family Care, talked about similar projects in other communities that have proven to be a success. To see children of all abilities play together is a magical experience, she said, which is why the ARC is interested in the possibility of incorporating handicap-accessible equipment into the redesign of Stephens Field. Ms. Kenney explained how such equipment can be specifically marketed to families whose children will benefit from the accessibility, which will encourage regional tourism to Plymouth. The ARC has identified an initial donor for the project, she noted, and additional funds will be raised during the April 12, 2014 Plymouth Philharmonic Concert featuring Irish Tenor Ronan Tynin. Ms. Kenney talked about the various vendors that provide this type of playground equipment and discussed the research that she has conducted into grant opportunities for such projects.

Ted Bubbins, the Town's Parks Superintendent, stated his support for the ARC's proposal to establish a set of handicap-accessible playground equipment at one of the Town's public parks/recreation areas. Mr. Bubbins noted that he has forwarded the ARC's basic proposal to the Stephens Field Planning & Design Committee, because the timing of the proposal and the Town's plans to redesign the park will coincide. In addition to Stephens Field, he said, the Parks Department would like the Elmer Raymond Memorial Playground to be considered for such a project.

Ms. Arrighi made note that, following the ARC's initial proposal, staff identified four Town locations where this equipment could be installed: Elmer Raymond Memorial Playground, Stephens Field, Hedges Pond Recreation Area, and Nathaniel Morton Elementary School.

Selectman Mahoney stated his belief that the timing is right for this type of project to be included in the redesign of Stephens Field. He encouraged Mr. Monty and Ms. Kenney to bring their proposal before the Stephens Field Planning & Design Committee.

Mr. Monty inquired if the Town could assist the ARC with accessing Community Development Block Grants ("CDBG") for the project. Ms. Arrighi responded that the Town, itself, is already applying for CDBG funds for one of its municipal projects, so she could not commit to assisting the ARC with their application.

Selectman Tavares stated his support for the idea but noted his preference that all of the four potential locations identified by staff should be considered, prior to determining a final location. He recommended that the ARC work directly with Mr. Bubbins and the various related Town committees to develop a final plan.

Chairman Muratore opened the discussion to public comment.

Everett Malaguti III noted that, as a member of the Town's Natural Resources & Coastal Beaches Committee ("NRCBC"), he believes that Stephens Field would be an ideal location for handicap-accessible playground equipment. The committee, he said, has been investigating grant sources for handicap-accessibility initiatives for Plymouth's beaches. Mr. Malaguti asked Mr. Monty and Ms. Kenney to consider providing a presentation on the ARC's proposal to the NRCBC.

Robert Spencer stated that he would support the ARC's proposal, so long as there is no cost to the taxpayer or liability to the Town.

At the close of public comment, Selectman Tavares noted his wish that Veterans Park in North Plymouth be considered as an additional potential location for the ARC's proposed playground.

Ms. Kenney stated that the ARC believes that Stephens Field would be the most ideal location for the playground, based on public transportation resources.

Chairman Muratore asked staff to ensure that Mr. Monty and Ms. Kenney are connected with the Parks Superintendent and Disabilities Commission.

## **COMMITTEE LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES**

**400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration / Plymouth 400, Inc.** – Vice Chairman Brewster indicated that she and Selectman Provenzano met with the members of Plymouth 400, Inc. on March 10, 2014. During this meeting, she indicated, Plymouth 400, Inc. announced the

hiring of Michelle M. Pecoraro as its full time director. Ms. Pecoraro, she said, is an accomplished tourism and marketing executive with extensive experience from serving with the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. Vice Chairman Brewster stated that she invited Ms. Pecoraro to attend the Selectmen's meeting of March 25, 2014, so that she may be formally introduced to the community.

In addition, Vice Chairman Brewster reported, Kathy Babini of the Plymouth Public School Department has formed a partnership between students from Plymouth, U.S.A. and Plymouth, U.K. who will work collaboratively on the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. On November 21, 2014, Vice Chairman Brewster announced, the Town will host its first student exchange with Plymouth, U.K., welcoming nine students during the week of Thanksgiving.

Vice Chairman Brewster listed some new fundraising events that Plymouth 400, Inc. will add to its roster of fundraising vehicles for the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, including a New Year's Day road race, which will follow an annual New Year's Eve celebration. Peter Balboni and Sue Wentworth of Plymouth 400, Inc. she said, have done a great job in putting together these events throughout the entirety of the year, to draw visitors to Plymouth during both peak- and off-seasons.

On Saturday, March 15, 2014, Vice Chairman Brewster stated, Plymouth 400, Inc. will hold a day-long meeting with the consulting firm Prosidy to make a final decision on the official events that will be associated with the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. In addition, she reported, Plymouth 400, Inc. has welcomed two new members to its board of directors: Donna Curtin and Peter DeCola.

**400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative License Plates** – Chairman Muratore informed the public that Cape Auto Body is offering free oil changes with the purchase of a 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative License Plate. Vice Chairman Brewster indicated that Brewster PC Solutions will provide a 1-hour computer consultation to the next five people who submit an order for the license plate. The license plate drive, Vice Chairman Brewster indicated, is only 300 orders shy of satisfying the Registry of Motor Vehicles' requirement to make the plate officially available.

**Dinner Event with Consul General of Japan** – Selectman Tavares noted that he and Assistant Town Manager Michael Galla were honored to attend a dinner event on February 27, 2014 at the home of Akira Muto, Consul General of Japan for the New England region. Consul General Muto held the event, he explained, as an opportunity to meet with representatives of Plymouth and ten other cities/towns with whom Japanese communities have sister city relationships. Selectman Tavares indicated that he will communicate his conversations and experiences from the event with the members of the Town's Distinguished Visitors Committee, to help improve upon the Town's sister city relationships and procedures related to official visits.

**Meeting with Representative from Senator Elizabeth Warren's Office** – Selectman Tavares reminded the Board that he will be meeting with a representative from Senator Elizabeth Warren's office on Friday, March 14, 2014. He asked his fellow members of

the Board to provide him with any specific comments or concerns that they would like him to communicate to the Senator, prior to the meeting.

**Visit from Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars** – Selectman Tavares indicated that he attended a recent event hosted by Plymouth VFW Post 1822 to welcome the VFW’s National Commander-in-Chief, William “Bill” Thien. Plymouth’s VFW, he said, should be credited for receiving such a distinguished visit from its National Commander.

**Polar Plunge** – Selectman Tavares was pleased to report that he attended the annual Polar Plunge event on March 1, 2014 to benefit the JHC Cancer Center at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center – Plymouth. This year’s event may have been the coldest one ever, he said, making participation even more worthy of appreciation.

**Plymouth Police Relief Association Event to Benefit Families in Need** – Selectman Mahoney reported that he and Chairman Muratore attended a March 8, 2014 event held by the Plymouth Police Relief Association to raise funds for two officers’ spouses who are going through serious health issues.

## **OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS**

**Graffiti and Litter** – Vice Chairman Brewster talked about the importance of addressing the proliferation of graffiti and litter throughout town, now that winter is coming to an end. She inquired if some sort of cross-governmental task force of representatives from the DPW and Police Department exists to respond to issues related to graffiti and litter. Vice Chairman Brewster stated her hope that crews can be assigned to clean up the blight of graffiti and litter throughout downtown, along the jetty, and even around the 1820 Courthouse, prior to the start of tourism season. It is imperative, she said, that the Town catch and prosecute people who are vandalizing and disrespecting the community.

Ms. Arrighi encouraged the public to report instances of graffiti and litter, so that the Town can address issues quickly, as they arise.

**Quarterly Investment Report for Retirement System** – Vice Chairman Brewster commended the Plymouth Retirement Board for their impressive 4<sup>th</sup>-quarter investment report, which indicated an annual return for 2013 of 18.8%. Selectman Mahoney inquired if the Retirement Board could provide more information on their report, to which Ms. Arrighi indicated that the Board could invite Retirement Board chairman Thomas Kelley to provide a presentation on the most recent reports issued for the Plymouth Contributory Retirement System.

**FY2015 State Budget** – Selectman Tavares referenced a recent e-mail message that the Board received from the Massachusetts Municipal Association (“MMA”) regarding the Fiscal Year 2015 State Budget. Within the message, he indicated, MMA urges cities and towns to ask their respective legislative delegations to reinstate the allocation of all State lottery funds towards municipal aid. Selectman Tavares noted that this was one of the key

issues that was discussed during the MMA's annual conference and trade show in January. Considering the number of unfunded mandates that are placed on cities and towns by state and federal governments, he said, it is imperative that communities receive the full disbursement of State Lottery revenues, consistent with the way by which the program was initially established.

By evident consensus, the Board asked staff to draft a letter of support for the Massachusetts Municipal Association's legislative recommendations pertaining to the FY2015 State Budget, to be addressed to Plymouth's legislative delegation.

**Request for Waiver of ZBA Appeal Fee** – Chairman Muratore referenced an e-mail that the Selectmen received on March 7, 2014 regarding a request for a waiver of the fee associated with appeal filings to the Zoning Board of Appeals (“ZBA”). Tiffany Park, the Selectmen's Assistant, provided a brief explanation of the request, noting that she encouraged the attorney who submitted the request to provide more information in the form of an official letter to the Board. Selectman Tavares stated his observation that there was not enough information included in the request on which to make a decision. Several other members of the Board nodded in agreement with Selectman Tavares.

**Letter Regarding 1820 Courthouse / Municipal Center Project** – Chairman Muratore asked Ms. Arrighi for her thoughts on the letter that the Board received from Larry Rosenblum regarding the 1820 Courthouse / Municipal Center Project. Ms. Arrighi offered her belief that there is merit to Mr. Rosenblum's position that the 1820 Courthouse should be showcased in ways beyond the simple use as part of the new Town Hall, but it is not necessary, she said, to specify such ideas within the language of Town Meeting Article 10 (2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting).

The Board briefly discussed Mr. Rosenblum's ideas. Most agreed that, while it is not necessary to alter the language of Article 10, it will be beneficial to design the reuse of the 1820 Courthouse and the new Town Hall in a way that will invite visitors and attract activity within the building beyond normal business hours.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

On a motion by Selectman Mahoney, seconded by Vice Chairman Brewster, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at approximately 9:15 p.m. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

*Recorded by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen*

*A copy of the March 11, 2014 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's Office.*