



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

PLAISTOW BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES:

DATE: May 2, 2016

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:33 PM

SELECTMEN:

Selectman, Steve Ranlett, Chairman
Selectman, Tammy Bergeron
Selectman Peter Bracci

Selectman, John Sherman Vice Chairman
Selectman, Julian Kiszka
Town Manager, Sean Fitzgerald

AGENDA

MINUTES

J. Sherman motions to approve the minutes of 04-25-16. Second by J. Kiszka.

P. Bracci is concerned as to why a discussion regarding a conversation that transpired in the public session of 04-25-16 was not included in the minutes.

J. Sherman withdraws his motion to approve and requests the paragraph be inserted and the minutes reviewed at the next meeting. J. Kiszka withdraws his second.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL LOCAL CONCERNS

S. Hass, Engineer/Project Manager from Hoyle & Tanner is introduced by S. Fitzgerald. He begins with an agenda outline and states tonight's meeting will focus on the concerns and questions of the citizens.

S. Fitzgerald discusses funding and the main ideas behind SRTS (Safe Routes to School). The goals are to improve pedestrian safety and street scapes, intersection improvements, and congestion mitigation. The Town was awarded a grant of \$250,000 to complete this project. Since the money comes from a federal grant many rules and regulations must be followed. NHDOT (New Hampshire Department of Transportation) oversees the funding requirements of the project.

S. Hass discusses project understanding and tools or options that can help. Main Street/Route 121A is a NHDOT owned and maintained road. The speed limit is 30 mph but speeding often occurs. S. Hass discusses the project schedule.

S. Ranlett opens the meeting to the public.

Bob Hamilton from Balsam Way is concerned about taxes, if the project will cost more than anticipated, and if Town funds will be spent. He wants to know how much of the \$250,000 has already been spent.

The \$250,000 is a grant and Town funds will only be used if the Board of Selectmen decides to do that. Approximately \$10,000 of the grant has already been spent on non-infrastructure items such as bike helmets, traffic control cones and education.

Jim Hunger from 141 Main Street states this problem has been ongoing for 20 years. Blocking the slip lane has helped but the angle of Elm Street is a problem. Cars cannot see walkers on Elm Street.

Mark Harding from 1 Elm Street states the situation is better with the slip lane blocked and he agrees the angle is tough. He wants drainage to be considered in the project. He would like to see people living in the area help with landscaping issues.

Both J. Hunger's and M. Harding's comments are heard and understood. Drainage will be part of any construction.

Richard Colcord has lived in Plaistow his whole life and has some concerns regarding emergency vehicles. He believes the main problem is speeding and it should be controlled by law enforcement. He feels narrowing of the road and beautification is not necessary.

S. Fitzgerald agrees it is important to make sure emergency vehicles can navigate safely around the corner. These conflicts will be carefully evaluated.

Alan Davis of 12 Westville Road inquires if the scope of the project is contained to the red lines on the diagram. He states the intersection of Main Street and Westville Road should be part of the project and sidewalks should be put on Westville Road.

The Board acknowledges that the intersection of Westville Road and Main Street is an issue. However the grant money will not be enough to solve all of the issues. The SRTS project will focus on the red lined area of the diagram.

Dolores Coil-Quirk lives on Elm Street and teaches at Pollard School. She walks to work and states it is difficult. She is very excited about the project. She thinks the focus on a Village and safety are the key issues to be resolved. Access in and out of the parking lot at Pollard for employees is another problem due to the number of parents driving their children to and from school. She would like to see something in the design to alleviate this problem. She believes if we make walking more conducive we will see more children walking to school.

Eileen Hennessy lives at 33 Main Street at the corner of Chandler Avenue. She believes the problem starts much farther down Main Street. She is concerned about all the 18 wheeler trucks using this route.

Again, the Board recognizes many areas along Main Street need to be addressed. Tonight's focus is just the area of Main Street from Pollard School to Elm Street.

Jeff Quirk of 15 Elm Street states we need to do the project and we need to do it soon.

Pat Lomes has lived in Plaistow for many years. She lived on Smith Corner Road and her children walked to school and she can sympathize with everyone. She currently lives on Village Way. There are young families with children but they cannot access Smith Park, the Town Hall, or the Pollard School by walking.

Richard Colcord states we cannot keep trucks out of Town but we need to enforcement the laws and slow them down, not change the roads. The increase in truck traffic is a result of the growth of the Town especially along Route 125. We have to accept what we have done.

P. Bracci states there are two 2 ways to slow vehicles down. One is to enforce the laws and the other is speed bumps. If people have ideas they should pass them along to the Board of Selectmen. A discussion of the pros and cons of speed bumps ensues.

Kimberly Raymond from 7 Lynwood Street has several concerns. Some concerns include spending Town funds on this project, projects bleeding into each other, money spent on studies, and the length of time to complete projects. She is unclear on many issues.

The delay in the SRTS project occurred because the project was put on hold twice. One delay was due to not having enough staff certified and more importantly there were Federal Funding Challenges that affected the ability of NHDOT to release funds. The notice to proceed to was just received recently which is why we are meeting tonight and presenting a schedule of the project.

Eileen Hennessy mentions the sign of Peterborough. She would like to see a sign similar for Plaistow. Perhaps this could be a future Eagle Scout project.

Rich Lomes from Village Way inquires if bicycle lanes will be part of the SRTS project. It can certainly be considered at a future meeting.

S. Ranlett reads 2 emails. The first one is from Peter Bealo. He is in favor of the project. The second is from Ryan Hinchliffe from 2 Major Lane. He is in favor of the project. He often walks his children to school and states it is dangerous.

S. Ranlett closes the public hearing at 8:53pm.

J. Sherman states a weight limit can be set on Town Roads but not on State roads. The Highway Safety Committee is looking into it. He also mentions there was a warrant article approximately 20 years ago to put sidewalks on Greenough Road. Most of the money would have come from the state but the article was voted down.

S. Ranlett states we will take a 5 minute recess and resume at 9:00pm.

Back in Session at 9:00pm.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

The schedule is reviewed. A change is made to May 16th. The Board will meet that evening. The general consensus is to accept the summer schedule as is.

DONATIONS TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

S. Fitzgerald mentions the Fire Association raised money and purchased items for the Fire Department. They purchased a thermal imaging camera for \$1300, 4 carbon monoxide monitors for \$535, and a training table and chairs for \$4500. The donations have been accepted and are appreciated.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Not discussed tonight.

P. Bracci thanks Gayle for getting the minutes to the Board on Friday.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Reviewed

OTHER BUSINESS

P. Bracci inquires as to the status of article P-16-17.

S. Fitzgerald will report back to the Board next Monday based on information from Town Council.

P. Bracci inquires to T. Bergeron the status of the Building Committee and wants to know what reports he can expect.

T. Bergeron states the members of the Public Safety Expansion Committee all moved over to the Building Committee. She and J. Sherman will report all information to the Board.

P. Bracci inquires about the new web site.

S. Fitzgerald responds it will be discussed at the staff meeting on Wednesday and we are moving forward with it.

J. Sherman mentions the Recreation Commission Meeting has been rescheduled from May 11 to May 25. Opening Day for baseball is May 7th at PARC.

P. Bracci inquires if the Board does anything for "Bike to School Day".

S. Fitzgerald replies, no. The Pollard School will hold their own "Bike & Walk to School Day" in a few weeks. This is a great event and Selectmen are welcome to join in.

P. Bracci mentions the Women of Leadership is Monday 9th.

J. Sherman mentions some dignitaries might attend.

P. Bracci inquires how many people picked up on Plaistow Pride Day.

S. Fitzgerald responds 144 bags of trash were collected. It is hard to say how many people helped because some did it on their own without checking in on the Town Green.

S. Ranlett mentions it might be a good idea to combine this event next year with Comcast Cares.

J. Kiszka mentions the Fishing Derby is Saturday. Children up to 12 years are free. It is a good event.

SIGNATURE FOLDER

S. Ranlett states the signature folder and manifest are going around.

S. Ranlett adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary