



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

**Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes**

**Date:** May 24, 2021

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Selectman, John A. Blinn, Sr., Acting Chair	Selectman, Greg Taillon
Selectman, Jay DeRoche	Selectman, Bill Coye
Selectman, Darrell Britton	Mark A. Pearson, Town Manager – Remotely
Greg Colby, Asst. Town Manager/Finance Director – Remotely	

Also present via remote access: Jill Senter, Chair Conservation Commission, Tim Moore Vice Chair Conservation Commission, and Beth Hossack, Recording Secretary in person.

J. Blinn reads Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-004 allowing municipal boards to hold remote meetings during the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis.

**Minutes**

***D. Britton motions to approve the May 17, 2021 minutes. Seconded by J. DeRoche.***

***Vote: 4-0-1 (abstain G. Taillon)***

***Motion carries.***

**Selection of Chair**

***J. Blinn motions to appoint D. Britton as Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by J. DeRoche.***

***Vote: 4-1-0 (no G. Taillon)***

**Public Comment**

D. Britton asks if anyone would like to make a public comment.

D. Britton reads a letter sent via email for public comment from Francine Hart, 298 Main Street. Her opinion is the Board removed as Chair the only qualified man working for the Town.

**Introduction of New Recreation Commission Member**

Jenn Gulser, Recreation Director introduces Christina Dufresne.

C. Dufresne states she has been involved in the community for the last few years and would like to be a member of the Recreation Commission. She believes volunteering is a big part of a community. The Board welcomes and thanks her.

**Public Hearing – Buying Property**

D. Britton opens the public hearing at 6:43 p.m.

He asks Jill Senter, Conservation Commission Chair to speak.

J. Senter states there is a property abutting the Town Forest with the house in Atkinson and part of the back property is in Plaistow. Trails run through the Plaistow portion of the land. The landowner is willing to sell the land to the Conservation Commission. The amount of land is 4.32 acres. They have enough money in a Capital Reserve Fund to purchase the land.

Ryan Labrecque 174 Main St. calls in to comment. He asks if the land is currently on the tax roll and he does not think the Town should buy any property.

J. Senter replies the landowner does pay taxes to Plaistow on the portion of the land that is in Plaistow. There are already trails on this property. Since it abuts the Town Forest, it makes sense for the Conservation Commission to buy it. It will preserve this section of Town and is beneficial to the forest.

G. Taillon asks J. Senter to explain the process the Town needs to take to purchase the land.

J. Senter states two public hearings need to be held. Tonight, is the second one. The Conservation Commission is allowed to buy property with permission of the Board. A contract will be drawn up. The Conservation Commission has money in a trust fund from prior Town Meetings.

J. DeRoche asks if the land is landlocked.

J. Senter replies, yes. It is a back portion of a lot and it cannot be subdivided. On April 12, 2021, the Board agreed to allow the Conservation Commission to buy the land.

D. Britton closes the public hearing at 6:53 p.m.

### **Public Hearing – Selling Property**

D. Britton opens the public hearing at 6:54 p.m.

The property to be sold is 13 Rose Avenue. It will be done by auction using St. Jeans Auctioneers.

D. Britton asks if anyone has any comments.

J. DeRoche asks if this has been put on the website.

M. Pearson replies, it will be put on the website.

D. Britton closes the public hearing at 6:56 p.m.

### **Thank you – Dave Hansbury and Michelle Curran**

D. Britton publicly thanks Dave Hansbury for purchasing flowers for Memorial Day with company funds from the Joseph S. Hills Agency.

He thanks Michelle Curran for donating her time and efforts for many years for planning all the Memorial Day flowers.

Other selectmen join in with Thanks to both residents.

### **Old Home Day Donations**

Haley Bush, Chair of the Old Home Day Committee provides an update.

Old Home Day will be held on August 28, this year. The use of the field at P.A.R.C. has been approved. Vendor applications are available online. The committee has sent out one hundred six (106) letters and have responses from forty (40) of them. They plan to send out more letters. Some of the events include:

- Raffles to raise money for the Holy Angles Food Pantry.
- Road Race
- The band The Time Bandit will play free of charge.
- A rock-climbing wall and trampoline jump will be available.

- The YMCA will have events all day.
- Fireworks will be held at the High School if enough money can be raised.

H. Bush asks how they can handle citizen donations online.

D. Britton asks G. Colby to discuss the process.

G. Colby states the recreation department has the ability to collect fees online. It is possible we can work with the recreation department to have Old Home Day Donations collected online using their software.

G. Taillon asks for clarification regarding the Old Home Day Trust Fund. He believes donations can be put into this fund and asks G. Colby if he disagrees.

G. Colby states his understanding is that the Board would accept and expend the donations for the current year's expenses. If there are extra funds raised, they could be transferred to the Trust Fund next March.

H. Bush states so far, they have received three (3) donations. One is cash and the other two (2) are checks. She will bring them to Town Hall tomorrow.

D. Britton recommends accepting all donations at one meeting.

H. Bush asks if mask wearing will be required in August since it is a Town event.

D. Britton replies, we do not know yet. Policies will be re-evaluated in about three (3) weeks.

H. Bush states the Old Home Day Committee would like a warrant article created to keep money received from vendors for future Old Home Day events starting next year.

D. Britton states a warrant article can be written.

The Board thanks H. Bush for the update.

### **Public Hearing - Discretionary Preservation Easement**

D. Britton opens the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Ryan Labrecque 174 Main St. calls in. He states he applied for a Barn Easement. The barn was built in 1832 using reclaimed lumber most likely from the 1700's. The exterior has been updated over the years. The roof is new, and the barn vinyl sided. The interior remains original with exposed beams.

D. Britton asks what percentage of the building is new.

R. Labrecque replies 5%. The rest is original.

J. Blinn states if a tax reduction is granted do, we know the amount.

J. DeRoche states the low end is 25% of assessed value and it can go up to 75%.

J. DeRoche states for a structure to qualify for a preservation easement certain conditions must be met. The structure must provide scenic enjoyment to the general public, it must be historically important, and the structure's physical or aesthetic features must contribute to the historic or cultural integrity of the property.

J. DeRoche asks if the property is registered with the State.

R. Labrecque replies the barn predates most of the buildings in town.

G. Taillon states this is a long process. It will last a minimum of ten years if approved.

J. DeRoche states we need to know the value of the barn itself.

G. Taillon states since this is a public hearing, he thinks we should be listening to anyone who has a comment about this, and he agrees with J. DeRoche that we need to get all the facts before we do an actual deliberation on this.

R. Labrecque states he thinks the Town needs to decide if it is important to keep these structures in place or if it is not important and they would rather see new structures. He thinks such structures should be given preference to keep them intact for people to view.

M. Pearson states the land with the barn is 720 sq. feet with an assessed value of \$28,900.00.

G. Taillon asks if this is the first one and will it set a precedent.  
B. Coye replies the letter from Assessor Susan Henderson states this is the first one.  
D. Britton closes the public hearing at 7:22 p.m.

B. Coye asks what the next step is.  
D. Britton wants to get more information from the Assessor.  
B. Coye states the Historical Society might have some information too.  
G. Taillon states we should get the exact amount from the assessor.  
R. Labrecque calls in again and states the barn is on 720 square feet with a value of \$28,000.00.

### **Memorial Day Preparation**

A brief discussion occurs regarding Memorial Day. The event has been posted on the website, channel 17 and in the Carriage Towne News. Selectmen and all others in the parade will meet on Monday, May 31 at 8:45 a.m. at Pollard School.

### **Discussion on Covid Protocols for Public Meetings**

D. Britton opens the floor for discussion.  
Dennise Horrocks, Health Officer recently sent information to all the Selectmen. The current recommendations are to keep things in place for now. In three (3) to four (4) weeks she will see what the State of New Hampshire is recommending, and we will reevaluate then.  
J. DeRoche states he spoke with D. Horrocks today and agrees with her.

### **Decision – Notice of Award Contract P2 East Road Pump House**

M. Pearson states he has been in contact with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. They recommend not signing the Notice of Award until the Army Corps of Engineers completes their review of the site.  
G. Taillon asks M. Pearson if the Board needs to make any decisions at this time.  
M. Pearson replies, no. He is keeping the Board informed since the Board of Selectmen are the Water Commissioners.  
D. Britton asks how far behind will the water project be.  
M. Pearson replies only about thirty (30) days as long as Lewis Builders can rearrange their schedule.

### **Town Managers Report**

- Sale of Town Owned Property – 13 Rose Avenue
- Plaistow Landfill Cap/Cover
- Salt Shed Solar Panel (2) Contract
- Old Home Day Road Race
- Vision Assessing Contract Meetings
- Highway Safety Meeting
- Trash & Recycling Request for Proposals
- Route 125 Kingston – Plaistow 1004E Project
- Past Code Enforcement “Motion for Contempt”
- East Road Pump House Wetland Permitting – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

M. Pearson and D. Voss present a power point regarding municipal solid waste and recycling. It contains a lot of information that will be used to complete the RFP. There are still some items the Board needs to make decisions about.

D. Britton recommends holding a meeting on Tuesday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. to finalize the open items. There is consensus amongst the board to hold the meeting. The TRAC Committee will be invited to join the Board.

J. DeRoche states the Budget Committee will have a meeting tomorrow to vote on the three (3) vacancies. It will be a new vote because the last time they voted was by secret ballot and that was invalid. He asks if anyone would like to offer an opinion.

G. Taillon states ex-officio members to a committee represent themselves. The Board should trust that ex-officio members will make good decisions and should be trusted by the rest of the Board.

D. Britton states he agrees with that opinion. He believes J. DeRoche was just throwing it out in case anyone wanted to comment.

***J. DeRoche motions to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A) Public Employee; (B) Hiring; (C) Reputation; (D) Property Transactions; (E) Pending or Threatened Litigation; (I) Emergency Functions; (J) Confidential Information in Adjudicative Proceedings; (L) Consideration of Legal Advice. Seconded by B. Coye.***

***Board Polled: D. Britton = yes, J. Blinn = yes, J. DeRoche = yes, B. Coye = yes, G. Taillon = no, Motion carries 4-1-0. (no G. Taillon)***

D. Britton states we will not be coming back to a public session.

D. Britton closes the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

D. Britton resumes the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

***G. Taillon motions to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Seconded by J. Blinn.***

***Vote: 5-0-0***

***Motion carries.***

***G. Taillon motions to close the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Seconded by B. Coye.***

***Vote: 5-0-0***

***Motion carries***

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hossack

Recording Secretary