



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: March 13, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Jay DeRoche - Present
Select Vice Chairman, Bill Coye – Present
Selectman, Darrell Britton – Present
Selectman, Jonathan Gifford – Present

Also present: Town Manager, Greg Colby and Administrative Specialist, Beth Hossack.

Public Comment

There is no one in the audience for public comment. A comment was received via email. Chair DeRoche reads the email. The email is from Lisa Siney 13 Davis Park. She has lived on Davis Park for almost twenty-five (25) years. She is opposed to parking restrictions or any other restrictions on Davis Park. She is also not in favor of adding Davis Park to Plaistow Town Code Chapter 130 Parks.

Chair DeRoche thanks Lisa Siney for her email and states her concerns will be considered.

Fire Department Explorers

Fire Chief Knutsen and Lieutenant/Firefighter Derek Travers are here to talk about Junior Firefighters.

Chief Knutsen states when he first came to Plaistow, he asked about a junior firefighter's program. Such a program helps with sustainability. He was told Plaistow used to have a program however over the years interest and participants waned. Chief Knutsen turns the discussion over to Lieutenant Travers. Plaistow started a new junior firefighter's program about one (1) year ago with Lieutenant Travers taking the lead. His son Cameron is one of the participants. Lt. Travers did much research and talked to fire department personnel in other communities who have similar programs. He recruited six (6) interested students to join the program. The most important goal is to introduce young students to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and firefighting. All of the students in the program are certified in Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The other goals of the program include:

1. Future Recruitment of Firefighters
2. Provide quality training and develop leadership skills.

The requirements to join include:

1. Must be a student in the Timberlane District
2. Must be between the ages of 14 - 18 years old.
3. Need a physical from a primary care doctor confirming the student is healthy enough to participate.
4. Must not be failing any subjects in school.
5. Must have a willingness to learn about fire and EMS services.

Meetings are held every other Sunday from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Some of the things they learn are first aid, CPR, how to use an AED, stop the bleed and infant CPR. They also visit dispatch and learn about the 911 emergency system. Dispatch is the focal point of the 911 system. Each student has a full set of turnout gear, and they learn how to correctly don and doff their equipment. A great deal of the equipment came from Sandown. The students also learn about the components of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Ladder climbing, search & rescue, firefighters' survival, ropes, knotting and repelling are also taught. The students are eligible to attend the NH State Fire Academy for one (1) week in the summer.

Lt. Travers thanks Chief Knutsen, the towns of Atkinson, Sandown, Plaistow, Danville, Doug Thompson and the Plaistow Cares Group and the Plaistow Lions Club for their donations and support of the program. The junior firefighters are allowed to attend the Plaistow firefighters training sessions. They can participate in some of the training and observe others.

Selectman Britton asks if the Town is liable for any injuries.

Lt. Travers states, they are not Town employees however if an injury occurs Primex will cover it. Lt. Travers states he is proud of the program,

Chair DeRoche thanks Lt. Travers for his passion, dedication and all he does for the students.

Chief Knutsen states he is planning to start a new program soon which will be a citizen's fire academy.

Child Abuse Prevention Month – Exchange Club

Bob Harb is here tonight to talk about Child Abuse Prevention month. In 1983 the President issued a Proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention month. In 2008 blue pinwheels became the national symbol for the prevention of child abuse. Last year the Exchange Club planted a garden of pinwheels on the Town Hall Green near the front sign. Bob Harb and the Exchange Club would like permission to have another pinwheel garden this year. The plan is to move the pinwheel garden to the front of Town Hall with over one hundred (100) blue pinwheels on display. Many businesses in Rockingham County will also be placing pinwheel gardens on their property in recognition of Child Prevention month.

Selectman Britton motions to allow the Exchange Club to place a pinwheel garden in front of Town Hall during the month of April. Seconded by Selectman Gifford.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Bob Harb thanks the Board for their support.

Prepare for Elections

Tomorrow Town Elections will be held. Bob Harb, Town Moderator provides a brief overview of the process. The voting location is the Plaistow Fish & Game Club, 18 May Ray Ave, and the polls

are open from 7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M. Earlier today Bob Harb met with some local and safety officials, and the Town Manager. They watched the noontime forecast and decided to move forward with elections as scheduled. We are part of a regional school district and the majority of Towns in a regional district must agree to postpone elections for weather related concerns. There was no such majority.

Chair DeRoche thanks Bob Harb for his diligence.

The Selectmen are required to be at the polls and a minimum of three (3) of them need to be present at the end of the night to assist with the counting process. Since Chair DeRoche is a candidate on the ballot he cannot participate. The other selectmen will be there.

Concerns of Speeding on Canterbury Forest.

The Board received a letter in the mail from Blake Mazza a Pollard School Student. Chair DeRoche reads the letter. Blake lives on Canterbury Forest and is concerned about cars speeding on the road. He does not want anyone to get hurt. He asks if speed bumps, speed signs or a sidewalk can be put in place to help reduce speeding.

Chair DeRoche thanks him for his letter and states the Board will forward the information to the Police Department.

Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest – week of March 16th, 2023
2. BOS draft minutes – March 2nd & March 6th, 2023
3. One (1) Veterans Tax Credit Application
4. One (1) Elderly Tax Exemption Application

Selectman Britton motions to approve the consent agenda as written. Seconded by Selectman Coye.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motions carries

Town Managers Report/Potable Water

- Last week two (2) sets of waters results were received. The result from 2/24/23 was a little worse than expected, however the result from 3/3/23 showed a significant downward trend. The HAA5 reading from Sweet Hill tank was 70.9 while the sample taken from the East Road pump house was 52.8. Town Manager Colby remains in constant contact with our water operator. So far in March 38,000 gallons of water have been flushed. Gene Forbes is trying to get reimbursement from the State for the flushing and some testing as part of startup costs. We are lowering the target level for free chlorine which should help reduce the contamination caused by the disinfection process. New connections are ongoing, however all owners are made aware of the HAA5 contamination letter before hooking up. Our upstream partners are doing more monitoring as well. Plaistow is continuing weekly water tests.

Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Britton

- He received a price to add John Blinn's name to a granite bench in Pollard Park.
- On a personal note – he thanks Chair DeRoche for taking on the position of Chair this year.

Selectman Coye

- Attended the Recreation Commission Meeting.
- Attended Candidates Night.
- Assisted in testing the ballot machines last Tuesday.
- On Saturday attended Project Hope at the high school.

Selectman Gifford

- Attended the Recreation Commission Meeting. They need volunteers to help with programs. The Celtic Program scheduled for tomorrow has been cancelled. They will try to reschedule the event.
- He went to the Fish & Game Club to see the Scouts Derby. It was a great event.

Chair DeRoche

- Reads a thank you note from Norm & Brenda Major for the celebration event held on March 5. They are happy and appreciate the gifts.

Selectman Britton states, it was well deserved. The other Board members agree.

Events

1. Elections will take place tomorrow as planned. They will be held at the Plaistow Fish & Game Club, 18 Ray Ave from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
2. Run of the Savages – Saturday, April 15, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m. – Pollard School

Other Business

None

Selectman Coye motions to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II for (b) hiring. Seconded by Selectman Britton.

Board Polled: Chair DeRoche = yes, Selectman Coye = yes, Selectman Britten = yes, Selectman Gifford = yes.

Motion carries.

Chair DeRoche states we will not be coming back to a public session this evening.

Public Session adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Public Session resumed at 7:30 P.M.

Chair DeRoche motions to seal the nonpublic session minutes of March 13, 2023 for (a) disclosure would likely have an adverse effect on the reputation of a person other than a member of the public body. Seconded by Selectman Britten.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair DeRoche adjourned the meeting at 7:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist