



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: September 13, 2021

Meeting Called to Order: 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call:

Select Chairman, Darrell Britton - Excused	Select Vice Chairman, John A. Blinn, Sr.
Selectman, Greg Taillon	Selectman, Jay DeRoche
Selectman, Bill Coye	Interim Town Manager, Greg Colby

Also present: Senator Chuck Morse and Beth Hossack, Recording Secretary.

Minutes

G. Taillon motions to approve the August 30, 2021, minutes. Seconded by B. Coye. There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Public Comment

A caller states the current meeting is not showing on channel 17.

The meeting pauses while the issue is resolved.

The same caller calls back and states the current meeting is now on channel 17.

Public Hearing – Sale of 13 Rose Avenue

J. Blinn opens the public hearing at 6:36 p.m.

G. Colby states the auction will be held Thursday, September 16th at 4:00 p.m. by James R. St. Jeans Auctioneers at 13 Rose Ave. Tonight is the second public hearing required by law.

J. DeRoche asks if selectmen should attend.

G. Coby replies, yes. He will be there, and selectmen are welcome.

There are no other questions or comments.

J. Blinn closes the public hearing at 6:37 p.m.

Legislative Update – Senator Mr. Morse

Senator Morse states it has been two (2) elections since he has attended a Plaistow Board of Selectmen's meeting. Many places were shut down with Covid and he is happy to be meeting in person again. Despite Covid the legislature was busy, and the budget is strong. Business taxes have been lowered, meals and rooms taxes have been lowered yet a dedicated amount of 30% will go back to communities. A five (5) year elimination of interest and dividend taxes has been put into place. July and August were strong revenue months for the State. The State has a nice rainy-day fund. New Hampshire is in great shape. More money has been put into education. One hundred and

two million more was put into education. The State of New Hampshire did not overspend, and revenues were still good during Covid. One education proposal would have created donut towns, pitting one town against another and eventually it would have created an income tax. Covid proved that choices are needed, and parents want to be involved. Areas that will be addressed with federal funds coming into New Hampshire include water, sewer, mental health, and capital projects. A committee of three (3) members of both the House and Senate and three people from the Governor's office will be created to make these decisions. The State and communities should work together to use federal funding. The State has hired Guidehouse to help provide guidance to towns for using American Rescue Plan Assistance (ARPA) funds. We must have an accounting firm behind what we do, and they will also provide guidance. The State has a lot of money that can be used for matching funds. Senator Morse is available any time to discuss projects. There should be money from the federal government for infrastructure depending on what happens in Washington.

J. Blinn asks if the money from a Washington infrastructure plan is over and above what we are discussing tonight.

Senator Morse replies, yes.

J. DeRoche asks what the major concerns of Southern New Hampshire are.

Senator Morse replies, education and the cost of living.

Trustee of the Trust Funds – Perpetual Care

Jill Senter, Chairman of the Trustees of the Trust Funds explains the non-judicial settlement agreement regarding the perpetual care funds for Maplewood North Parish Cemetery. Currently, Plaistow's Trustees of the Trust Funds hold the funds for Maplewood North Parish Cemetery. However, Maplewood has their own board, and they sell their own lots. There is no reason for Plaistow to hold their perpetual care funds. About twenty (20) years ago Plaistow also held perpetual care funds for Holy Angles Cemetery. Finally Holy Angles took theirs over and this agreement does the same thing. The agreement was drawn up by Attorney Kalman. The Plaistow Trustees of the Trust Fund signed it at their last meeting. If the Board of Selectmen sign it tonight it will go to Maplewood and then to the New Hampshire Director of Charitable Trusts.

J. DeRoche asks if Plaistow reaps any benefit from holding Maplewood's perpetual care funds.

J. Senter replies, no. We are basically doing free bookkeeping for them.

J. DeRoche motions that the Town of Plaistow Board of Selectmen, transfers the management and custody of the Maplewood North Parish Cemetery perpetual care funds (currently held by Plaistow's Trustees of the Trust Funds) to Maplewood North Parish Cemetery Association. The Board further asks the Trustees of the Trust Funds to transfer the funds' remaining balances, including all accrued interest income to the date of withdrawal, to Maplewood North Parish Cemetery Association. The funds combined balances as of June 30, 2021, were \$6,390.41. This agreement has been approved by the Town of Plaistow Board of Selectmen, the Town of Plaistow Trustees of the Trust Funds, the Maplewood North Parish Cemetery Association, and the New Hampshire Director of Charitable Trusts, by and through duly authorized officials of each body/entity, and consent. Seconded by G. Taillon. There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Conservation Commission Updates

J. Senter, Chairman of the Conservation Commission states the maintenance cut in the Town Forest is still in process. More hemlocks than anticipated must be cut due to the amount of disease amongst

them. The cutting is taking place on the western side near Kelly Brook. At some point the eastern side will be addressed for the dead hemlocks. It should take three to four (3 to 4) more weeks before the job is complete.

G. Taillon asks if cutting the dead hemlocks will help save any of the other hemlocks.

J. Senter replies, the disease keeps spreading. They are hoping something will be developed to save trees. Recently Jill heard from a Boy Scout who wants to work on an Eagle Scout project repairing trails that have been damaged by the maintenance cut. He also plans to put in new trail blazers and markers. He will come before the Board in the future.

Next, J. Senter talks about prime wetlands. The Conservation Commission is in the process of delineating prime wetlands. Most of the mapping is done. The next step is to determine which of the forty-four wetlands meet the criteria for prime wetlands. A vote at an annual Town Meeting is required to take place before prime wetlands are determined. Public hearings will be held, and abutters will be notified before Town Meeting. Following the vote, the State of New Hampshire will decide which areas qualify as prime wetlands. New tax maps will be done. Wetlands are determined by soil type.

J. DeRoche asks if we know approximately how many parcels/areas will be designated as prime wetlands.

J. Senter, replies, not yet. Some of the consideration includes wildlife, nature, and productivity. Some of Plaistow's wetlands are too damaged to be prime wetlands. Some of the larger and better wetlands will probably become prime wetlands.

G. Taillon asks how prime wetlands effect Planning Board decisions.

J. Senter replies setbacks were changed from 25 feet to 100 feet. It will be June or July 2022 before we have prime wetlands. Once we have them anything already built will be grandfathered. The Planning Board will apply rules going forward.

Approval of Spending Additional Funds for S.C.B.A. (self-contained breathing apparatus)

Gear

G. Colby reminds the Board they voted in favor of allowing the Fire Department to withdraw and spend \$223,775 on 8/30/21 for S.C.B.A. (self-contained breathing apparatus) Gear. Chief Knutsen wanted to spend more however at the time it was thought that only \$223,775 was available. G. Colby spoke with the investment company to determine how capital gains were applied to the fund. After several calls and discussions, the investment firm applied capital gains to the account. Therefore, another \$16,225.00 is available. By allowing Chief Knutsen to spend the remaining balance he will be able to purchase everything needed.

G. Taillon motions to withdraw \$16,225.00 from the Fire Department Capital Improvement Program, S.C.B.A. (self-contained breathing apparatus) fund for the purchase of 4 SCOTT Sca-Pak Plus Air Hose, 1 Multi-Pak Air Rescue Cart, Facepieces, and associated connections to make the system operable. Pricing is negotiated per Mass. State Contract FIR04. Seconded by J. DeRoche. There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Approval of Library Trustee

There is consensus amongst the Board to appoint Michelle Sykes as Library Trustee for the remainder of the term recently vacated by Jane Query. This was recommended to the Board by the library trustees. The Board thanks Michell for volunteering to fill the position.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes

G. Taillon motions to approve the Executive Session minutes of August 30, 2021 and keep them sealed. Seconded by J. DeRoche. There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Town Managers Report

- Working on the budget. G. Colby will present it to the Board of Selectmen on 9/20/21.
- Two responses were received for the Trash & Recycling RFP. Copies were given to the selectmen to review. It will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Scrap metal from the landfill was sold for almost \$15,000.00.
- The Assessors are close to finishing preliminary values. On average single-family homes increased 13%, condominiums increased 16% and commercial properties increased 9%. The total increase in value is 12%. The updated values are on the Town's website and books are available for viewing at Town Hall and the library.
- Negotiations have started for the Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- Next week Gene Forbes will attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss water policies.
- All departments are busy, and things are going in the right direction.

Selectmen's Reports

B. Coye

- Attended the Elder Affairs Cookout.
- Attended the 9/11 Ceremony.
- Attended the Recreation Commission meeting. A Boy Scout is planning to do an Eagle Scout project making stairs leading to the start of the trails at PARC (Plaistow Area Recreation Complex).

J. DeRoche

- Attended the 9/11 Ceremony.
- Attended the Senior Cookout.
- Attended the TRAC committee meeting. Waste Zero gave the committee a presentation on reducing waste. One of their ideas is to have residents buy specific bags to be used for trash. The revenue for the sale of the bags comes back to the town and can be used to offset the cost of collection. J. DeRoche gives the selectmen a copy of the presentation.

G. Taillon

- Attended the Planning Board meeting.
- Attended the Energy Committee meeting. They are considering a solar field at the landfill. It will be more beneficial now that the State has changed the net metering rule.
- Has been working with Mark Gilford on the cemetery project. It entails digging up the new section, removing ledge, leveling it out then planting grass. They will meet with Dee and add this project to the CIP once they have a better idea of costs.

J. Blinn

- Attended the 9/11 Ceremony.

- Attended the Senior Cookout. He thanks the Lions Club for cooking.

Other Business

None

G. Taillon motions to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by B. Coye. There was no discussion on the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack
Recording Secretary