



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

Plaistow Board of Selectmen Minutes

Date: March 6, 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.

Town Report Dedication

Chair DeRoche invites Dee Voss to the podium.

D. Voss states the Town Report Committee decides who the report will be dedicated to. She thanks the following people who assisted with proof reading Cathy Willis, Beth Hossack, Jay DeRoche, and Lori Sadewicz.

D. Voss is happy to announce the 2022 Annual Town Report is dedicated to John A. Blinn, Sr. She wishes she could present it to him in person. John was a great man.

Chair DeRoche states John holds a special place in all our hearts. He always tried to make things better.

Selectman Coye states John put the town first. He is glad he had the opportunity to work with him as a selectman and get to know him better.

Selectman Britton states during some of the dark hours of town John was able to make him laugh. He has a way of not getting overly excited about the negative stuff. He was a stabilizing force and will be missed.

Selectman Gifford states he knew John long before he was a selectman. John was the one who encouraged him to become a selectman. He will miss John and it is a great loss.

Selectman Britton states he will miss John's voice mail message, "leave a message".

Tammy Bergeron thanks the Board. John did wear many hats.

Chair DeRoche states he missed last week's meeting however he did watch it. He would like to make a statement to Plaistow residents. He states the Board is sorry about all the issues many have dealt with regarding water. They are also frustrated and are working through the issues. He realizes some people may have lost trust in the water system and the Board. He wants to rebuild that trust. The State of New Hampshire received a formal complaint about the water. The State responded with a letter to the resident. Chair DeRoche reads the response letter written by Brandon Kernen, P.G.,

Administrator NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau. The letter explains the state and federal standards for notification of a violation found in drinking water. The letter also provides guidance on HAA5 (Haloacetic acids). Long term use is based on drinking two (2) liters of water every day for seventy years (70). Short term exposure of levels above 60 ppb are not an acute health concern even for vulnerable populations.

The state posts the results of all water tests on their website, NHDES OneStop. We will add this link to the Town's website under the Water Department.

Public Comment

Jackie Freeman, 4 Kelleher Ave is a lifelong resident of Plaistow. Back in 2002 she found out her well water was contaminated with MtBE. Now many years later she is dealing with contamination in the Town's new water system. She feels blindsided and angry.

Christine Sciacca, 3 Kelleher Ave thanks Chair DeRoche for reading the letter. She still feels she and others should have been told about the water problem before being connected. C. S also feels the Town is not helping the people. They are paying their water bill and still buying drinking water at the store.

Chair DeRoche states the Board will discuss it however he does not think anything the Board does will ease their minds. The contamination is a byproduct of the cleaning process. Bottled water goes through the same process.

Selectman Gifford states, he was recently connected to the water system. He is drinking the water and had not noticed a bad smell or taste. He also states the Town has taken steps to mitigate the problem. One step was hiring a cleaning crew to clean the Sweet Hill Tank.

Christine Sciacca asks where the water sample on October 22 was taken.

Chair DeRoche replies, Sweet Hill Road,

A test was taken from a resident on Kelleher Ave on March 3. The results should be back around March 13 or 14.

Shelly Whalen, 12 Kelleher Ave believes the ethics component has been overlooked. Residents should have been told the water was unsafe before connecting to the system. She is not happy with the explanation of the toxicologist regarding short term and long term. She feels five (5) years is long term. Why is the Town not telling people now, before they hook up? It is an ethical issue, and she feels the Board of Selectmen are responsible.

Chair DeRoche states going forward we are giving new users the contamination letter prior to hookup. It is not required, however they are doing it for transparency. The water system is new to the Board, and they are working hard to do better and inform residents.

Shelly Whalen is concerned that several years has turned into seventy (70) years.

Selectman Britton states this is a learning experience for the Board. We will post results of all water tests as soon as possible.

Linda Comeau, 4 Laurel Ave states the well water at her house was contaminated with arsenic. The State put in a filtration system. Her house was on the list to connect to Town Water. Her question is, can she go back to the filtration system she had?

Town Manager Colby states, yes however a procedure would need to be figured out and there will be an associated cost.

Linda Comeau does not believe the cost should be her responsibility.

Christine Sciacca asks if the State will put her back on a filtration system.

Town Manager Colby replies, no. The State connected residents affected by MtBE to the water system. They are no longer paying for the filtration system.

Joe Byron, Sweet Hill Road states it's always the little guy that takes a hit. He does not think these residents should have to pay water bills and pay for water at the store.

95 Plaistow Road Water Connection – Mark Marino

Chair DeRoche states Mark Marino asked to be on the agenda to discuss water connection. He invites Mark to the podium.

Mark Marino states his family has a large commercial property at 95 Plaistow Road. They want to connect to the new potable water system. He refers to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in November 2021. His understanding is that there is no cost to connect the commercial building to the water system.

Town Manager Colby states the property is one of the MtBE sites and the State of New Hampshire is paying to connect MtBE properties to the system. The Town of Plaistow is the agent, the State is the responsible party. In the MOU the State agreed to install seven (7) water meters in the building. Underwood Engineering agreed with the States plan. However, after reviewing a plumbing report seven meters will not be enough since the current plumbing is a tangled mess. Mark Marino states it is not the responsibility of the family to pay approximately \$25,000 to complete all the connections. Selectman Britton states from the meter back to the system is the responsibility of the Town. From the meter forward into a building is the responsibility of the owner.

Mark Marino states the building has over thirty-two (32) commercial units. He states the State of New Hampshire has 2.6 million to spend on water.

Gene Forbes states the State made it clear that they will only fund the meter connections for 7 meters. They are not paying for a redesign of the plumbing system or buying water heaters. Mark Marino requested an arbitrary configuration.

Chair DeRoche states we do not have a large pot of money. We need to get approval on connections, then the State will cover the expenses for connections to MtBE property owners.

Mark Marino disagrees.

Chair DeRoche asks Mark Marino to see if we can continue to meet and see if there is a way to work things out. He thanks Mr. Marino for attending tonight.

Fire Department Explorers

Deferred to the next meeting.

Town Managers Report

- Working with Charlie Lanza from Hampstead Area Water Company & Gene Forbes from Underwood Engineering on water issues. We are taking water samples weekly and flushing the system more often. Chair DeRoche asks someone to explain the flushing process.

Charlie Lanza states a hydrant is opened to let water out causing a lot of water to move through the system. Charlie Lanza states as a public water system our water is also tested for bacteria and many other things.

- The salt line item for the Highway budget has taken a big hit lately.
- There are some serious motor issues with one of the highway trucks.

Consent Agenda

Item Description

1. Accounts Payable Manifest – week of March 9th.
2. BOS draft minutes – February 27^h, 2023
3. One (1) Abatement Request
4. Three (3) Veterans Tax Credit Applications
5. Two (2) Conservation Commission Member Reappointments

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

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion carries.

Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Britton – nothing to report

Selectman Gifford

- Was going to attend the Energy Committee Meeting however there was no quorum. They are looking for participants to join the subcommittee.

Selectman Coye

- Attended the Planning Board Meeting. They are considering joining the Salem Chamber of Commerce. There is no cost to join.
- Attended the event for Norman & Brenda Major.
- Saturday at the American Legion, there will be a meat raffle. All proceeds will be used for Old Home Day.

Selectman DeRoche

- Attended the event for Norman & Brenda Major. It was a well-attended community event.

Events

1. Candidates Night – Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 7 at the Plaistow Library @ 6:30 p.m. The meet & greet portion starts @ 6:00 p.m.
2. Elections will take place on Tuesday, March 14 at the Plaistow Fish & Game Club, 18 May Ray Ave from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Note new location and time)
3. Run of the Savages – Saturday, April 15, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m. – Pollard School

Other Business

Chair DeRoche states he believes the best course of action for parking issues on Davis Park will be to include Davis Park and Plaistow Area Recreation Complex as part of the Town Code. This will be done through a ballot vote in 2024. All parks in Town will have the same regulations. There will be no specific parking bans.

As there is no further business before the Board, Chair DeRoche adjourned the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Administrative Specialist