

Minutes of regular meeting of the Plainfield Planning Board

Meeting Date: 2/8/17

Present: Brian Hawthorne, Claude DuPont, Peter Lapointe

Guest: David Kramer, sitting in to consider serving on the board.

The meeting was called to order @ 7:05

#### Regular Business

1. Motion from Claude DuPont to make Brian Hawthorne Chair of the Board, Lapointe seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor. Peter Lapointe agreed to be secretary and record the minutes.
2. Minutes of the 12/14/16 meeting were read and approved. No meeting was held in January.

#### New Business

##### 1) Mail:

Rec'd letter from Greenfield Savings Bank announcing sale @ auction of Back Acres Farm.

Rec'd letter of Ed Moran's resignation from the planning board.

Rec'd M3 Quarterly Newsletter from Baystate Roads (LTAP)

##### 2) Brian will prepare board summary for the Annual Report.

3) Annual Budget: Discussed level funding or reduction since public notices are main source of expenditures. Peter Lapointe queried why the town doesn't have a shared line item for all boards to draw from to allow each board to fund only administrative costs. Brian will bring this idea to the Finance Committee. Planning board will recommend \$1000 budget that can be reduced to \$250 if a shared fund is created for posting public notices.

##### 4) Future Projects: Discussed potential projects for the board to consider.

Village Center Business By-law: (Tabled last year). We could work on updating and building consensus for facilitating local business growth.

Broadband Project: Unsure of role, but, may require planning board input.

Solar Project: There appears to be the first filing for Special Permit under the Solar By-law. The board will be asked to comment by the ZBA. No formal request has been rec'd as yet.

Smart Growth and Sub-division By-law: Broadband service is essential to town growth, encouraging growth is essential to the health of the town. Since we are a residential community, new growth has an impact on town finances since school funding is a major component of the annual budget. The board could foster a town discussion to identify where the town sees potential for growth and how we can create an environment to encourage it.

Sub-Division By-law could encourage cluster housing to protect natural resources. Zoning changes in the village center could create better use of larger dwellings. Identifying soils and soil protection overlays could preserve best agricultural resources.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15pm

Minutes approved at 3/8/17 meeting.