

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, May 24, 2022

Rebecca Coletta and Patrick Williamson were present; Hilary Weeks was absent. Patrick agreed to act as temporary chair. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Police Chief

Chief Justin Litchfield read the April call log. The list included motor vehicle stops, BOLO (be-on-the-lookout), mutual aid, medical emergencies, etc. The report will be posted on the PPD web page.

The towns of Plainfield, Ashfield, Goshen, Buckland, Shelburne, Colrain, and Conway are applying for a grant that will provide funds for co-response clinicians to respond to mental health crisis. In an effort to divert those with mental health issues out of the criminal justice system a strong mental health/police collaboration is recommended. The Plainfield Police Department has adopted a policy for co-response clinicians. Additional information is planned for the next Select board meeting with a presentation by the Ashfield police chief.

Justin also reported there has been a meeting of the Plainfield Emergency Management Staff.

Mosquito Spraying Opt-Out

Plainfield residents were in attendance in support of this year's proposal to opt out of mosquito spraying in Plainfield. A well-attended informational meeting on the issue was held via Zoom on May 17th. Pleun Bouricius read Educational materials on knowing the risks and self-protection from mosquitoes. Information will be available in the form of posters and brochures in addition to notices on the town web site, other web sites, and in the Plainfield Post. Individual landowners may also opt out of spraying on their own behalf. It was noted while public opinion is in favor of opting out, the Select Board vote is not dependent on any other opinion. Kimberly Longey suggested landowners who wish to opt out individually do so in addition to the Select board vote. Patrick moved that Plainfield opt out of mosquito spraying. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved by the two members present.

Plainfield Walking Trails Brochure

Patrick moved to approve the grant funded brochure detailing 10 walking trails in Plainfield. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved. The brochure was produced in conjunction with a COA ad hoc group and the Collaborative for Educational Services. Jerry Little noted copies of the brochure will be proved to the Police, Fire/EMT's, Highway Department, COA, and the Recreation Committee.

Community Policing Survey Recommendations

Patrick began discussion of the Plainfield Police Working Group's follow-up recommendations to the Community Policing Survey by posing the question of how to go about the process. He reminded everyone the Select Board has to post meetings and meet publicly and doesn't expect to handle the recommendations at this meeting. He advised organizing the recommendations in such a manner that they can be discussed in a public meeting. One idea is to have the Select Board designated liaison to the police department meet with the police chief to organize the recommendations prior to public discussion.

Judy Cole suggested meetings at different days and times in deference to those who might wish to attend.

Pleun Bouricius referenced her previous idea of public forums with an independent professional moderator.

Kimberly Longey noted the Working Group's efforts and reports. She is in support of Patrick's ideas suggesting prepared responses to the recommendations adding public forums are not productive.

Rebecca concurs the Select Board and police work at a meeting of the Select Board possibly working on two recommendations at a time. Breaking them down into manageable parts is reasonable.

Patrick replied, "Yes" in answer to the question of whether the Board accepts written input.

MLP

MLP Manager Kimberly Longey reported on the status of the Broadband Board bylaw that was tabled at the annual town meeting. She and Hilary met with town counsel who is researching the legality of an appointed MLP Board.

The posting and hiring of an MLP manager was discussed. Both Patrick and Rebecca agree that posting the managerial position seems logical. The FY23 Enterprise Budget provides funding for the position. Efforts for a shared position with another town have not worked out. Patrick moved to initiate a search for an MLP manager. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved.

PVFD Members Recognition

On May 18, 2022 several members of the Plainfield were recognized for their efforts as both EMT's and First Responders at annual Hampshire County EMS Public Safety Awards Night in Easthampton. Those recognized included:
EMT Debbie Stevens- 10-year EMT service pin; Recognition award for Cummington rescue in 2020.

Lt./EMT Ellen Dupont- 10-year EMT service pin

Lt. Andy Stevens, Recognition award for Cummington rescue in 2020

Captain/EMT Rob Shearer- 20-year EMT service pin; 2 Save awards for multiple Cummington rescues

Fire Chief David Alvord- 40-year EMT service pin; 2 Save awards for multiple Cummington rescues in 2020

Congratulations to PVFD/EMT's.

Correspondence

Notice of rate increases from KP Law effective July 1, 2022.

The Board received an Abutters Notification from NSTAR/Eversource in regard to a NOI filed with the Conservation Commission.

Notice of the vegetation management program was received from Eversource.

The April ACO report was received from Kate Nevins.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary