



**Town of Plymouth
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Plymouth Town Hall
Plymouth, NH 03264**

February 25, 2019

Members Present: Mr. John Randlett, Mr. Bryan Dutille, Mrs. Valerie Scarborough and Mr. Michael Ahern

Members Absent: Mr. William Bolton

Others Present: Mr. Paul Freitas

6:00 PM: Mr. Randlett called the meeting to order with Mr. Ahern leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Minutes:

- **February 11, 2019 – Work Session** - Mr. Dutille made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ahern to approve these minutes. **All in favor.**
- **February 11, 2019 – Non-Public Work Session Meeting Minutes** - Mr. Ahern made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Scarborough to approve these minutes. **All in favor.**
- **February 11, 2019 – Regular Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Ahern made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dutille to approve these minutes. **All in favor.**

Announcements:

- The Select Board will meet on the following dates:
 - **Work Session Meeting** – 5:00 PM: Monday, March 18th.
 - **Regular Meetings** – 6:00 PM: Monday, March 25th, April 8th, and April 22nd. Work sessions prior to the regular meetings will start at 5:00 PM.
- Town Election, Tuesday, March 12th, 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM: Plymouth Elementary School (PES) Gym.
- Town Meeting, Wednesday, March 13th, 7:00 PM: Plymouth Elementary School (PES) Gym.

All of the above meetings will be held in the Town Hall, unless otherwise posted.

- Citizens wishing to be listed on the Select Board's Agenda should notify the Town Hall before 12:00 PM the Friday before the scheduled meeting.

- Alternate members are always needed to fill positions on the Zoning and Planning Boards. If interested, please submit a letter of intent to the Plymouth Select Board's Office at 6 Post Office Square, Plymouth, NH 03264.

Chairman's Comments: None

Plaque Presentations: None

Correspondence:

- Legislative Bulletin (see attached) Mr. Randlett read the attached Bulletin and stated the Town had hoped this would aid the municipalities, but this Bulletin does not seem to do that although it has not been approved as of this date.
- Proclamation request from Shelby Barden, President PSU Athletic Training Student Organization. (see attached) – Mrs. Scarborough moved that the Board declare the proclamation as requested, which was seconded by Mr. Ahern. All in favor. The attached Proclamation was signed by the Select Board.

Visitors:

- Ladd Raine – Plymouth Energy Commission's future. Friendly reminder that activities have been suspended with reassessment prior to town meeting. With town meeting right around the corner, the Commission has had a hard time finding people to serve on this commission, although they believe it is a worthwhile adventure. Mrs. Scarborough stated that the correspondence has been received in increasing attendance and implementation and possible repurposing of efforts. Mr. Randlett stated the Planning Board is working now with short fixes and believes that there is a strong potential for calling on the Commission in any way possible. Mr. Raine stated that was the intention initially. Mr. Ahern suggested that the lighting in town is poor and he would really like to see that improved for the safety of the residents, students and visitors. Questioned if the intent was to bring it back to the candle days. Mrs. Scarborough stated that the lighting was more a cooperation issue of energy commission and the electric company. A study was done to eliminate lights but with safety concerns, could not eliminate lighting. A different type of bulb was installed, which was actually supposed to light it better than it used to be and for less money. It was supposed to be greater efficiency, although it actually ended up costing the town more. Mr. Ahern questioned if there were less lights or the lights put in were more alums? Mrs. Scarborough stated that Mike Conklin was more involved and the evolution of the process had started when she was initially on the Board. Most of the lights initially wanted were for the outskirts of town, in more residential areas, where street lights were

outside people's homes. But it is agreed that the heavier traffic areas deserve lighting. Mr. Randlett stated that working on the planning board he would see what they can do to provide implementation on some assignments with the Commission as individuals were going to be assigned for certain areas.

6:15 PM Public Hearing:

- KENO 603: (See Attached Warrant Article) Discussion of KENO gaming, a revenue source to fund full-day kindergarten.
- 6:16 opened up for public comment on this warrant article. Resident, Frank Miller, stated he was neither for or against KENO and believed it should be up to the residents at Town Meeting to decide. He also stated it is voluntary for business to also decide if they want to participate in KENO for sale to the public. Mr. Miller went on to state that if KENO is beneficial to the kindergarten budget that would be nice. Mr. Ahern asked if anyone had come to the Town asking any questions about KENO. Mr. Randlett confirmed that Lucky Dog had come forward to get it on the ballot, although two or three had expressed some interest.
- Public Hearing closed at 6:19 with no further public comment.

Appointments: None

PSU Update: None

Public Hearing: None

Permit Requests: None

Updates and Recommendations: None

Unfinished Business: None

New/Other Business: None

Committee Reports:

- **Business & Economic Development Committee:** Mr. Ahern provided copies to the Select Board. He was not sure how far this committee would go but did not want it to continue and go endlessly. They've had four meetings, including one where they had the stakeholders and community members that had land, property or business owners that wanted to voice their opinion. Their input was used in the plan that basically points out the history of Plymouth and the agricultural zone being still prominent today. Listed strengths/weaknesses/threats and what this committee believes is the vision for the future of Plymouth. High tech, light manufacturing, unique shopping and, unavoidably, a big

box store. A large manufacturing operation would probably not be supported due to the lack people and travel distances. The goals were listed, with the first being two main problem: Lack of parking downtown and high taxes. Phase 2 will be coming up with the Main Street Merchants Association which will have their first organizational meeting called Let's Grow – Shop Local Campaign – to be held on March 14 for the downtown merchants at Town Hall at 8:30 AM. There was one in the past, Main Street Organization, but it appears the funds dried up at some point. If there is enough interest in starting this up again, we'll find out on the 14th. Other goals were potential parking at the Plymouth Inn property since it is empty and its proximity to downtown if parking could be fit into that lot. It would be very expensive to put in a parking garage, especially if it was multi-tiered. They are going to look at the possibility of minimal excavation, with lower parking and a tiered upper parking entrance from the back. This way the two tiers don't have to be connected and would include stairway entry. This option rose out of extreme concern about parking downtown where people drive around town, can't find parking, and don't do their shopping. Most towns have an offsite parking area within walking distance, which we don't have. Another goal would be a bike/walking path along the river and hopefully combine downtown areas where people shop to a walking path down by the river. This path could connect to the Baker River with a walking/biking path down to Smith Bridge. Another area identified was Town Rest Road, the road behind O'Reilly, for a potential parallel road. This would expand the commercial district for Plymouth by having more buildings, alleviate congestion on Tenney Mountain Hwy and bring in more tax dollars. Green Street was identified as another commercial space for retail shops which could open more parking as well. These ideas came up because it is believed if we don't plan for it, we're going to have to react to it when it's too late. If we could get these goals in place, knowing that while we don't have the funding right now, but planning for it, then if NAPA should come before the Planning Board, they would be aware the Town wants this road. In other words, if you want to develop your property, make consideration for this road for the benefit of the land owner. Other ideas include Old Ward Bridge Road having another access into the school buildings besides Highland. Possibly access from Tenney Mountain Highway alleviating congestion in the morning, sporting events, etc. A Teen Center is another idea. If the private sector could get together to spearhead something like that, outside of the town revenue using private resources, that would be a boom for the town. When new businesses want to expand or start up in the community, the owners are looking for quality of life for their employees. Having things that improve employee quality of life, a teen center, bike paths, good egress for schools, etc., is an attractant. We already have so much that these things are just identified as things to

improve. The Green Street kiosk is used every day. We may be 5 or 6 years out from the Armor moving out which also opens up property which could be parking or another retail space. Plan for it now rather than have an applicant come in and want to build something we oppose. The Town should really have a proposal. Mr. Miller added that the Green Street project and South Main Economic Development program were designed primarily for economic development that included parking. It was called the TIFF District and people didn't understand what it meant. One problem was the downtown area has four zones and it's in the same configuration as it has been since 1961 when it was established. There have been a lot of changes to the village commercial zone and we need to reevaluate the actual zones. For example, Green Street is an agricultural zone. You can stand at the park and throw a stone to all four zones, but people view it as the downtown area. But when you're doing a TIFF district, you have to inventory the value of the structures and businesses within the specific zone. That was very difficult for people to wrap their head around. If the leadership, mentors, select boards, and boards can't understand it, the citizens don't have any idea. That is why we didn't get the 2 million South Main Street improvement passed. If we started some of these projects as recommended at the meeting, we need to do a better job at public relations and marketing for ourselves. That way people can acknowledge and support the Town taking action and trying to improve things because that's where the confusion lies. Mr. Ahern stated there are parts of this plan directly from the Master Plan and although it's not complete, it's a start. This is now up to the Select Board as to what they want to tackle, and when and what should be put aside. Mr. Randlett said this would be good for the work session. Especially if it benefits the goals of the Master Plan implementation. Mr. Ahern is hoping when the Merchants meet, that they have good representative of the businesses. If you own a business downtown it would be important to attend that meeting. Fliers will be passed out to business owners to be sure they know about this meeting.

- **Conservation Commission:** Mrs. Scarborough attending this meeting and Ms. Ahearn, the Environmental Science teacher from PRHS and her students, came up with developing a website linked to the town website that highlights the features of our town in terms of conservation and environment. This website has interactive features built in allowing people to look at town maps and see their property and confirm their boundaries, etc. It also has useful info on the Walter Newton area and other conservation areas in the town which is very exciting. Mr. Randlett agreed this is a great way for people to see where to hike and the all of the different trails, etc. Everyone goes to a website when you go to a new town and if you have a short video or flyover to see what's there it is very informative.

- **Student Senate Meeting:** Mr. Dutille was invited to attend a Plymouth State University Student Senate Meeting with the local landlords. There was some good communication with the University and the community. They asked for a Select Board Representative and Mr. Dutille agreed to provide his services. This would be a taskforce or offshoot of the CCC. This meeting will be Tues the 5th of March.
- **Chamber of Commerce:**
- **Water District:**
- **Campus Community Council Meeting.**
- **Public Comment: None**
- **Appreciation:** Mr. Randlett extended his thanks to Paul Freitas and the Emergency Management Team and town employees for the great work done with the residents involved in the fire on Adrian's Way. Paul Freitas Team, as well as the Select Board, their spouses and volunteers truly lessened the impact on these residents, with the assistance of the Red Cross, Police and Fire. Also, thanks to the Bridge House who provided showers and meals for the residents during this 3 to 4-day event. All residents have returned to their homes, expect for one who will be able to return in a couple of weeks.
- **New Business:** In a past Select Board Meeting, Brandon Miller spoke on behalf of the Farmer's Market. He has been told the Farmer's Market could not be held on the town common. The reason provided was that the family that donated the land had the stipulation that no monetary transactions could occur on that land. A confirmation of any and all stipulations related to the Town Common would be beneficial to truly know the intent of the donor. Ms. Lowe stated she would look into it.

6:45 PM - Motion to go back to Work Session made by Mr. Ahern, seconded by Mrs. Scarborough. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Kenny