



BOARD OF
SELECTMEN
MEETING
MINUTES

October 27th , 2014
6:00 pm
Plympton Town House
Community Meeting Room

Minutes approved 11.3.14

Present: Chairman Mark Russo, John Henry and Colleen Thompson

Chairman Russo called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Mr. Russo opened meeting with “ground rules” and asked all in attendance to take a few minutes of silence for a moment of reflection and peace.

Brook House Retreat:

- Building Commissioner, Thomas Millias was present to give an update to all concerned residents in attendance. He first wanted to convey that the decision of this permit will ultimately be based on the law. He is not concerned with being “popular”. He wanted to express gratitude to all residents for their help gathering information and documents. After talking with Town Counsel he has some new requests for the applicant. Fire alarm system needs to be installed and building code issues are being addressed. He made it clear that a decision will not be made for another couple days. Town Counsel reviewed most documents and is still reviewing more. He wants to make sure Town Counsel has adequate time to review everything.
- Residents had platform to ask Mr. Millias questions regarding the permit and voice concerns.
 - Residents wanted to know what Mr. Millias was requesting from applicant, were all copies of leases provided?
 - Residents wanted to make sure the 501 (C)(3) was licensed by state and was complete.
 - Residents stated that if Brook House is a so called “Sober House” it doesn’t qualify under the Dover Amendment. Questions about zoning came up and how Brook House was originally issued a zoning variance for 16 handicap spots and then changed to 10 due to septic issues.
 - Brochures keep changing from “sober” to “education”? Town offers free AA meetings at church, why do we need a Sober House?
 - Residents believe this is a threat to their lifestyle. Brook House would be 100 yards away from a daycare and twelve retired families.

-Residents explained that Brook House is mirroring another center, Cross Keys Treatment Center. Cross Keys does a background check on all residents. They are required not to leave center. No cell phones and electronics allowed. Will Brook House live by these same rules?

-In general, anytime work is being done permits are issued and visible from houses. Why doesn't Brook House have any visible permits?

-Can Old Colony Planning counsel help out with this issue?

-Residents asked Mr. Millias if Town of Plympton could eventually be sued after decision. Mr. Millias said these are all valid concerns and assures residents that Town Counsel is looking down the road at all possible outcomes.

-Residents want to make sure Mr. Millias gets decision in writing and not a verbal agreement.

- Mr. Russo thanked Mr. Millias for all his hard work and collecting information from both sides. The goal of meeting was for both sides to be heard. It is extremely likely this will end up in Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Mr. Henry was concerned residents sent Town Counsel too many cases to review. Reiterated to Mr. Millias that BOS only approved Town Counsel up to ten hours and doesn't want to exceed that. Mr. Henry doesn't think it's favorable for Mr. Millias to be running around. Focus should be very narrow at this point in the process. If zoning is issued that is when the tougher questions should come and force us to deal with everything else. Should permit be issued or not, this is exactly what Town Counsel is helping determine for Mr. Millias.

Board of Health/Town Counsel Request:

- BOH wanted to be on agenda regarding health violations at 59 Parsonage Road. They were looking for BOS approval to consult with Town Counsel. In the interim they decided to seek free advice from a state health agency.

Gravel Permit:

- The Hayward Company LLC is seeking their annual Gravel permit renewal. We will address permit at next BOS meeting. Mr. Russo will check with owner to make sure this permit is strictly for Ring Road and not for their other bog off of Brook Street.

Use of Town property application:

- Parents of the Girl Scouts filled out an application for use of Town property on November 9, 2104 for a yard sale.

Voted: Motion made by Mr. Russo to approve application pending Girl Scout Insurance binder is provided. Second Ms. Thompson. 3/0

Solar Updates:

- Mr. Henry is still going back and forth with D.O.T. Both draft pilots are in the works.
- Solar Bylaw committee is in the process of being formed. Ms. Thompson will get a first meeting scheduled soon. Dale, Town Coordinator and Kristen, BOS assistant will start the process of getting members appointed and sworn in.

Abatement Deadline:

- There has been some chatter on Plympton helping Plympton regarding the deadline date for abatements. BOS talked to Town Treasurer, Assessors office and checked with D.O.R. Confirmed applications can be accepted for abatements through November 3rd, 2014.

Comcast Updates:

- Mr. Russo stated he was asked a year and a half ago to start looking into cable options since our ten year contract was up for renewal. Has been working with Halifax and Carver to form a tri-town studio. There are two draft agreements right now. One with Plympton and Comcast and another for the Tri-town agreement. Mr. Russo wanted to clarify contract. It is a mandated contract by Federal law. We chose firm Epstein and August because they deal exclusively with these types of contracts. There is a 4.5% surcharge for subscribers (on televised portion of bill), which would support and fund a new studio. Halifax contract template was used so it saved us money. Anyone can opt out of this service and switch to Direct TV, etc. So far three out of three Selectmen in Halifax have approved their contract and ten out of eleven Selectmen have approved the Tri-town agreement. Mr. Russo thinks this is a great contract that was not easy to put together. More coverage, much improved equipment and a partnership between three towns. Mr. Russo wanted to assure everyone he cares greatly for the Town of Plympton. Our attorneys have reviewed contract and are finalizing them now. BOS will vote within a week or two on this contract. There is a sense of urgency since there have been talks that present studio will close at the end of December.
- Mr. Henry does disagree with this contract. Does not think 4.5% surcharge is favorable. Is rental studio going out for bid? Mr. Russo said he would look into this with our lawyers. Questions arose if broadcast would be sent out to internet? If that is case, subscribers would be paying but anyone would have access to it. Karen Foye, a member of the Cable Advisory Committee stated she does believe broadcasts will

eventually be on the internet. Mr. Henry questioned what happens when Comcast's revenue drops, has this issue been addressed? Mr. Russo suggested there is no way to tell what will happen 10 years down the road let alone two years from now.

- Resident indicated that this contract has issues but agreed this is a good step for right now.
- Ms. Thompson disclosed all residents that have approached her are mostly concerned with having meetings televised. No one has said don't sign this contract. Mr. Henry disagreed and said that is not the opinion he is receiving, but no one has shown up to tonight's meeting to voice that concern.

Town Website/ I.T:

- To be discussed at a later date.

Future BOS Meeting Schedule:

- Every Monday in November (11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24) at 6:00 pm.

TOWN COORDINATOR REPORT:

- Mr. Pleau would like to implement an Institutional Electronic Information Policy for all emails for Town employees and Board members. Policy is intended to compliment laws, rules and regulations that govern the use of a computer networks, information security and personal privacy. Would cost approximately around \$700-1k to cover individual email addresses. Funds would need to be added to budget next year. Mr. Pleau will have policy drawn up and have BOS review it. The most effective way to implement would decide which departments would benefit the most from this policy and triage those appointed departments.

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Comcast open house 10/31, 1-8 pm at Halifax/Plympton Public Access Studio. Food and drinks. Come in costume. Drawing for Comcast customers for 6 months free cable.
- MMA registration for 2015 Annual Meeting.
- Old Colony Planning Council meeting minutes from September 24, 2014.
- Plympton-Halifax Express local paper.
- Letter from Chief of Police, Patrick Dillon asking BOS for approval to donate to the Town of Carver three surplus mobile police radios.

Voted: Motion made by Mr. Russo to approve donation of surplus mobile radios to Town of Carver. Ms. Thompson second. 3/0.

MINUTES:

- **Motion: Mr. Russo to accept minutes of 10/20/14 Executive meeting. Second Ms. Thompson. 3/0**
- **Motion: Mr. Russo to accept minutes of 10/20/14 BOS meeting minutes with corrections.
Second Ms. Thompson. 3/0**

MOTION: Mr. Russo to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Second Ms. Thompson. 3/0

Respectively submitted,



Kristen LeVangie

Board of Selectmen, Assistant

All Meeting Minutes are sent electronically to Town Clerk's Office and are posted on the Town website. A paper copy and electronic version is on file with the Selectmen's Office.

TOWN WEBSITE: WWW.Town.plympton.ma.us

SELECTMENS' ASSISTANT: Selecemen.assistant@town.plympton.ma.us