

## SELECTBOARD REPORT

The Board of Selectmen accomplished many projects in 2006. Our dedicated employees and committees assisted us in finalizing several of these projects. We continue to meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Meriden Town Hall.

We regret the loss of two of our outstanding employees, Betty Ann Dole and George Prescott each of whom spent many, many hours helping our residents and especially our children. They will be greatly missed.

Operationally, the most significant accomplishment during the year was a the signing of a contract with the City of Lebanon to have access to the Lebanon Landfill for our municipal solid waste. The contract with the NH/VT solid waste district expires on June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2007 and we will start delivering waste to Lebanon's facility July 1<sup>st</sup> with a much-reduced tipping fee. This new contract, which the selectboard had been working on since 2000, will serve our community very well particularly as the other 28 town's in our district begin to look for alternatives for their waste disposal. The Town's recycling coordinator and our solid waste committee continue to be very active insuring that our recycling programs including the curbside collection will continue.

The Police Chief and Town Administrator have worked with the State to set up an inoculation site at the Plainfield Elementary School for pandemic planning purposes. This effort is part of region #4 and will be shared with Cornish is the event that inoculations are needed.

Willow Brook Road received preliminary approval to receive \$190,000 of FEMA hazard mitigation dollars to assist with the reconstruction of some of the more threatening areas. Final approval remains pending, however, we feel optimistic that this will happen.

Westgate Road was reconstructed and paved by the highway crew. This was an excellent job and a great improvement to the neighborhood. In addition, Methodist Hill, one of our busiest commuting roads besides Willow Brook, was shimmed.

Baynes Road, constructed as part of the MVD, LLC subdivision development, was formally accepted by the Board of Selectmen on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Selectboard approved the use of our highway department crew for the school's municipal sewer hook up. This allowed the school to complete this work; despite being unable to obtain a competitive bid for the \$40,000 in allotted funds. Much of the work was done on weekend days. After deducting the hard costs of the project, the town hopes to deposit the \$20,400 received from the school for having done the work into the transportation enhancement fund to be used for Willow Brook Road. The Board of Selectmen is open to doing more of these types of projects in the future to help save tax dollars.

The Town was fortunate to receive an easement from Kimball Union for the portion of the French's Ledge trail network that is located on their land adjacent to the Plainfield School property. A private effort was made to build a bridge across Bloods brook which resulted in the "Sally & Ira Townsend Bridge." This bridge and the easement in combination with similar easements on the Townsend land will insure forever, public access to all the trails that surround the French's Ledges area.

Near the end of 2006, we were presented with a gift of land located adjacent to the town's existing gravel pit. The parcel is approximately ten acres and will significantly extend the useful life of our municipal gravel pit. This is a very generous gift and will be a great asset to the Town.

We thank all the town employees and our many volunteers for their continuing efforts to make Plainfield a great place to live.

Respectfully,

**The Plainfield Selectboard**

Judy Belyea (Chair)

Robert Taylor

Mark Wilder

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

As directed by the board of selectmen, the town office worked on the following projects during 2006:

**Solid Waste Disposal:** Based on work done by our current and past boards of selectmen dating back to 2000 and the ongoing efforts of our solid waste committee we will be able to gain access to the Lebanon landfill for our municipal solid waste starting in July of 2007. Given the proximity to Plainfield of this facility and its sub seventy-dollar tipping fee this new arrangement should serve our community very well. A key piece of this effort was the meeting of our Selectboard with the Lebanon City Council in August of this year. In a related matter, Plainfield continues to participate heavily in Lebanon's current efforts to promote savings through enhanced regional cooperation. It is expected that this larger effort will produce additional opportunities for cost savings.

**Property Assessments:** the town was able to defend the property appraisal model in use since the 2003 revaluation before the NH Supreme Court. This was the final piece of business related to the 2003 reappraisal. All factors that are contributory to value must be accounted for when developing a specific property's assessment. Further, to be granted an abatement a taxpayer must demonstrate that the property in question is being asked to pay a disproportionate share of the overall tax burden; simply criticizing the assessment methodology is not sufficient grounds to be granted relief.

**Brook Road:** The town has received preliminary approval from the Bureau of Emergency Management for approximately \$190,000 worth of FEMA hazard mitigation money to assist with the some of the most threatening areas along Brook Road. Final approval from FEMA, still pending, however, is expected. Senator Judd Gregg's office has been very helpful to Plainfield in this effort. The entire application process has taken nearly two years to complete and about \$5,000 of local money in engineering work.

**French's Ledges Trail Easement:** Building on the privately driven effort that was successful in reestablishing a bridge across Blood's Brook adjacent to the Plainfield