

SELECTBOARD REPORT 2008

2008 was another busy and productive year for Plainfield's Selectboard. We saw our longtime member Mark Wilder wrap up his tenure on the board and our newest Selectman Tom Williams take his seat at our meetings. The Town is grateful to Mark for his commitment and service to our citizens and is also thankful for Tom's willingness to step forward and fill the position. Many projects, both major and minor, were completed throughout the year. Without the hard work of our Town Officers, Town Staff and community volunteers none of this would have been possible.

The Selectboard, with the help of the Service Memorial Committee, was pleased to participate in the completion of the Service Memorial in 2008. The dedication ceremony took place at the start of the annual Fourth of July celebration. The memorial located at the entrance to the Plainfield Plan Cemetery serves as a tribute to all those from Plainfield who have provided service to our nation.

2008 saw significant work around Town on our roads. Willow Brook Road was substantially upgraded on the section closest to Meriden Village. Daniels Construction completed a major repair to the embankment near the covered bridge in the winter and Morrill Construction completed a road rebuild from the bridge to the Baptist Pool during the summer months. Much of the cost for this work was funded through a Hazard Mitigation Grant secured from the Federal Government. This work included the installation of new drainage systems to handle surface and subsurface water. Colby Hill Rd. was also upgraded from Mill Bridge to the Millar Pond access. This work was performed by our Town road crew under the direction of Road Agent Ken Stocker. Ken and the crew also performed a significant River Road bank stabilization during the summer near Sumner Falls. This work was also made possible by Federal funds. The Selectboard will continue to seek out monies from alternate sources (State, Federal, etc) to alleviate the tax burden on our residents. As traffic has increased and construction costs too, we are tasked with doing more with less. With this in mind the Selectboard has prioritized the prudent management of our Town Gravel/Sand Pit to further our resources there.

The Selectboard is pleased to report that the former Berwick Homestead on Route 12A was successfully removed in the fall. At our request (and with the help of a more than cooperative landowner and State and Federal officials), the building was razed and removed to the benefit of all who pass by that property. The Selectboard will continue to evaluate properties in Town where dilapidated structures present a clear hazard to public safety and health. As State Law requires, the Selectboard will also continue to pursue action against owners of unregistered cars and people with excessive trash and/or junk on their property.

The Town's acquisition of land along Bonner Road and adjacent to the Plainfield School was completed upon approval of Town Meeting. The small parcel is now owned by the public and is available for whatever the residents see fit in the future. The Selectboard would like to thank the Robinsons for making the land available to the Town. Future generations in Town will surely see the benefit of this forward thinking transaction.

A major update to the Town's tax assessments was completed in 2008. Working with the firm Avitar of New England, we reviewed and updated property assessments based on current market data. This update is required by the State of NH, and is overseen by the Department of Revenue Administration. The process went smoothly and the goals of fairness and accuracy were paramount. As is always the case, the tax value/information for all properties in Town are available at the Town Office for review by anyone. The process is meant to be completely transparent to residents. If you have a question, comment or concern, please bring them to the attention of the Selectboard or our Town Office Staff. Our mission is to everything possible to see that property values are accurate and up to date.

The Selectboard continued to work closely with the Plainfield School and School Board. With this cooperation, the construction of the new School parking lot was completed for much less cost than contracting the project out to private firms. The result was a significant savings to the taxpayers. This project improved the parking for the school as well as elections events and Town and School meetings. We will continue to discuss ways to further our Town/School relationship, particularly in the areas of our overlapping facility, energy and recreational (sports) needs.

Finally, the Selectboard would like to thank the many people and organizations in Town who make Plainfield what it is. First, to the Staff of our Town Office, Steve Halleran and Ruth Ann Wheeler, who keep our office as "even keeled" as any in the State. To Chief Gillens and his police staff for protecting us each and every day we say thank you. Our gratitude goes also to our two Fire Departments who volunteer their time to protect us all, along with the members of the Cornish Rescue Squad. And thanks to the many who volunteer their time on one of our many boards or committees. Lastly, the Selectboard has started visiting locations around Town to get to know

the Town on a more specific basis. If you would like to host the Selectboard for a tour or sit down meeting we would appreciate the opportunity. Please contact the Town Office to schedule one of these so called "outreach" events.

See you at Town Meeting,
Respectfully, **Robert Taylor Chair, Judy Belyea and Thomas Williams Jr.**