

SELECTBOARD REPORT -2015

Twelve months have come and gone, so it's time for another update from your Plainfield Selectboard. As is customary, listed below in no particular order are bullet points to summarize some of our work. Before we do anything, we would like to thank our dedicated and professional staff as well as the volunteers who work to make Plainfield such a great small town. We hope that you are as proud of your town as we are.

- River Road Phase 2- Pavement work and brush cutting were completed on the southern section of this road. River Road sees a lot of heavy traffic and is also susceptible to the effects of the Connecticut River.
- Penniman Road- A section of this road was completely re-engineered and rebuilt with help from our local retired State of NH civil engineer, Jeff Albright. This work was completed using our highway department staff and equipment as well as a rented excavator. Work included ditching, re-grading/sloping the driving surface as well as drainage improvements and resurfacing. We feel that the finished product is a vast improvement over what was there previously.
- Willow Brook Road- At the direction of the board, road agent Collins completed repairs along the southern end of this road. A partial slide was repaired in the vicinity of Orr's Corner and erosion control work was performed near Mill Bridge. This road continues to be one of the busiest town maintained roads. Somewhere in the vicinity of 1000 cars a day travel this road, making it one of our highest priorities for maintenance.
- Police Department- Police Chief Paul Roberts has had to carry an additional load due to an on the job injury to one of his officers. This fact has led to financial savings to the town in terms of payroll, but has also meant the remaining officers have had to take on the additional coverage.
- Underground Fuel System Removal- Using funds provided by the State of New Hampshire, the Selectboard authorized the removal of the underground fuel system located at the highway garage. This system was becoming more of a liability with each passing year, therefore removal and replacement seemed the proper course. Environmental regulations were becoming more stringent, creating more costs for monitoring leakage. This, coupled with the availability of funds for removal, made the decision easy. As a replacement we now have a specialized above ground fuel tank that is heavily armored four years of reliable, clean and safe use.
- Highway Garage Study Committee- The Selectboard would like to thank this committee for their work in analyzing our Highway Department facilities. You will recall this committee got its start when our Energy Committee recommended the installation of solar panels on top of the highway garage. In order to determine whether the roof structure was strong enough to support solar panels, a review of the truss system snowballed into so much more. The study committee was instrumental in selecting the new location for the above ground fuel system installed to replace the underground fuel system mentioned above. It was also determined by the committee that the septic system was in need of maintenance (already completed) and the dug water well needs to be replaced with an artesian

style well (to be completed in 2016). More work is planned for 2016 at the highway garage as we continue to mull over the report of the committee.

- Meriden Covered Bridge- The electrical service for the Mill (Covered) Bridge was replaced and electrical outlets were upgraded. Excessive corrosion to the old service made this work necessary. While completing this work it was determined that corrosion on the support structure underneath the bridge will require attention soon. This bridge is a Plainfield icon and we feel strongly that it be kept up and maintained well.
- State of Vermont Shooting Range- Members of the board participated in the discussions with the state of Vermont regarding the shooting range in Hartland, VT. Residents of Plainfield, particularly on Ferry Hill Road and Carvel Lane, have been deeply impacted by the increased use of the gun range. Hopefully changes to the rules of the facility as well as limits to its usage will help offset its impact. We will continue to monitor the situation and stand up for the rights of our residents to reasonably enjoy their own property.
- Dust Control/ Salt Extender Program- 2015 saw the initiation of a new dust control program for the town. The application of magnesium chloride with a new spray system is designed to help firm up dirt roads and reduce dust. The installation of new tanks and delivery of chemicals are making it possible to implement this new program. Early word from road agent Collins, as well as gravel road residents is that this is an improvement that is long overdue. The system also allows for the conversion to a salt extender chemical application for our winter road salt. This is supposed to improve the effectiveness of road salt (ie works at lower temperatures) and reduce its corrosiveness.
- Gravel Pit Land Acquisition- After five years of a group “lease to own” agreement, the acquisition of a parcel of land adjacent to the town's gravel was completed. This additional land includes a large building suitable for storing equipment. Given its proximity to our active pit, it is likely that this land will provide many years of gravel, sand and fill to the town. The Selectboard would like to thank Karl Klinges for his generous donation of this parcel. Now that the land transfer is official, we will develop plans for its use. Needless to say, the gravel pit and expanded landholdings is a significant asset to the town.
- Meriden Post Office- Included in this year's town meeting warrant is a proposal to spend money to study moving the Meriden Post Office to the site of the Meriden Library. This idea came to us via Kimball Union Academy, who would like to remove said post office from the center of their campus. The idea seems to have merit, so it is time to take the next step and look at possibilities as well as the feasibility for such a project. The Meriden Library is in desperate need of upgrades to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access requirements. The thought is to couple access improvements with the expansion/addition of a postal facility and kill two birds with one stone, as it were.
- Donated Vehicles from TransCanada- The Selectboard would like to thank resident Chuck Mekus for facilitating the donation of multiple vehicles by

his company, TransCanada, to the town. With his help we have secured 4 used, yet well maintained vehicles for various town departments. You may have seen the white trucks and SUVs around town.

We would like to invite you to join us for one of our bi-monthly meetings (on the first and third Wednesdays of each month). You can always call the Town office at 469-3201 to express any opinions. If you have questions, comments or concerns it is our duty to hear them out and respond accordingly. Also, please note that there is always a need for volunteers to serve Plainfield in a myriad of ways. If you have the will, we can find the way quite easily. As always, let us hope for good weather and good luck in 2016!

See you at Town Meeting,

Rob Taylor, Judy Belyea, , Ron Eberhardt



Plainfield resident Ema Mosher receiving the Boston Post Cane from Selectman Robert Taylor and Ron Eberhardt. Photo S. Halleran