

## **COVID 19 Word Wide Pandemic**

Thanks to Covid-19, 2020 was a year unique in our lifetime. As news of what was then called the Corona Virus became more widespread and serious, changes happened quickly. The voting portion of Town Meeting happened as usual on Tuesday, March 10 in the Plainfield Elementary School gym. By the following Saturday, it became clear that it would be ill-advised to hold our Town Meeting as scheduled on Saturday, March 14. The terms “quarantine” and “lock-down” quickly became part of our lived experience. Town Meeting was postponed and ultimately held outdoors in July under tents provided by Smith’s Auction Gallery. Family or household groups were able to sit together, but people not in the same household were asked to sit six feet apart. “Social Distancing” was now part of our everyday conversation. Public health officials informed us that in addition to social distancing, wearing of masks was the most effective way to control the spread of the virus. With little guidance on the federal level, there was a national controversy about the seriousness of the virus and the benefits of mask wearing. In August, Plainfield was one of the first towns in the state to pass a mask ordinance. The state of New Hampshire followed suit in November.

Plainfield’s local government has, using teleconferencing technology and recommended safety protocols remained open throughout the pandemic. Likewise, the Plainfield School has done an extraordinary job of continuing with the education of our children, offering both an online virtual program and in person education.

As we have worked through this most difficult year together, the tireless work our Human Services Director Stephanie Schell to keep all of our residents as safe as possible stands out among the many extraordinary efforts that town and school officials , employees and our residents have put forth.

We will get through this together.

Plainfield Board of Selectmen