

March 28, 2013

To: Plainfield Zoning Board

Attn: Richard Colburn, Chairman
Brad Atwater
Stephen Sheehan
Ted Moynihan
William McGonigle

Re: Proposal for the Sale of Firearms/Weapons
In Plainfield Village at the Vacant Store

Dear Plainfield Zoning Board,

I have been a resident of Plainfield, New Hampshire since 1989. Our family resided in this lovely village full-time until 2000, when my husband's job took us out of state. We chose to keep our house there, which we visit frequently, and to which we plan to return full-time in the future.

Over these many years, I have not always been in agreement with some of the proposals and ideas town office holders and boards have moved to establish in Plainfield or Meriden, but until *this* moment, I have never felt compelled to voice my particular objection. The issue presently before the Zoning Board: an allowance for the old general store to become a shop selling firearms of any make, model, or vintage, is a proposal of such monumentally poor judgment that I cannot remain silent.

The April issue of Plain Facts, which printed the Zoning Board minutes of the March 11, 2013 meeting at Plainfield Town Hall was my only introduction to this proposal and, unfortunately, my only source of information. After reading the minutes, it immediately concerned me that *all* residents of Plainfield would not be contacted to vote over a proposal such as this, rather than the Zoning Board sending out the word via the usual "abutters" notices. Discussion of this matter cannot simply be about filling a vacant retail space in our town, but must include heartfelt consideration about the values and character of the village and the qualities of that character. I am horrified that the discussion and opinions expressed at the March meeting failed to bring unanimous resolution that our Main Street, including the businesses thereon, should always reflect the good, wholesome and family-centered character of Plainfield and that a shop trading in any kind of weapons fails to meet that criteria.

The Zoning Board members must consider carefully whether Plainfield wishes to "sell itself out" going forward. Presently, we have a beautiful, vibrant library with

active programs for children and adults, a town hall with a backdrop by Maxfield Parrish, which draws visitors from all over the world. We have art shows, musical performances, evening talks and great parades. Soon we will have a lovely bakery within a newly restored village house. We have schools, churches, antiques auctions, horses and pedestrians. Do you really want to have a gun dealer be at the *center* of all that? Do you really want people who do not live there doing their gun business just a short walk from the library where our children are reading, just past a school and next to a church? I cannot comprehend how anyone could think that it would be any more correct for the vacant general store to become a gun dealership than it would be to open a brothel at that location.

I also do not, for one minute, believe that the owners will not do business in assault-type firearms. I believe that type of weaponry will be a large part of their income.

I am aware that many Plainfield and Meriden residents are owners of guns, avid hunters and very responsible. Perhaps one or more of our town citizens could be characterized as less responsible, however, such as one of my neighbors who shoots off some type of assault-type machine gun within sight of other houses. The discharge of firearms, should, in my opinion, be restricted in residential settings no matter how rural the village though I recognize that I am a minority voice on this topic.

The debate on gun ownership is not the focus of my argument on this matter rather it is the identification of the Main Street of Plainfield as the visual representation of the town's character. Good character, once lost, is gone forever.

I would not oppose this gun restorer/dealer having his business in a private secure setting down some long dirt road, as long as it was located off and away from any of the main or primary thoroughfares of Plainfield, including Stage Road. The type of business he proposes, however, is simply and utterly wrong for the Main Street of Plainfield.

Sincerely,

Sally Harris Rub

Mailing address: 511 Addison Street
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