

PREAMBLE

Whereas at the 1994 annual meeting the town authorized, until rescinded, the Board of Selectmen to accept gifts of personal property.

Whereas to properly utilize the above authority a detailed review of any proposed gift is a necessity.

Whereas the town's Master Plan supports and encourages maintaining Plainfield's rural character through many approaches including public ownership of property rights.

Whereas the Selectmen recognize that the public ownership of property is a complex issue with many different components.

Whereas the ability of the town to own and manage property rights is limited and therefore should be reserved for those circumstances that will provide the greatest public benefit.

Now Therefore, the Board of Selectmen having followed due process has enacted the following policy.

1998-01

PROPERTY DONATION POLICY

PROCEDURE:

In conjunction with the requirements of RSA 31:95e when considering the acceptance of a proposed gift the following procedure will be utilized. The Selectmen reserve the right to modify the procedure as deemed necessary.

For gifts of land or buildings:

Step 1. The potential donor will be asked to provide a written summary of the project. At a minimum this should contain a description of the property, the type of ownership that is being offered and disclosure of any current or proposed restrictions on the gift.

In general higher priority will be given to real estate projects:

That stand to enhance or improve access and utilization of existing town owned property and rights of way.

That are in close proximity to the following areas:

Frontage along the Connecticut River, Chase Pond, Mud Pond, Moses Pond, or Sky Ranch Pond.

The French's Ledges area.

The Snow Mountain area.

Parcels that are contiguous to existing town owned land.

That have the ability to generate a revenue stream at least equal to the cost of ownership.

That contain the fewest conditions of ownership.

In general acceptance is unlikely for real estate projects:

That primarily benefit a small group.

That include contingencies that restrict access and future use of the property.

That are perceived to have expensive maintenance costs.

Step 2. If the Selectmen determine that the proposal may have merit, a written recommendations on the proposal will be requested from both the town's Conservation Commission and Planning Board (each group to be given no less than thirty days to respond).

Step 3. A public hearing will be held to discuss the proposed gift. Posting of a notice of the hearing to include two public places and a newspaper of general circulation.

Step 4. No later than thirty days after the public hearing has been held the Selectmen will vote to accept or decline the gift. The Board must review and address in their written decision to accept a gift the long-term maintenance costs and liabilities associated with ownership of the item.

For gifts other than land and buildings:

Step 1. The potential donor will be asked to provide a written description of the project. At a minimum the description should contain a description of the item being gifted, the type of ownership that is being offered and disclosure of any current or proposed restrictions on the gift.

Step 2. The Selectmen, as they deem appropriate, may request recommendations on the proposed gifts.

Step 3. A public hearing will be held to discuss the proposed gift.

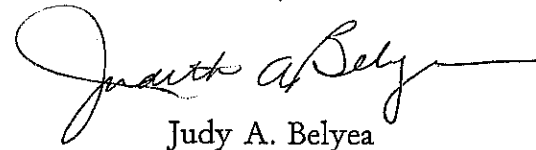
Step 4. No later than thirty days after the public hearing has been held the Selectmen will vote to accept or decline the gift. The Board must review and address in their written decision to accept a gift the long-term maintenance costs and liabilities associated with ownership of the item.

The above policy was adopted on May 20, 1998

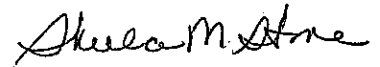
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