

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH
Selectboard Minutes
April 1, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
Town of Plymouth Municipal Building

The meeting was called to order by Jay Kullman at 6:00 P.M.

In attendance were Selectmen Jay Kullman, Rick Kaminski, and Keith Cappellini

Also in attendance were Elaine Pauley, Bruce Pauley, Rick Martin, Margo Marrone, Karen Evans, and Craig O'Briskie.

Attending via Zoom were Richard Ruggiano and Brendan Donegan

Changes to the agenda were stated: Margo Marrone asked to address the board regarding the Plymouth Press. Rick Kaminski asked to discuss a petition submitted to the board.

Jay Kullman made a motion to approve the revised minutes of the March 4, 2024 Annual Meeting. Rick Kaminski seconded the motion.

Jay Kullman made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024 Selectboard meeting. Rick Kaminski seconded the motion.

Next on the agenda, three Planning Commission board members were appointed for the year.

Rick Kaminski made a motion to appoint Mike Coleman to the Planning Commission as chairman. Keith Cappellini seconded the motion.

Rick Kaminski made a motion to appoint Jay Kullman to the board of the Planning Commission. Keith Cappellini seconded the motion.

Rick Kaminski made a motion to appoint Keith Cappellini to the board of the Planning Commission. Jay Kullman seconded the motion.

Brendan Donegan joined the meeting on Zoom to discuss his efforts to purchase parcel # 000375, located on Crimson Hawk Road and presently owned by the James Berman Trust. Mr. Donegan had made an offer of \$7,000 to the board for consideration. The total amount owed to date for delinquent taxes since 2015 is \$8094.34. That amount is updated for late fees each month. After some discussion from the audience the selectboard agreed to stay firm with the amount owed to the town. Mr. Donegan agreed to take this to the trustees of the Berman Trust to continue his negotiations to purchase the parcel.

The selectboard next read a Notice of Petition submitted to town clerk Angela Kissell, stating "The undersigned qualified registered voters of the Town of Plymouth, Vermont request by this petition to conduct a vote by paper ballot to challenge the decision made by hand vote during the Plymouth Town Meeting held on Monday March 4, 2024 that approved Article 6 allowing Bethany Birches to be exempt from paying the education portion of real estate taxes commencing in 2024 and be effective for a period of 5 years. The vote was close and a decision should be made by the full roster of registered voters.

The petition was submitted to the town attorney for review. In his response he noted V.S.A. 17 § 2661 addresses reconsideration of a town vote. He also noted the re-vote will have to be conducted in the same manner as the original vote.

The audience discussed the issue of low attendance at the annual meeting and the much higher number of voters who came to vote the next day. The board and audience also discussed the process for adopting a procedure for town meeting when hand votes are counted, such as having a list of those in attendance and checking that list with the registered voter list. The audience noted that voting at Town Meeting on a Monday night makes it hard for most people to attend. They discussed ways to make it more convenient for all legal voters to have their vote counted. Karen Evans noted that at the meeting an audience member can request a paper ballot vote, rather than a hand count.

The Selectboard noted there is interest in the town for a revote and moved to accept the petition and schedule a special meeting to allow legal voters in the Town of Plymouth to vote whether or not to exempt the property owned by Bethany Birches Camp, Inc. from paying the Education portion of their tax bill for the next five years.

Keith Cappellini motioned to proceed with a re-vote. Rick Kaminski seconded the motion.

Margo Marrone asked to speak regarding an online news source for the Town of Plymouth, the Plymouth Press. She is concerned the town clerk will post news articles to the Plymouth Press when Margo has asked the newly elected constable to do the posting.

The Plymouth Press is a private publication, formerly supported by an appropriation from the Town. The postings most recently were done by the former Community Center Director, Lauren Skaskiw.

It was acknowledged that we need to preserve this resource for local news, but need a volunteer who can learn how to upload news releases to the Word Press web-site.

Keith Cappellini stated he will facilitate connecting a volunteer with Jen Flaster, a former administrator of the Plymouth Press, in order to get a new person on board.

The Selectboard stated they also need to schedule a publicly warned hearing for the final step in adopting a revision of the Zoning Ordinance by-laws. That meeting possibly can be scheduled for the same date and time as the re-vote for Bethany Birches Camp.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Pauley