

## *Preliminary Minutes*

### **Town of Plymouth, Vermont**

### **Select Board - Regular Meeting**

**Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**

### **Municipal Building Meeting Room**

**Board Members Present:**

Jay Kullman

Rick Kaminski

**Board Members Absent:**

Keith Cappellini

1. Call to Order:
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Jay Kullman.
2. Consideration of Any Changes, Additions or Removals to Agenda:
  - a. None
3. Agency of Transportation – Update on Bridge Repairs:

Rob Young, VTrans Project Manager, started off by introducing himself as well as others on his team. The first discussion was on Bridge #9 which is located on Route 100A. There was a slide presentation that outlined dates of partial and full closure as well as information about the bridge itself. In a packed house, residents of Plymouth raised concerns about the complete closure of Bridge #9. Business owners Rick Martin and Jesse Werner spoke about their concerns about the closure and how it would affect the traffic and revenue for what should be a very busy time of year for them. Others expressed concerns about the response time for First Responders in the event of an emergency. Many questions were asked about a temporary bridge and/or leaving one lane open. With the closure of Bridge #9 it would add additional minutes, in the double digits, to get to the emergency location. Residents felt like the State was wasting their time as the decision was already made for full closure so why even continue with the meeting as it didn't matter what was said. Many of the same people were bothered that the State presented at a Select Board Meeting in the fall and they expressed their same concerns; however, at tonight's meeting nothing changed with the plan. They felt their concerns fell on deaf ears. The slide show outlined that pre-closure work would begin on May 12<sup>th</sup> and a complete bridge closure would begin July 7<sup>th</sup>. VTrans anticipates that the bridge will be reopened by August 18<sup>th</sup> with a project completion date of September 19<sup>th</sup>.

VTrans Structures Project Manager, Gary Laroche and Principal Transportation, Stantec, Tom Knight began the next part of the presentation for bridges, #108, #112, and #116. They informed residents that bridge #108 over Money Brook would not be a complete closure; however, the other two would be. Business owner Greg Markowski spoke in depth on alternative ways that they might be able to

keep these roads open. He offered his knowledge and expertise, but before they got too far along residents made it clear that they didn't need to hear the rest of the presentation as it was unacceptable.

Select Board Vice-Chair, Rick Kaminski asked VTrans Resident Engineer, Sheamus Fagan to go back to the decision makers and see if there can be a work around for this then come back to us in 30 days and let us know.

4. Charlie Kimbell:

Vermont Representative, Charlie Kimbell added that it's sometimes best not to say anything at all, but did want to thank the VTrans group as they work very hard.

Senator Joe Major expressed his concerns for the local businesses but was more concerned about the safety and well-being of the people within the Town of Plymouth.

Jay Kullman closed the discussion and there was a quick break.

5. Bruce Pauley – Update on Town Plan:

- a. Bruce Pauley started by saying that he was notified by Kyle Hansen, Two Rivers Ottaquechee that the Town Plan runs out in 2027 so we have to get going on the Town Plan. We did it five years ago, so we are no strangers to it. The P&Z Board is going to have a meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and Kyle Hansen will be present. He will be helping a great deal, Bruce added. There are a few things on the current Town Plan, and they always end with recommendations. One of the recommendations was to adopt a policy to discourage any buildings not deemed inhabitable. The specifics are to be addressed in the Zoning Ordinance. There are a few houses/buildings that we are all familiar with that are deerlick and uninhabited and something needs to be done to prevent this from becoming an ongoing situation. Bruce indicated that he found Ludlow's current ordinance and he will use that as a template. Another recommendation, and he believes it has been tried at one point, promote and expand Farmers Markets and Community Gardens along with encouraging local gardeners to share over abundance and figure out some distribution site as well as a possible delivery system for residents that don't drive. Bruce thinks it will be a fantastic thing to do. One possible addition to this would be an addition of Short-Term Rentals. We've all talked about this, but Bruce thinks if it's something that can be inserted into a Town Plan perhaps adds some sort of an ordinance which outlines which areas are suitable for Short-Term Rentals. Also, how many there can be in an area and density and such? Bruce also added that this is one of the biggest issues in the State and so many of the short-term rentals are owned by out-of-staters so essentially there a business. Something needs to happen, and he feels that the Town should be looking at that. Bruce said that he just wanted to let the Select Board know where he was at and that they needed to get going. He concluded by saying that Two Rivers will be working to help us get grants; however, they do charge. He doesn't know what they charge but do believe they are fair.
- b. Jay Kullman said that he thought there was a survey in 2008 to see what residents thought. He would like to see a survey done now to see what the residents and voters think the Town should look like.
- c. Bruce said there will be hearings/meetings for people attend and they can add their input, but there should be a survey done.
- d. Jay Kullman concluded by saying that maybe the Select Board and the Planning Commission can work on this together

6. Board to Approve / Inform Residents of Triquest Gravel Triathlon:
  - a. **Rick Kaminski made a motion to approve this event. Jay Kullman seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
  - b. Jay Kullman thanked Rick Kaminski for asking VTrans to get back to us regardless of the response. He noted that it was a good action item
7. Approve Meeting Minutes:
  - a. **Jay Kullman made a motion to approve the April 28, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. Rick Kaminski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
8. Citizen Comments:
  - a. None
9. Update on AARP Grant for Speed Limit Signs:
  - a. Jay Kullman gave an update that the AARP Grant applications aren't open again until January 2026. Jay said that we'll get actual numbers for the signs and see about others mean to fund or wait for the grant.
10. Discussion on Kingdom Road Paving Grant:
  - a. Rick Kaminski said that the Grant application to pave Kingdom Road had been denied. He noted that we had been denied in the past but will resubmit it next year.
11. Board to Review and Approve Local Emergency Plan - 2025:
  - a. **Jay Kullman made a motion to approve LEMP. Rick Kaminski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
12. Board to Review and Possibly Approve Revisions to the Following Policies:
  - a. **Rick Kaminski made a motion to approve the Credit Card Policy. Jay Kullman seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
13. Other Business:
  - a. None
14. Sign Warrants and Review Mail:
15. Possibly Next Select Board Meeting Date:
  - a. Monday, June 2, 2025

16. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- a. RFPs

17. Executive Session:

- a. None

18. Adjourn:

- a. **Jay Kullman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Rick Kaminski seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted.

Angela Kissell  
Recording Secretary  
Town Clerk

**Select Board**

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Jay Kullman, Chair

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Rick Kaminski, Vice-Chair

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Keith Cappellini