

Mayor Vincent Festa called the **Public Hearing On Neighborhood Assistance Act Applications and All Terrain Vehicles (ATV'S)** to order at **7:04 p.m. in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall on Monday, June 16, 2008.**

Members in attendance: Councilwoman Jeannine Jandreau, Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel, Councilwoman Jacqui Denski, Councilman Peter Giancesini, Mayor Vin Festa, Robin Gudeczauskas, Recording Secretary. Councilman Dave Sekorski was excused.

Fire Exits were noted

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Festa stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear public comments on the following items:

1. **Neighborhood Assistance Act Applications** – Mayor Festa stated the public hearing is to receive input from the public prior to Town Council taking a vote to accept or reject applications. Two applications in hand and will be submitted to the State prior to July 1, 2008 which is the deadline date. These will be reviewed in the order of receipt:

(a) Terryville Youth Soccer Club, falls into parameters in what they are looking to do as noted on page 2 “To provide a shelter from the rain and sun for the families who are at our youth soccer field as spectators, many of which are elderly. There are currently no shaded areas at this field. The shelter will be constructed using a Sunsetter 1000XT (20’ x 10’) awning, fastened to a set of 6” x 6” beams and will cover our bleachers.” Mayor Festa noted the Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates Hancock Dam, the Town of Plymouth is the lessee until 2010 at which time up the lease will be up for renewal or changes with the Army Corps. Anything the Youth Soccer Club wants/needs has to come through the Town and then to the Army Corps of Engineers. Received word that this request has cleared through the Army Corps and no problems as long as under Town auspices. The total project cost is \$2,103 as noted on page 4 of the application and NAA funding requested is 60% or \$1500. Comments: Councilwoman Denski asked whether this structure is permanent or portable with response from Mayor Festa that it is semi permanent, can come down if necessary and assumes it will come down in the winter and be stored away. Councilwoman Schenkel stated concern during thunderstorms and does not want this to become projectile in wind conditions and how will they anchor it down. Mayor Festa noted construction/installation will be overseen by the Building Inspector and professional installation by a company in town “Not Just Blinds” who is involved with awnings as well. Councilwoman Schenkel stated Terryville Youth Soccer Club is a very good organization, she has seen the field and for little kids and elderly who want to see games this is a great idea.

MOTION: To approve the program proposal from Terryville Youth Soccer Club and send forward to the powers that be, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski and the vote unanimous.

(b) Terryville Elementary School PTA (TESPTA) has submitted this proposal as a result of the merging of two schools, Prospect Street School and Main Street School, who will become Fisher Elementary School. The playground application was submitted and on page two description and need of program read into record “To install a handicap accessible playground on the east side of town at the Fisher Elementary School. The playground will be available to all school age children and all community members. There is currently no playground on the school grounds. Fisher Elementary School is located on the east side of town which historically represents a lower socio-economic status.” The estimate on finances of this budget reviewed and funding request of \$60,000, which does not necessarily mean they will be approved for all of this money; noting \$85,500 is total of proposed expenditures and pending operations for offering gratis of site preparation from local business. There is a descriptive component attached to reasons for request. There has been a grant provided to Plymouth Center School PTA of \$10,000 per year and how they have received money to do their playscape. Councilwoman Schenkel stated concern that the Town has invested a lot of grant money in two fields, softball and baseball, and where

is this playground going to be put. Mayor Festa stated it will not touch either field as quite a bit of money and donated time has gone into those two fields. The individuals partly behind site work are very much involved in that plan as well and they will look at using the parking lot and moving some spaces to establish the playground on a flat level near the gymnasium. Councilwoman Jandreau stated it is a handicap accessible playground which we do not have in this Town. Mayor Festa noted Plymouth Center School is handicap accessible and they are working to enhance it. Councilwoman Schenkel noted the community has access to schools and families can bring their kids to have fun and be safe. Councilwoman Jandreau noted this project will involve many community organizations to assist.

MOTION: To accept the program proposal from Terryville Elementary School PTA for the FES Playground, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Gianesini and the vote unanimous.

Mayor Festa noted the record will reflect no public participation due to the fact there was no public attending the public hearing.

2. **All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's)** – Mayor Festa distributed information for review by the Council. Councilwoman Jandreau stated this item was scheduled for Thursday, there are a lot of people interested and would like to table and reschedule. Mayor Festa stated distributed information regarding Bristol's ordinances on ATV's and asked that the Council read through copy of State Statutes on snowmobile and all terrain vehicles. He has gone through the Charter and there is not much addressing this issue, has gone through as many files as possible on the internet and has not found anything relative. From past

experience as Administrative Assistant this issue has been taken up before but from correspondence received during the last few months, it is an important issue. The Council has had some notice from Vicky Carey on atv's crossing her son's property.

MOTION: To table this item for further action due to the fact we have committed ourselves to a meeting date on the 19th of June that had to be changed due to Terryville High School graduation; by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel stated it is important that we have transparent government and because public is not here and we need their participation and should reschedule. Councilwoman Jandreau stated Council will have participation with advance notice. Mayor Festa stated it is very important, correspondence received has caused distress, concerned on email that comes through, looking at safety and welfare and this issue needs to be addressed. This is not a particular season and issue throughout the year noting calls on snowmobiles riding through neighborhoods in snow storms and at night. Need to publicize for purpose of public participating in open fashion. Councilman Ganesini stated lot of these things (atv's and snowmobiles) are nice and can be passed when he comes through Wolcott and southern end of town where there are a lot of curves and hills and need to stay on your side of the road. The kids and/or adults come from woods on quads, and if a bit distracted someone will get killed. How do you identify them, hold parents responsible if minors, and are we able to seize an atv or snowmobile? Councilwoman Jandreau stated the last time on Council this came forward from a Ridge Road resident and we need to notify them as well as Jim Murdock who was very interested. Mayor Festa stated Ridge Road resident (s) have been notified and they have been in. Vote: unanimous.

Mayor Festa held discussion on July dates for a public hearing on ATV's noting July 1st is the next Town Council meeting date and will check to see if a quorum is available. He noted there is a public hearing scheduled for July 15th and this item could be done following that; discussion held.

MOTION: To adjourn by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

Mayor Festa stated the Public Hearing adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Gudeczauskas, Recording Secretary