

**Town of Plymouth**  
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**Plymouth Town Council**  
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**Minutes**

**July 30, 2013**

**Call to Order:** Acting Mayor Schenkel called the scheduled July 30, 2013 Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

**Roll Call:** Present were Town Councilman Remie Ferreira, Town Councilman Richard Foote, Town Councilwoman Susan Murawski, and Acting Mayor/Town Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel.

Also present was Gerry Bourbonnaire-Park and Recreation Commission Liaison, Victoria Carey-Vice-Chairman Board of Finance, Marie MacDermid-North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Member, Jerry Milne-North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Member and John Wunsch-Chairman/Member North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee

### **Fire Exits Notification**

Acting Mayor Schenkel made note of the Fire Exits for the Plymouth Town Council and the Public Audience.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Acting Mayor Schenkel led the Plymouth Town Council and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Reading of Legal Notice Regarding the North Street Reservoir**

Acting Mayor Schenkel read the Legal Notice into the record as follows: Legal Notice, Town of Plymouth, Public Hearing on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report, The Plymouth Town Council, Town of Plymouth, CT, will hold a Public Hearing at the Plymouth Town Hall, 80 Main Street, Terryville, CT, Community Room, on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, 7:00 p.m., to consider the recommendations of the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's (NSRAHC) Final Report relative to the North Street Reservoir. At this Public Hearing citizens will be given the opportunity to be heard regarding the recommended Final Report of the NSRAHC.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Two of Fifteen Pages**

**Reading of Legal Notice Regarding the North Street Reservoir Cont'd.**

Copies of the NSRAHC's Final Report, as recommended by the Plymouth Town Council, are available from the Office of the Town Clerk, the Mayor's Office or the Terryville Library during regular business hours. Dated at Plymouth, CT, this 16th day of July, 2013. Vincent Festa, Jr., Mayor.

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee**

Chairman Wunsch, 10 Armbruster Road, Terryville, stated that he did not plan on reviewing the entire North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report, however he would highlight the report in order to explain how the Committee had developed all of the information that they had available to them.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the Committee had begun their work in September 2012, with 17 Committee Members, noting that they had been charged by the Town Council to come up with potential uses for the property, which the Town had been able to purchase using State grant money. Chairman Wunsch stated that with the purchase of the property came many restrictions placed on the property by the State of Connecticut, who was looking to keep it more as a conservation area than a recreation area.

Chairman Wunsch stated that during the last few months they had various specialists come in, including a woman from the Department of Environment and Energy Protection (DEEP) who had been very instrumental in working on the grant process with the Town. He further stated that she had discussed possible uses for the property, noting what was and was not allowable on the site.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the Ad Hoc Committee then broke into Sub-Committees, and that the Sub-Committees were listed in the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report (see attachment). He further stated that the Sub-Committees discussed the different potential uses for the property.

Chairman Wunsch noted that the State Fish Biologist had come out to the property and had performed a fish study. He further stated that the Biologist had gone out on the Reservoir in a boat, shocked the fish and then collected scale samples from the fish in order to age them.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the Biologist was in the final process of forming a final report on what they would recommend for catch/release.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Three of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Chairman Wunsch stated that one of the things that the Committee had been very concerned about was the Reservoir being fished out, noting that it would be an easy thing to do. Chairman Wunsch stated that the Committee wanted to ensure that there would be a sustainable resource in the Reservoir for continuous use.

Chairman Wunsch noted that a State Wildlife official had come out to the property and met with the members to discuss the wildlife and potential things that could be done on the property.

Chairman Wunsch stated that a Connecticut Water Company employee had come out to the property and met with the members, noting that the employee had taken care of the Reservoir for many years and shared his expertise with the members.

John Wunsch stated that the Limmer-Bemis sisters lived around the corner from the North Street Reservoir and that they had lived on their property their entire lives and noted that they had come to the Committee, shared their information and helped the Committee out quite a bit. He further stated that as children they spent a lot of time running around on the property in question.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the Committee had tried to use a lot of local information from the neighbors, from the State and from every source possible that was free.

Chairman Wunsch stated that during the process the Town had also been involved with the State Environmental Review Teams, noting that they were all volunteers as well, and that the Committee had met with them a couple of times. He further stated that they had walked the property and were able to tell the Committee where to lay out the trails so as not to disturb the property, cause erosion, etc.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the Committee's job was also to come up with potential uses on the property.

Chairman Wunsch stated that there had been a lot of Committee debate on parts of the potential activities, but that it was not the Committee's job to say the activities should or should not happen, noting that there was a potential for the uses and that it was up to the State to allow or not the activities as shown in the Committee's Final Report.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the Town would give the control of the property to whatever department(s) that it decided.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Four of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Chairman Wunsch stated that there were items in the Final Report that would require a Charter change; noting that some of them were very controversial, i.e. bow hunting, but that it was something that the State would allow and so they had included it.

Chairman Wunsch stated that swimming had also come up, noting that it would be allowed, but that it was very limited due to the fact that the easement had tight restrictions in order to maintain conservation on the property.

Chairman Wunsch stated that DEEP would be involved with everything that the Town decided to do with and on the property.

James Brittingham, 90 North Street, Plymouth, stated that his property bordered the Reservoir. He further stated that if there was swimming there would be no place to park and questioned where the Town would put the cars.

James Brittingham questioned if the Town was going to take down the little forest to put in a parking lot and pave it, noting that it didn't make sense and that there was only enough space, if you're lucky, for six cars. He further stated that if the Town opened it up there would be 30 to 40 cars coming to the area on a daily basis, noting that the Town would have to move land, nice forest that contained wildlife, to make a paved parking lot for maybe 20 to 30 people for their families, if that.

James Brittingham stated that the Reservoir wasn't deep enough for swimming and that would be dangerous.

Chairman Wunsch stated that in the beginning of the report there was a survey that showed potential parking areas without causing major changes, noting that the Town had to be very cognizant of cutting trees because the State would not allow it. He further stated that the parking shown would not allow for 30 cars.

Bill Kron, 9 Richmond Drive, Plymouth, stated that his property bordered approximately 1,200 feet on the Reservoir, minus/plus what the Water Company and the Town had. He further stated that he was concerned about a trail around the Reservoir, which had been broached at one point in time.

Bill Kron stated that to do that the Town might have to take property from him by eminent domain because they had ledge and the only way to put a trail in the area would be to put a boardwalk and grass.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Five of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Bill Kron stated that he could see trails in the upper conifers, noting that it would be very nice, similar to what was by the water tank, but that he would be concerned about a trail all the way around the Reservoir, itself.

Chairman Wunsch noted that there would not be any boardwalk-type things per the State of Connecticut, and that in all the discussions that the Committee had, it had been stated that any trails that might be put in would be on the Northern end of the property.

Chairman Wunsch stated that when he answered questions this evening he was not justifying, he was only trying to explain the why's and how the Committee came up with the recommendations and answers to the questions.

James Brittingham questioned if the trails that Chairman Wunsch was talking about, from the North end to the South end, would be connecting with the conservatory that was there and any of those trails.

Chairman Wunsch stated that there was roughly 100 to 150 feet between where the Land Trust property ended and the Reservoir property, noting that there was a gap between the two areas. He further stated that any trails that came down would be built with the potential to connect to the Land Trust, but currently would not be able to connect with anything on the Land Trust because Mr. Brittingham's property was in between the two areas.

Chairman Wunsch stated that Mr. Brittingham could work with the Town and grant an easement or sign something, but at this point anything that would be done, would be done with the future connectors in mind.

Mr. Brittingham stated that people lose their way and end up in his backyard and question where they are.

Chairman Wunsch stated that when people question how the Town owned property would be policed he tells them that it will be done in the same manner as it always has been; if someone was trespassing the neighbors would have to call and that there wasn't a Conservation person policing the property.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, questioned what the cost was to the Town after all the grants, and who was aware of all the restrictions before the property went to a vote, noting that the restrictions had not been made public.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Six of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Chairman Wunsch stated that the cost to the Town was zero, that the property had been purchased with a State grant and that was why there were so many restrictions to the property.

Chairman Wunsch stated that he did not know who knew about all the restrictions on the property, noting that the Town Attorney would know.

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that Cathy Kosak could submit her question to the Mayor's Office and that he would be able to get an answer for her on the restrictions.

Cathy Kosak stated that she knew what the restrictions were and that someone must have known before the vote.

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that the question would be for the Town Attorney because he was involved in negotiating the deal.

Marie MacDermid, 364 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth, stated that her late husband's Grandfather was Silas Richmond and that was why the Town had Richmond Drive. She further stated that in 1880 Mr. Atwood had donated the property to be flooded and that became the Reservoir. She further stated that Silas Richmond had also donated the small strip of land on the East side of the Reservoir from the point all the way up to Richmond Drive, noting that it might total less than an acre.

Marie MacDermid stated because of her family's history with the property and because they felt so close to nature and respected the naturalness of the whole area, they would like to see it as it was and were glad it would never be developed. She further stated that for 35 years she was a member of Plymouth Land Trust and that she had mentored many of the trails to the Boy Scouts.

Marie MacDermid stated that if the Town were ever to give an easement from the Reservoir property to the Plymouth Land Trust there would be a lot of goodwill.

Marie MacDermid stated that she agreed with Mr. Brittingham in that the Reservoir was really not a swimming hole and that the bottom was full of a lot of mud because it used to be pastureland. She further stated that she remembered, from pictures that she used to have, seeing stonewalls and stumps and that the stumps were still there and were over 100 years old and were not about to rot. Marie MacDermid stated that the water level was approximately four feet and was not safe for swimming.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Seven of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Marie MacDermid stated that she had a map in her warehouse, taken from an airplane in the 1970's, and that there was a stonewall all around the Reservoir and could be seen in the picture. She further stated that the best thing to do would be to leave the Reservoir as it currently was, that being passive open space, which would complement all the neighboring properties around it.

Marie MacDermid stated that on one of their walks that covered where possible trails would be, the Limmer-Bemis sisters accompanied them and that one of the places they thought would be an interesting spot for parking would be by the dam. She further stated that the first part of the dam, where the grass was, was a still dam, and there couldn't be any parking or recreation in that area, however the parking lot would be further South. Marie MacDermid stated that there had been talk about putting a trail from the parking lot over to the dam and maybe building a bridge over the dam to reach the woods on the North side and that way people would not have to walk in the road, noting that it would be a safety thing.

Marie MacDermid stated that some of the women who had been on the walk thought it was a pretty good idea and that they had used that kind of construction and safety for hikers in other parts of the State at State Parks.

Marie MacDermid stated that she was pleased that it would be open space and hoped that all future generations in the Town would appreciate that fact.

Bradley Kozikowski, 4 Park Street, Plymouth, questioned if kayaking would be allowed because there wasn't a lake nearby for him and his friends to go boating.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the restrictions of the easement restricted any motorized vehicle on the water, i.e. electric or gas motors, however car top boats and canoes would be allowed, but only paddling for movement. He further stated that battery operated type boats could potentially be allowed.

Chairman Wunsch stated again that all of the recommendations had to go through the DEEP, individually, for approval before they could be implemented.

Chairman Wunsch stated that a lot of time had been spent on the possibility of swimming, noting that the Committee had finally said they would recommend swimming, but further investigation would have to be done before anyone jumped in the water. He further stated that potentially there could be swimming, but that at this time there wasn't a definite answer.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Eight of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Jerry Milne, 204 Keegan Road, Plymouth, stated that he was a member of the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee.

Jerry Milne stated that it was 95 degrees last week and that there wasn't any place in Town to go swimming. He further stated that the Reservoir was drinking water quality, had the highest level of water quality in Connecticut and that it was a drinking water Reservoir and that it made all kinds of sense for that to be the swimming area in Town.

Jerry Milne stated that the watershed of this Reservoir, unlike Lake Winfield, could not be developed because the Town owned it and there was a conservation easement on it so the water would always be protected from pesticides, fertilizers and road runoff like at Lake Winfield.

Jerry Milne stated that there was plenty of room for parking at the Pine Plantation, across from Whitney Court, and that it was flat. He further stated that the Town had reserved the right, in the conservation easement, to put in a gravel parking area.

Jerry Milne stated that in the conservation easement the Town also had reserved the right to add sand for a beach/swimming area. He further stated that all the Town had to do was investigate what was under the water and that it wasn't a big deal.

Jerry Milne stated that one way to reduce the chance of people inadvertently trespassing from the Town land onto the adjacent private property was to clearly mark the boundary lines. He further stated that previously, the Water Company had marked the boundary lines with yellow paint and that they would be remarked either this fall or this spring. Jerry Milne stated that a Boy Scout from Troop 75 (in Town) would be remarking the property lines with fresh yellow paint for his Eagle Scout project and that hopefully, the Town would provide him with the signs that would say something like "Plymouth Open Space" so that it would be very obvious to anyone that they would be crossing from the Town land to private property land.

Cathy Kosak stated that it was her understanding in the restrictions that there could not be a bathhouse or bathroom facilities constructed there and if there was going to be a Town swimming area those facilities would be necessary there.

Chairman Wunsch stated that Cathy Kosak was correct and that Allyson Clarke of DEEP had stated that permanent structures were not allowed, however there were State Parks where only a port-o-potty existed, along with a "swim at your own risk" sign.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Nine of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Jerry Milne stated that Wharton Brook State Park, in Wallingford, CT, allowed swimming and only had the port-o-potties, and that a permanent structure was not required to allow swimming.

Cathy Kosak stated that maybe we didn't have to but if it went to swimming it would take any financial assistance or whatever the Town would need to reclaim Lake Winfield, which was the Town's main recreation area, noting that there was tennis courts a playscape, horseshoe pits, bocce, a walking trail and there was already a beach there.

Cathy Kosak stated that she was concerned that it would come under the Recreation Department and that they had two Maintenance workers and that it was awfully hard for them to keep up with what the Town had now and to add another area, which would include swimming, someone would have to prepare to add to the budget of the Recreation Department.

Brian Bush 417 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth, thanked the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee members for all their work and for opening up the area for passive recreation. He further stated that he wanted to know the process from this point forward and questioned if the area was now open for kayaking, hiking/walking, etc.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the way he understood it the Town Council, at a future meeting, would have to give Parks and Recreation/Public Works the authority to move forward.

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that as previously noted by Chairman Wunsch, there might have to be Charter changes, before certain activities could begin and that a Charter Commission would have to be assembled and that could take up to 18 months before that was completed.

Scott Brady questioned if there was a way to agree that certain limited activities could begin now without a Charter change,

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that the answer was yes, of course.

Chairman Wunsch stated that in the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report there were certain things that they had recommended the Town open immediately for use, i.e. boating, noting that parking would have to be made and that people could also go up there and fish, which would not cost a lot of money or oversight.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Ten of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Bill Kron stated that he had chased fishermen out because if someone tripped on his ledge he could be sued. He further stated that there was a lot of wildlife in the area, including deer and snapping turtles that lay their eggs in the late spring, early summer out of the water. Bill Kron stated that the turtles were not small and that he didn't know what snappers would do with people in the water and that he wouldn't go in it. He further stated that his dog did swim in the water with no ill effect.

Victoria Carey, 665 Greystone Road, Plymouth, stated that she wanted to thank the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee for their 35-page report, noting that they had only brushed to the top surface of the project. She further stated that when the Town Council moved forward and decided who they would be giving the work to, they should take due diligence and think of the people that had served on this Committee and maybe have them serve on another Board because they had a vast amount of knowledge, including Marie MacDermid, who had the history of the property.

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that the process for a new Board/Committee/Commission required a person to fill out an application at the Mayor's Office noting what particular Committee they wanted to be on.

Victoria Carey stated that she felt that if it should just be Parks and Recreation or just be Public Works, a new Committee should be formed to look into this further because it would be a full time job to do this.

Gerry Bourbonnaire, 6 Fairmount Avenue, Terryville, stated that he had been the Parks and Recreation Liaison for the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee. He further stated that the Town had very limited amenities and that this piece of property added to the amenity value of the Town. Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that if the Town had not picked up the property it could have gone to a private developer who could have done anything that he wanted to on the property, including putting a 400 foot casino boat on the lake with casino gambling as long as he could get approval from the State. He further stated that with the State's financial problems they probably would have given the developer permission. Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that there were pros and cons with the property, but that it belonged to the Town now and that the recommendations from the Committee was that they wanted the Reservoir property to continue to be passive recreation. He further stated that they had wanted people to be able to hike, noting that there was wildlife there and it would be wonderful for children, grandchildren to see a deer or get up close and see a snapping turtle, noting that it would be very educational. Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that people needed to understand that and move beyond their concerns, noting that it should be enjoyed by all the people in this Town.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Eleven of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that he understood the concerns about who would take care of the property, noting that the Committee had discussed this issue and that they had addressed the concern.

Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that he was a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee and that they had two employees now and that more than likely they would need a third.

Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that the Public Works Department could work hand-in-hand with the Parks and Recreation Department, as far as maintaining this piece of property went. He further stated that this would be up to the Mayor and the Directors of both departments and that it would be a compromise.

Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that he wanted to commend the individuals on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee for putting the Final Report together noting that there had been a lot of discussions.

Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that the Town did not have to have swimming at the Reservoir and that the Town could still develop Lake Winfield and have it become what it used to be when his children were young enough to learn how to swim, noting that the decision would be down the road.

Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that at some point in time the Mayor/Council would have to open up the Reservoir and that sooner or later the encroachment problems would have to be dealt with.

Gerry Bourbonnaire noted that Jim Schultz, Public Works, had previously stated that he would like to see the dam area encased in fencing because it was a liability to the Town. He further cited a possible example of a child walking in the area and that his parents could lose sight of him, and again citing that it was a huge liability to the Town.

Helena Bemis, 324 North Street, Plymouth, stated that she agreed that was a great thing for the Town and that passive recreation was the way to go and was a good thing. She further stated that everyone who was interested in what was happening with the Reservoir should keep themselves aware of what was going on as well as, on occasion, volunteer to help out because it was a whole Town project.

Chairman Wunsch stated that there were 17 people on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee with different thoughts and ideas.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Twelve of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Chairman Wunsch stated that the entire Committee had agreed that there were certain things that could be done now without harming anything, however everyone had to be aware that if things were rushed it would not take long to ruin the property, the wildlife, the water quality, etc.

Chairman Wunsch noted that everyone from the State had told the Committee that there were many towns in the State of Connecticut that had received property, rushed to open it and that within a year or two it was no longer what it was. He further stated that they wanted to hurry it, however they also understood that speeding the project up too fast would wreck it in the long term.

Lionel Bouchard, 7 Barry Road, Plymouth, stated that he wanted to know about the four wheelers, motorcycles and hunting on the property.

Chairman Wunsch stated that there were no gas-operated vehicles allowed on the property and that quads, dirt bikes, etc., would not be allowed on the property. He further stated that if someone came whipping through someone's backyard they needed to call the Police.

Chairman Wunsch stated that a State Wildlife Biologist had walked the property (before the snow fell) last year and that this person was also part of the Trails Team. He further stated that the Biologist, citing a similar type of property (but larger), felt that the acreage on the North side of the property would be okay for limited bow hunting. Chairman Wunsch stated that Session Woods had limited bow hunting, noting that this would be done through the Town Hall, and that the number of permits would be limited. He further stated that currently, there was an Ordinance in Town that stated hunting was not allowed on Town property. Chairman Wunsch stated that changing this Ordinance would also require a Charter change in order to allow it.

When questioned by James Brittingham, Chairman Wunsch stated that nothing was currently open at the Reservoir property and that the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee had recommended certain things be opened as soon as possible, noting that the recommendations were in the Final Report. He further stated that it was illegal to be on the property.

James Brittingham questioned if DEEP thought the Reservoir was big enough to bow hunt on.

Chairman Wunsch stated yes.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Thirteen of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

James Brittingham stated that was absurd and cited a case where 20 years ago a man was shot and killed off of Route 9 by the Reservoir, noting that Reservoir property was huge. He further stated that from his property he could see through the woods right down to the Reservoir and if he could see that then some guy with a bow and arrow could see him and that he wouldn't be in his Halloween deer costume, but that there wasn't enough property.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the bow hunting would be allowed on the North side of the property with nothing allowed on the South end. He further stated that bow hunting was actually very safe and that the Final Report had a website listed showing 10 years of hunting accidents with only one fatality with bow hunting.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the Reservoir property had 140 acres and that the State allowed people to bow hunt on five acres.

James Brittingham stated that he was not a hunter, but that he did not believe there was enough room.

Marie MacDermid stated that some of her neighbors (backing up from Schroback Road and North Street) had spoken to her about their concerns with tree stands that their neighbors had on their own property and that were facing into the Reservoir property for hunting. She further questioned if that was allowed and questioned who would enforce it.

Chairman Wunsch stated that he had a tree stand in his backyard facing Vinnie's house and that it wasn't against the law to have a tree stand. He further stated that if someone's neighbor had a tree stand and was up there in camouflage and a bow and was shooting it the Police should be called because that wasn't allowed.

Marie MacDermid stated that she didn't think they were taking pictures. She further stated that some of the stands were within 10 to 12 feet of her property line.

Chairman Wunsch stated to just have a tree stand in a tree wasn't illegal and that he shoots target in his backyard.

Marie MacDermid stated that over one thousand feet on the east side of her property was all water shed and that it couldn't be built on, noting that there were other properties, maybe the one on North Street, and stated that maybe some consideration should be given to those property owners because they would never be able to develop the land.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Fourteen of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Cathy Kosak questioned what the process was stating that she thought she knew part of it, noting that the Public Hearing was for the Council to accept the recommendations of the Committee and that the recommendations were not in place because then the Council would decide who would be in charge of the property.

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that the Council had already accepted the Final Report and that this hearing was to hear Public input on the report so that the Council could take the comments into account when it went to the next step of the process.

Cathy Kosak questioned if the Council would make changes or whoever was designated to oversee it make changes, accept or whatever.

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that it would be up to the Council, whether the Council decided to embody another panel of people or make the changes themselves.

Cathy Kosak stated that she believed in the Charter it read Inland-Wetlands Conservation and if remains passive, and that's what it is, and if there's no swimming, boating or whatever, would it not make sense to have this come under Conservation, noting that at one time there was a Conservation Commission in this Town, but that she believed that was how Inland-Wetlands reads in the Charter.

Brian Bush questioned if dogs would be allowed to walk on the Reservoir property, noting that a change had been made and that dogs were now allowed at Lake Winfield.

Chairman Wunsch stated that this information could be found on page 18 of the Final Report. He further stated that the Committee had discussions with the DEEP Wildlife Specialist and that they did not want loose dogs running around because it affected all wildlife.

When questioned by Chairman Wunsch, Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that the City of Bristol had two Dog Parks with one located at Rockwell Park, which was fully enclosed with a fence with two areas for large and small dogs. He further stated that the second Dog Park was located on the Roberts property, next to Chippens Hill Middle School, which was wide open for any type of dog.

Chairman Wunsch stated that the Committee had recommended a fenced in area, such as Bristol has, and that the dogs could be let loose to play with each other. He further stated that he believed that the Committee had not recommended allowing the dogs on the trails, even with leashes, but that he could be wrong.

**Town Council Public Hearing  
July 30, 2013  
Page Fifteen of Fifteen Pages**

**To allow for Public Input on the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report as Presented by the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Cont'd.**

Carleen Limmer, 324 North Street, Plymouth, stated that the information was on page 11, under General Rules, of the Final Report, and it talked about all pets being leashed and on page 12 it talked about managing your pet that needed to be on a leash and controlled at all times. She further stated that it went on to read that the pet should not be allowed to approach or chase wildlife and that the pet's waste should be taken care of, noting that it didn't specifically address whether the pet could be on the trails or not.

Chairman Wunsch stated that this also pertained to and from the fenced in area.

Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that the change made at Lake Winfield required all dogs to be leashed and that the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee had envisioned something like what was being done at Rockwell Park in Bristol. He further stated that he worked for the City of Bristol and that was why he was familiar with the Dog Parks in Bristol. Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that John Pajeski, who was also a North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee Member, had envisioned that the dogs would be segregated. He further stated that from the Committee's discussions he was under the impression that the dogs would have to be leashed. Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that the dogs would have to be policed by the people who had dogs that used the property. He further stated that if someone had a dog and they were abiding by the rules on the property and saw someone with a dog who was not abiding by the rules then it would be up to the person to say what the sign said. Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that if the violator had an attitude then the next thing would be to call the Police and that was the way it would work. He further stated that the Committee had looked into ways to use the property and satisfy everyone. Gerry Bourbonnaire stated that his son and been bitten by a dog and so he bought one so that his sons fears could be alleviated about dogs.

**Adjournment**

Acting Mayor Schenkel thanked everyone for coming out this evening and noted that it was important to the Council to hear everyone's thoughts and ideas.

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council Public Hearing Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ferreira, to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Recording Secretary