

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

January: The year began with the retirement of our longtime Chief of Police, Barry Vinton. We thank Chief Vinton for his many years of dedication to the safety of Plympton residents. January 1<sup>st</sup>, Sgt. Matthew Clancy became Plympton's third Chief of Police.

February: Representatives from Southeastern Concrete meet with the Board and commit to locate adjacent to the Plympton Industrial Park. The Selectmen inform the other Town boards of their unanimous support for this project.

March: The Website Maintenance and Development Committee launched the official Town of Plympton website. The Board would like to thank the members of the Website Committee for the countless hours they have dedicated to the creation and maintenance of our award-winning website.

The Dennett Elementary School renovation/addition project, which was approved by Plympton voters in May of 2000, was completed. The Board would like to thank the members of the School Building Committee: Susan Ossoff, Susan Earle, Richard Springer, Jeanne Black, and Henry Nover. These individuals worked tremendously hard to ensure this project was completed on time and on budget.

April: The Selectmen created the Long-Range Planning Task Force to review the issues facing our Town in the areas of housing, economic development, transportation, and the environment. The goal of the task force is to produce a community development plan that will balance the Town's needs in these four areas and will result in a comprehensive plan for the Town as a whole.

May: With the long awaited promise of Route 44 finally materializing, the Selectmen worked diligently to increase awareness of our Industrial Park and pursue designation as an Economic Target Area (ETA). The ETA status will provide the Town with the option of offering tax incentives to businesses who locate in our Industrial Park.

Newly appointed Veteran's Agent, Jim Corven organized the Memorial Day parade and ceremony on the Town Green. The ceremony honored our Veteran servicemen and women as well as the men and women serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Board would like to thank Jim, the organizations who participated

in the parade, and the Plympton residents who attended the ceremony—together we honored and remembered the many men and women who selflessly dedicate their lives to defending freedom at home and abroad.

June: Selectmen Newburn resigned from the Board of Selectmen after serving a little over one year. John made many important contributions to the Board of Selectmen and he will be missed. We wish John and Marjorie all the best in their retirement.

The Selectmen applied for and received Executive Order 418 (EO418) certification through the Department of Housing and Community Development. This certification was required in order for the Town to be eligible to receive a Public Works Economic Development (PWED) grant. The PWED grant will be used to make improvements to the Industrial Park entrance to address safety and accessibility issues.

Due to concern over escalating legal costs, the Selectmen put the legal services out to bid. Three firms responded to our proposal and after interviews in early September, it was voted to continue with Kopelman and Paige (K & P). This decision was based K & P's performance as Town Counsel and K & P's hourly rate was significantly less than the two other law firms who responded to the Town's proposal.

July: The Selectmen (the two remaining members) debated the merits of an override question on the ballot as an alternative to budget cuts. This was a difficult issue and the Selectmen solicited public input before deciding against putting an override question on the ballot.

August: The Plympton Little League All Star baseball team won the North River League Championship. This was a tremendous accomplishment and a first for the Town of Plympton. Plympton's 11 and 12 year old All-Stars competed against teams from Carver, Hanson, Pembroke, Wareham, Kingston, and Halifax to win the Championship. Congratulations to the coaches and players for a job well done!

The State's budget is finalized and Plympton received considerably less State Aid than was projected, which facilitated the need for a Special Town Meeting to re-vote Town budgets.

Mold was discovered at the Dennett Elementary School just prior to the opening of school. The Board formed a Mold Remediation

Task Force to oversee and expedite the mold remediation. Remediation was completed in November and the children returned to their classrooms.

September: Congratulations to Joe Freitas who was elected to the Board of Selectmen. Joe brings a tremendous amount of experience to the Board and we look forward to working with him to address the many issues facing our Town.

October: Special Town Meeting to re-vote Town budgets with an 8.9% reduction in order to balance the budget without the use of stabilization funds. The Town voted to transfer \$25,000 from the Stabilization Account to pay a portion of the costs of the Dennett mold remediation with the hope that this money would be recovered.

November: Due to budget cuts, the Selectmen voted to close the Town House to the public on Wednesdays.

December: The Board and Adelpia reached an agreement for the terms of the ten-year license renewal. Digital cable and high-speed Internet service are now available to all Plympton residents. Thank you to the volunteers on the Cable Advisory Committee for assisting the Board in the negotiating process—your insight was extremely helpful.

Surplus town property including desks, tables, chairs, computers, file cabinets, dirt bike, bicycles, and a highway truck were sold at a public auction in the Town House. The auction successfully cleaned out the Town House Auditorium and raised \$495, which was deposited into the general fund.

Thank you to the many volunteers who serve on Town boards and committees. It is often a well orchestrated balancing act to manage family commitments and those associated with serving on a Town Board. Your time and dedication is truly appreciated.

We are honored and privileged to serve as your Board of Selectmen. Through thoughtful and responsible leadership, we will meet today's challenges and plan for Plympton's future.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Joy, Chairman  
Richard L. Springer  
Joseph A. Freitas

<b>SELECTMEN'S EXPENSE</b>	
Appropriated	25331.00
Expended:	<u>25330.92</u>
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	.08
<b>TOWN HOUSE</b>	
Appropriated	29500.00
Expended:	<u>29500.00</u>
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	.00
<b>BLANKET INSURANCE</b>	
Appropriated	36000.00
Transfer Town Meeting	4367.00
Transfer 6/30/03	<u>15212.00</u>
Expended	55579.00
<b>STREET LIGHTS</b>	
Appropriated	6000.00
Transfer 6/30/03	<u>777.93</u>
Expended	6777.93
<b>TOWN COUNSEL</b>	
Appropriated	30000.00
Transfer Town Meeting	20000.00
Transfers	<u>12039.02</u>
Expended	62039.02
<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	
Appropriated	450.00
Expended	<u>233.19</u>
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/03	216.81