

TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MARCH 7, 2017

Moderator Steven John called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. and read out the warning:

The legal voters of the Town of Marlboro, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town House of said Marlboro on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. to consider and act upon the following Articles:

He noted that the polls will be open on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the Marlboro Town Office for the purpose of electing by Australian ballot the officers listed in Article 3.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator for a one year term.

Steven John nominated by David Holzapfel of Route 9, seconded by David Elliott of Higley Hill Road.

Moved by Sharon Tappan of Adams Brook Road and seconded by Carol Brooke-deBock of North Pond Road that the nominations be closed and that the Clerk cast a single ballot.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Steven John elected as Moderator for a one year term.

Steven John explains that Roberts' Rules of Order is the guiding procedure for the meeting, limit to 2 minutes speaking time and the person making the motion gets to speak first. Amendments to articles procedure: moderator decides if amendment is germane to article. If seconded, debate on amendment, then vote. The Moderator also appointed Justice of the Peace T Hunter Wilson as parliamentarian.

Any non-voters asked to show hands.

Article 2. To act upon the Auditors' Report.

So moved Gail MacArthur of MacArthur Road, seconded by Clarence Boston of Town Hill Road.

Discussion followed: Douglas Korb of South Road brought handouts for inclusion in the town report from the Act 46 study committee and alternative structure committee, also presented by Lauren Poster of Moss Hollow Road and Dan MacArthur of MacArthur Road.

Auditor Gail MacArthur detailed the few issues with the report and laments the omission of the above.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Auditors' Report accepted.

~ Motion made to move to School District meeting ~

Moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by Gail MacArthur to recess the meeting in order to convene the School District Meeting at 9:15 am

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

~ Town Meeting reconvened at 1:31 pm ~

Motion made by Eugen Bernhard of Lower Dover to suspend the rules to allow a proposal to the meeting.

All in favor of taking up the proposal now, so voted by unanimous voice vote.

A resolution of the meeting:

“We, the voters of the Town of Marlboro, Vermont, proudly support the civil rights of all people without regard to their race, religion, gender or economic status.”

So moved by T Hunter Wilson, seconded by Dan MacArthur.

Proposed amendment to the language by Suzanne Whitehouse of South Road:

“We, the voters of the Town of Marlboro, Vermont, proudly support the civil rights of all people without regard to their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, disability, age, or education level.”

Discussion of the amendment.

Jess Weitz of Route 9 calls the question to close discussion on the amendment.

So voted by unanimous voice vote. Debate on the amendment is closed.

Now we vote on the amendment as stated above. So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Question regarding including immigrant status. Discussion.

Clarence Boston calls the question to end debate, Keely Eastley of North Pond Road seconded.

So voted by unanimous voice vote to end debate.

Vote on proposed resolution as amended.

So voted by unanimous voice vote, one abstention.

Article 3. To elect all town officers required by law to be elected at the Annual Town Meeting: Select Board, one three-year term; Town Clerk, one three-year term; Lister, one three-year term; Auditor, one three-year term; Constable, one one-year term; Grand Juror, one one-year term; Town Agent, one one-year term.

At the invitation of the Moderator the candidates present were identified: Tyler Gibbons for Select Board, Forrest Holzapfel for Town Clerk, Eric Matt for Lister, S. Rose Watson for Auditor, Clarence E. Boston for Constable, Robert Anderson for Grand Juror & Town Agent.

Article 4. To see if the town will set Friday, October 6, 2017 as the due date for property taxes, payable to the Treasurer.

So moved by Douglas Korb of South Road and seconded by David Holzapfel of Route 9.

No discussion.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Friday, October 6, 2017 set as due date for property taxes, payable to the Treasurer.

Article 5. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$275,000 for the General Fund.

So moved by T Hunter Wilson of Butterfield Road and seconded by Jonathan Morse of Church Hollow Road. Select Board members Tyler Gibbons, Pieter van Loon, and Patti Smith take the dais.

Discussion followed with the Select Board outlining the general budget:

- Pieter van Loon talked about the bump up in the town budget for this year, and said the board is weighing whether the increases should be made as steps every couple of years or as a general curve.
- Gail MacArthur of MacArthur Road had a budget question from page 7 of the town report.
- Keely Eastley of North Pond Road asked about the Delinquent Taxes and how we can recover the money owed to the Town. Linda Peters, the Delinquent Tax Collector, said the policy is being reviewed by lawyers before we can proceed to tax sales.
- Jason MacArthur of MacArthur Road asked about how the structure of the budget for the coming years.
- Haley Elisha of South Road asked about insurance and bonding and the increase in the budget. Treasurer Linda Peters said the amount is as put forth by VLCT, the municipal insurer.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$275,000 voted for the General Fund.

Article 6. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$360,000 for town highways, summer and winter maintenance.

So moved by Clarence Boston of Town Hill Road and seconded by Dan MacArthur of MacArthur Road.

Discussion followed:

- Pieter van Loon said the budget is being affected by the current wild weather changes and that recently there have been many more ice storms and ice events, and the increased budget amount is needed to keep up with the demands of the winters as they have been recently.
- Pat DeAngelo of Town Hill Road said she thought the road crew is amazing, to applause

Motion made by Robert Elliott of Higley Hill Road to add \$50,000 to the budget for the paving of Higley Hill Road, seconded by Keely Eastley.

Discussion followed:

- Road Foreman David Elliott spoke to the fact that Higley Hill is the most traveled road in Marlboro, and that 1.9 miles would be the distance needed to be paved.
- Moderator Steven John said we can add the money to the budget, but cannot tell the Select Board how to use that extra money. The rough figure for paving is \$80,000 per

mile. State funding for paving is on a rotation which we receive about once every six years, and we just repaved South Road last summer.

- Clarence Boston of Town Hill Road spoke about the GPS units the public is using which is routing them over Higley Hill Road as a shortcut to the Mount Snow area and increasing traffic.
- Andy Reichsman of Cowpath 40 asked what the \$50,000 would do, and David Elliott responded that the money could be put in a fund so that the paving cost would be spread over more time.
- Brent Seabrook of Lower Dover Road spoke about the increased speed on the road if it was paved.
- Nancy Anderson of Route 9 thinks a capital reserve fund should be made as a separate article, not lumped ambiguously in the budget.
- T Hunter Wilson said the Select Board has the authority to pave or not pave.
- Celena Romo of Route 9 said we should continue this discussion since paving can be a benefit for the town to help with the economic growth in the area.
- Jen Carr of Ames Hill Road called the question, seconded by Jason MacArthur.

Motion to close discussion on amendment.

Vote on amendment to increase the budget to \$410,000.

Amendment defeated by unanimous voice vote.

Return to original Article language.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$360,000 voted for town highways, summer and winter maintenance.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and expend up to \$7,500 for recycling services for the period July 1 through December 31.

So moved by Anthony Gordon of North Pond Road and seconded by Pieter van Loon.

Discussion followed:

- Tyler Gibbons spoke to the article, as Windham Solid Waste Management District will no longer be servicing the roll off recycling bins from Marlboro as of June 30, 2017. The Select Board is proposing a 6 month trial to have a private hauler remove our recyclables, and to move the bins away from their current location on Route 9. One possible location is at the Town Garage, and by moving them, we should reduce the abuses of the recycling services and reduce costs to the town.
- Haley Elisha asked about the WSWMD dues regularly in the budget, and Anthony Gordon, the towns WSWMD representative, explained. The fee helps keep the transfer station open and functioning.
- The trial period being discussed has many unanswerable questions. The town will own

two of the current recycling bins at the end of June 2017. 30% of what ends up in the bins is trash. Tyler noted that crushing all boxes and cans would be a significant savings to the town especially if we own the bins, and are paying for the hauling.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$7,500 voted for recycling services for the period July 1 through December 31.

Article 8. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$10,000 to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

So moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by Jen Carr.

Discussion followed: Steven John thanked the MVFC to applause from those assembled. Jess Weitz of Route 9 asked what tasks were involved in being a volunteer, answered by Fire Chief David Elliott.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$10,000 voted to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

Article 9. To see if the Town of Marlboro will renew the property tax exemption to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company for a period of five years, beginning March 7, 2017.

So moved Clarence Boston and seconded by Nancy Anderson.

No discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The property tax exemption is voted for the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company for a period of five years, beginning March 7, 2017.

Article 10. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$12,957.57 to Rescue, Inc. for services.

So moved by Nancy Anderson and seconded by Clarence Boston.

No discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$12,957.57 voted to Rescue, Inc. for services.

Article 11. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$1,500.00 to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. for services.

So moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by Nancy Anderson.

No discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$1,500 voted to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. for services.

Article 12. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$1,000 to Grace Cottage Hospital.

So moved by T Hunter Wilson and seconded by Nancy Anderson .

No discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$1,000 voted to Grace Cottage Hospital.

Article 13. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$50 for the support of Green Up Vermont to provide services to residents of the town.

So moved by Jonathan Morse and seconded by Nancy Anderson.

Discussion followed: David Elliott said the Road Crew would really like to see marks on the map showing parts of the road that have been greened up, to save them a lot of time in retrieving the bags.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$50 voted for the support of Green Up Vermont.

Article 14. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend up to \$3,000 to support the production of the *Marlboro Mixer* newsletter.

So moved by Jonathan Morse and seconded by Nancy Anderson.

Small discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

\$3,000 voted to Marlboro Mixer newsletter.

Article 15. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$500 to help the American Red Cross, Green Mountain in support of their mission and the work they do in Marlboro and the State of Vermont.

So moved by T Hunter Wilson and seconded by Allison Turner of Fisher Cat Lane.

Discussion followed: Allison Turner spoke to the American Red Cross policy of not taking blood from gay men for fear of HIV, although statistics don't prove that this is to be the case.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Two abstentions.

\$500 voted to help the American Red Cross, Green Mountain.

Article 16. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$3,234 for the support of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to residents of the Town.

So moved by Pieter van Loon and seconded by Andrea Matthews of Jenne Road.

Discussion followed.

- Kristin Mehalick of SeVEDS spoke to the article and their work, including outreach to schools that they are doing about the future of the workforce in this area and what jobs will be opening up in the workforce as well as other areas of support for the economy and area businesses.
- Jonathan Morse, Carol Ann Johnson of South Road, Mike Andreotta of Route 9, Jean Boardman of South Road, Clarence Boston, Tyler Gibbons & Pat DeAngelo asked questions and made statements. Kristin of SeVEDS answered questions. T Hunter Wilson asked that a report be published in future Marlboro town reports.

Rachel Boyden of Lucier Road called the question, seconded by Andy Reichsman of Cowpath 40.

Motion passed by voice vote with some dissention.

\$3,234 voted for the purpose of supporting Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) activities.

Article 17. To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$9,929 for the following social service agencies:

Brattleboro Area Hospice Inc.	\$ 250.00
The Current	\$ 250.00
Deerfield Valley Food Pantry	\$ 500.00
Gathering Place for Adult Day Services	\$ 500.00
Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center	\$ 230.00
Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont	\$1,050.00
Marlboro Cares	\$ 400.00
Senior Solutions	\$ 400.00
Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc.	\$ 970.00
Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH	\$3,179.00
Women's Freedom Center	\$1,200.00
Youth Services	\$1,000.00

So moved T Hunter Wilson and seconded Linda Peters.

No discussion followed.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

\$9,929 voted for the social service agencies listed above.

Article 18. To see if the Town will create a Town House Restoration Fund and appropriate \$10,000 for Phase I of the Town House Restoration.

So moved by Clarence Boston and seconded by Pieter van Loon.

Discussion:

- David Holzapfel spoke regarding Phase I and the things which need immediate attention to maintain the Town House in advance of its 200th birthday in 2022. Funds were granted from the Marlboro Alliance to reconstruct the front stairs in Fall 2016, and to provide new electrical outlets around the building.

- Pieter van Loon admitted that the Town House maintenance has been deferred recently.
- Jess Weitz spoke about the possibility of a small town lending library, which is in the genesis stage.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

The Town of Marlboro will create a Town House Restoration Fund and appropriate \$10,000 for Phase I of the Town House Restoration.

Article 19. To see if the Town of Marlboro will vote to proclaim the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of Columbus Day.

So moved by Eugen Bernhard and seconded by Lucy Gratwick of Lyman Hill Road.

Discussion:

- Tyler Gibbons spoke to the article. The State of Vermont designated Indigenous People's Day in place of Columbus Day for one year only, and this furthers the sentiment.

So voted by unanimous voice vote, 1 abstention.

The Town of Marlboro will proclaim the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of Columbus Day.

Article 20. To see if the voters of the Town of Marlboro will authorize the town to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

So moved by Jean Boardman and seconded by Clarence Boston.

No discussion.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

The Town of Marlboro will authorize the town to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

Article 21. To discuss any other nonbinding business.

- Clarence Boston asked for the sense of the meeting, to advise the Select Board to contact our legislators to request that Town Meeting be a paid holiday in the State of Vermont. Seconded by Jonathan Morse.

No discussion.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

- Tyler Gibbons discussed the end of DSL connectivity in the next 5 to 10 years, and how the Connectivity Committee is taking on the issue. The technology is changing continually, but the committee is trying to be braced for the upcoming changes. More discussion of fiberoptic technology. Enthusiasts are encouraged to attend and help out.
- Jonathan Morse asked about the possibility of changing the location of town meeting.
- Jess Weitz spoke about the emergence of a small town lending library, and asked that the library survey be filled out by as many people as possible to get a feeling for townspeople's desire for a library.

➤ **Moved to adjourn by Clarence Boston , seconded by Eric Matt at 4:06 p.m.**