

TOWN OF MARLBORO
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 12, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present were select board members Tyler Gibbons, Chair; Pieter van Loon and Patti Smith. Also present were Kevin Quigley, President of Marlboro College; SeVEDS representatives Kristen Mehalick, RT Brown and Sunny Leporati; and Marcia Hamilton, Select Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting came to order at 5:00 PM.

IDENTIFY ANY CHANGES TO AGENDA:

No changes were made to the agenda.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

No member of the public was present during the unscheduled open public comment period. The board reviewed a request for a zoning permit fee waiver and supporting documents which had been reviewed by the Town Clerk and the Zoning Administrator prior to the meeting. The board voted (van Loon/Smith) to waive the permit fee due to hardship.

The board approved and signed Pay Orders.

The board voted (van Loon/Gibbons) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 12/22/2016.

Kevin Quigley and the board discussed three topics that had been identified in advance: (1) Burglaries in Town including at the college; (2) Possible collaboration of Marlboro College, its Graduate Center, and the Marlboro Elementary School toward a mutual benefit; (3) Town connectivity issues, the Marlboro Connectivity Committee, and the potential for advice or help from Marlboro College.

Kevin stated that students are back for the second semester and enrollment numbers are up. The college is trying to attract students from all 50 states. Last year there were 102 students from 28 states. The college is working to move the graduate center from Brattleboro to Marlboro by March. They are hoping to sell the building by June 30, but will try to keep a footprint in Brattleboro. He said plans for the so-called Marlboro North building on Route 9 near South Road are to spruce it up. They are working with the Music Festival for use of space on campus. The undergraduate students at the college have a relationship with Marlboro Elementary School through tutoring some of the students. They are looking for a more formal relationship.

Act 46 is one of the big issues in Town. There will be a vote in March to consolidate with Dover and Wardsboro or remain independent for a year or so. The graduate school has teaching and management programs that might benefit the relationship with MES in some way.

Tyler spoke to Connectivity as he is chair of the committee. He stated the two goals of the committee are to get everyone who wants to be connected through FairPoint to DSL and to look into the future because DSL is not a long-term solution. He said fiber is expensive and the committee is talking with other towns such as Vernon. Guilford is also working on it. Kevin said he thinks the way to go is Wi-Fi at the college and he wants to offer

Dan Cotter, Director of Plant and Operations and John Baker, IT Director as resources to the Town. Kevin wants to make himself and his colleagues and facilities available to the Town. Kevin also mentioned the college is looking into conserving some acreage on the north side of campus as an ecological reserve

With regard to burglaries, Kevin said some cash was taken from the coffee shop and other items were taken randomly, but it seems to have stopped. They think there may have been someone on campus involved.

Kristin Mehalick updated the board on SeVEDS workforce initiatives. They have 100 students involved in their Fast Track to Success program. The Young Professionals program is growing. At the annual gala over 300 people showed up at museum. The Internship Program is growing.

RT Brown helps small business get off the ground with idea jams where they share an idea in one minute. They have a digital marketing workshop series the third Wednesday of the month with the goal to help small business.

Sunny Leporati is new at SeVEDS and manages the USDA Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Grant for Windham and Bennington Counties as part of the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone.

OLD BUSINESS

The Hogback Budget discussion was carried over from the last meeting so that Patti Smith, who was away during the last meeting, could have input. The board discussed the line item Biodiversity Inventory for a budgeted amount of \$10,000. Patti is a board member of Hogback Mountain Conservation Association and stated the item is discussed occasionally and likely will be discussed again at a future HMCA meeting because the details are not yet settled.

There was discussion about recycling and the closing of the Windham Solid Waste Management District. The next select board meeting will be the final meeting on the budget. Tyler will send an email to select boards in Halifax, Newfane, and Dummerston asking them what they are doing to try to get some insight. Pieter will contact Linda Peters and Andrea Howe to try to clarify numbers for the FY 2017 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

The board set the date for Pre-Town Meeting on February 28, 2017, 6:00 PM.

The board appointed Bob Anderson to the Hogback Preservation Commission to fill the unexpired 3-year term of Phil Howe, to 2018

The board appointed Kevin Kennedy to the Conservation Commission to fill the unexpired 4-year term to 2019.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:

Mike Andreotta expressed interest outside the meeting in being appointed the Town's Rescue Representative. The board will take action at the next meeting.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia L. Hamilton, Select Board Assistant