

TOWN OF MARLBORO
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 25, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present were Select Board members Pieter van Loon, Chair, Patti Smith, Vice Chair, and Tyler Gibbons. Also present were Ashley Bies, a member of the Conservation Commission, and Elisha Haley, resident of South Road. Marcia Hamilton, Select Board Assistant, was away.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting came to order at 5:01 PM.

IDENTIFY ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

No changes to the agenda were made.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

Elisha Haley, resident on South Road, was present for the unscheduled public comment period. She had concerns about Long View Forest's proposal regarding the Japanese Knotweed issue along South Road. The town and some residents were thinking of hiring Long View Forest to try to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed, as it is a problematic invasive species; however, as some residents have decided not to go through with the plan, the town is postponing hiring Long View Forest for this section of town. The board is still planning to hire Long View Forest for a three-year Japanese knotweed eradication process at the town garage site.

The board approved and signed pay orders.

Ashley Bies, a member of the Conservation Commission, came in to discuss residents' concerns about the Commission's proposed zoning regulation changes related to wildlife crossings. Ashley spoke to the methodology of the Conservation Commission regarding on-the-ground markers for wildlife crossings. He said the crossings are essential to wildlife populations, and that the commission has tried to highlight the most critical crossings in town. The white and orange flagging tape shows areas that are currently proposed for the wildlife crossing network. Patti said the Planning Commission will be sending out a letter to every resident who has a proposed crossing on their land to clear up confusion; the letter will be sent next week.

Ashley also spoke about the balance of wildlife habitat needs and private property rights. He said there is no way for the town to control deforestation or destruction of wildlife habitats on private property. The Conservation Commission has begun to explore the idea of an optional program for residents to maintain forest cover on their property, perhaps voluntarily or with some kind of monetary compensation. He wondered if land owners could adopt language into their deed regarding forest cover, and if the town could draft deed language for that intent. A few other options and issues were discussed, including zoning regulation and potential deed enforcement.

The Select Board approved the regular minutes (van Loon/Gibbons) for 05/11/2017

OLD BUSINESS:

Patti spoke about the legal opinion from VCLT regarding transferring public property to a private entity. In this case, the HMCA would like to adopt the old T-Bars from Hogback for use for fundraising and/or other ideas. Patti said that legally, the transfer would be possible, but the Select Board agreed they would like to put the question to the residents of the town. Patti will be in contact with Diana Todd from the HMCA to further discuss the issue.

Patti updated the Select Board on the HPC Hogback budget biodiversity survey line item. The select board decided to approve the budget without the biodiversity survey line item, with the intent of revisiting the line item when the HPC has more information and/or bids for the project.

Pieter said the board is still waiting for the contract from Long View Forest for dealing with the Japanese Knotweed at the town garage.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business before the board.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:

The board reviewed a few pieces of mail, including information regarding the hauling of recycling.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ty Gibbons / Marlboro Select Board