

**Town of Marlboro**  
***Board of Civil Authority***  
Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 P.M. by Chairman T. Hunter Wilson.

Present were: Justices of the Peace Andy Reichsman, David Holzapfel, Linda Peters, T. Hunter Wilson, and Marcia Hamilton; Select Board members Pieter van Loon, Tyler Gibbons, and Patti Smith; and Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel. Also attending Assistant Town Clerk Evan Wyse.

Forrest made copies available of the agenda and the talking points of discussion regarding this meeting of the BCA, which was called to have a discussion amongst town officers regarding :

Vermont laws and our town government, specifically discussion of scofflaw behavior and the town's role in allowing violations to slide, or enforcing and preventing them:

- T Wilson suspects underlying issues that are large, and that if things are agreed to via the law, they must be enforced by the town for the benefit of all.
- Evan Wyse said that when issues go unresolved, they keep cropping up.
- Pieter van Loon asked which issues are dominant, David Holzapfel asked what is the town doing to remedy these issues.
- Forrest Holzapfel suggested issues which include lack of enforcement of laws regarding dog licensing and the difficulty of keeping a qualified Animal Control Officer; lack of enforcement of zoning violations and the need for a unified response to them; the need for the town to respond to resident's complaints regarding noise, speeding traffic on town roads, and behavior of their neighbors; questions regarding the appointment of residents to town boards.
- Tyler Gibbons spoke about the lack of volunteers and the difficulty of keeping them engaged.
- Forrest and Evan proposed keeping a log of complaints which can be shared among town officers, since most often, the Town Clerk's office

hears the complaints. By logging the issue and sharing the document with other boards, action can be taken to resolve it, if possible. This will be put into action immediately.

- Pieter van Loon and Andy Reichsman both stated that not all problems can be solved by the municipality.
- Marcia Hamilton pointed out that the Town has a specific contract with the Windham County Sheriff, and the public cannot call on them at will to propose patrols for speeding on town roads.
- Forrest Holzapfel stated that with the Listers currently doing a town-wide reappraisal, effective in 2018, there will be BCA tax appeals in June for the board to handle, and a unified response will be essential.
- T Wilson reiterated the need to handle all the appeals in the same way, so there is fairness across all taxpayers.
- Forrest Holzapfel asked the Select Board if their compensation is sufficient and that \$1,000 per year is essentially a volunteer position.
- David Holzapfel brought up the possibility of a town manager model, and would that lighten the demands on the Select Board? Forrest and T noted that there would need to be a charter change and town-wide vote to change models of government.
- Linda Peters spoke of the value of a regular town government meeting, including all boards, so communication lines are open since all of us get focused on our own work and lose sight of inter-town connections. Having such meeting quarterly or biannually is to be determined, and was widely agreed upon. No vote was made.
- T Wilson asked if there could be a letter of expectation regarding the duties of a board. He then excused himself at 5:51 pm to attend to a friend who had an accident. Linda Peters, Vice Chair of the BCA, took over running the meeting.
- Linda Peters spoke about how as Delinquent Tax Collector, she will be implementing new, strict procedures regarding tax sales in the coming year.
- Forrest Holzapfel explained the difficulties with enforcing zoning violations and wondered if, at the time the new zoning regulations are voted in, the town should begin more stringent enforcement. Reviewing how to handle violations through a VLCT Zoning Workshop was suggested.
- Recycling in town was brought up by Linda Peters, and she questioned how do we educate people about protocol when the bins

are full, and what the response is -- Road Foreman David Elliott is in charge of making that decision, but townspeople need to know that. More communication is needed to townspeople explaining these details.

- Tyler Gibbons talked about his role as recycling point person and the phone calls and emails he has received about the same issues.
- Discussion of details regarding the residency of the current Conservation Commission chair given that State law dictates that to serve, one must be a resident of that town. Wide ranging discussion followed.
- Forrest Holzapfel briefly discussed the possibility of having an outside check on the town website to keep it tuned up, and that this was recommended by the Snelling Center for Government when the new site went online.

Moved by Andy Reichsman and seconded by Pieter van Loon to adjourn the meeting.

So voted by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Holzapfel  
Town Clerk