

TOWN OF MARLBORO
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 12, 2019
5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Present were Select Board members Tyler Gibbons, Chair; Jesse Kreitzer, Vice Chair; Sarah Lang and Alex Beck, SeVEDS Representatives; Ashley Bies, Conservation Commission Chair; Jay Sparks, Emergency Management Director; and Lauren MacArthur, Select Board Assistant.

Julia von Ranson, Member was absent.

CALL TO ORDER: Tyler Gibbons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

Scheduled Business:

Sarah Lang and Alex Beck spoke to the Select Board about recent SeVEDS initiatives that support their mission to add well-paying jobs to the region. They also shared data about employment and income in Marlboro. Most of the funds given by towns like Marlboro support their workforce programming, including high school career programs. SeVEDS works with area guidance counselors to coordinate field trips, mock interviews, resume writing, etc. They also manage relationships between educational institutions and serve as a community convener for events such as the Southern Vermont Career Expo, held in October. In addition, they provide internship support, promote the region, and coordinate the community facility assistance program. They have been partnering with Bennington County as well recently.

Tyler shared information with Sarah and Alex about recent projects in Marlboro, including the revitalization of connectivity initiatives via MCUB, village wastewater exploration by the Planning Commission, and the proposed college merger.

SeVEDS requested that their appropriations money from the town be included in the general budget, if possible.

Jay Sparks, Emergency Management Director reported that he recently attended the EMD Convention. He has reached out to MES Principal, Wayne Kermenski and plans to connect with the new Fire Chief, Rusty Sage, as well as Marlboro Cares. The history of and plans for the AT&T telecommunications tower were discussed.

Ashley Bies, Conservation Commission Chair explained that wildlife corridor linkage is a key topic for the Conservation Commission. They have been working with six other towns, have received a thirty thousand dollar grant, and have been doing mapping, outreach, conservation science planning, and working with landowners to ensure that wildlife corridors are not fragmented further. They have been tracking fisher cat, otter, moose, bear, bobcat to see where they most frequently cross roads and Ashley shared a detailed map that indicated these crossing areas.

Ashley stated that the Conservation Commission is hoping to request vehicle speed studies at three locations on Route 9 due to concern about public safety and wildlife

safety. There are limited sight-lines in these specific sites as well. The three sites identified by the Conservation Commission are: 1) between Town Hill Road and Church Hollow, continuing east of Church Hollow to the area where 40mph zone begins 2) the junction of Hamilton Road and Route 9 to the town line with Brattleboro (concentrated between Hamilton Road and Marlboro Collision and Towing) 3) the Marlboro side of Hogback near the 100-mile view. The question of whether to ask for speed studies in all three sites or to focus on one at a time was discussed.

The Select Board encouraged Ashley to put together data to support the request and speak with a town resident involved with the most recent speed study, and Mollie Burke, Brattleboro Representative who serves on the state's Transportation Committee. The Select Board stated that they would be willing to make the official request for the speed study once the preparation for the request had been completed.

APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF PAY ORDERS: The Pay Orders were approved and signed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Select Board approved minutes from the regular meeting on 9/12/19. (Gibbons, Kreitzer)

OLD BUSINESS:

The Select Board prepared for the discussion that will be open to the public and will take place at the next regular Select Board meeting about the possibilities of hiring a fourth road crew member and paving one mile of Higley Hill Road. Jesse will organize publicity for the meeting to encourage town residents to attend and share their comments and Tyler will act as moderator in his capacity as Select Board Chair. David Elliott, Road Foreman, will be in attendance as well.

The Select Board also spoke about the discussion regarding Town Meeting that will take place during the regular Select Board Meeting on October 24, 2019. Tyler will organize publicity around this meeting and will invite town residents to take this opportunity to share how Town Meeting works for them. Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk, plans to attend. The feasibility of live streaming and possibly using the Community Center for overflow and live-streaming will be discussed.

Jesse reported that he spoke with the coordinator of the subsidized tick-testing program at the UMass Laboratory. They can offer price adjustments in the form of a refund or coupon codes. The Select Board agreed to move forward with the program and decided to try the refund option. Additional information will be made available to residents when the partnership is finalized.

The Select Board reviewed the Municipal Roads Grants in Aid projects that were identified after a site visit by the Windham Regional Commission. Road drainage projects were selected on Butterfield and Stearns Road and have been successfully reported to the VT ANR's Municipal Roads Grants in Aid program. The deadline for the work is June 30, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tyler reported back from the informational meeting on August 22, 2019 about Marlboro College's potential merger with the University of Bridgeport, which he as a representative from the Select Board.

Jesse reported that he checked in the Board of Trustees of the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department and has encouraged them to send a representative to speak with the Select Board. Lisa Hecht has shared concerns via email and phone and these were acknowledged by the Select Board.

The Select Board signed the corrections to the Grand List submitted by the Town Listers.

The Select Board approved the application for a second class liquor license for Smokin' J's on Route 9.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:

The payroll-signing schedule for September and October was confirmed.

The Select Board received information about VLCT's Opioid Action Forum on Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren B. MacArthur,
Assistant to the Select Board

