

TOWN OF MARLBORO
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, October 10, 2019
5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Present were Select Board members Tyler Gibbons, Chair; Jesse Kreitzer, Vice Chair; Julia von Ranson, Member; David Elliott, Road Foreman; Dan Dennis, Jim Herrick, Dave Matt, and Bob Elliott, Town Residents; and Lauren MacArthur, Select Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER: Tyler Gibbons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Changes to the Agenda: “Appointment: Will Shakespeare to the Planning Commission” was added to “New Business.”

“Rescheduling Thanksgiving Select Board Meeting” was added to “Information Items and Mail”.

Unscheduled Public Comment: Dave Matt brought a letter to the Select Board, reiterating some of the points that he made at the previous meeting’s discussion about paving a section of Higley Hill Road. His letter also points out problem areas in the road, supports the idea of using state money to improve gravel roads in town (instead of paving), and mentions the issue of salt on paved roads, which can damage wetlands near the road. He also shared two pamphlets with the Select Board: “When to Pave a Dirt Road” and “The Basics of a Good Road”. Jim Herrick also shared concerns about paving and plans to put his points into writing as well. Jim Herrick pointed out that the intersection of Augur Hole Road and Higley Hill Road is very dangerous and does not follow the standard “T” design of road intersections. He believes pavement will invite more traffic and sees this as a problem since there are many dangerous areas and corners on Higley Hill Road. Currently, the gravel slows people down. Jim believes paving and increased traffic would lead to the need for more policing. He also stated concern that the road base is insufficient to pave on top of. Jim asked for clarification of the objective for paving and stated that a gravel road can be done to an excellent standard. He asked the Select Board to consult the Town Plan, as he believes it calls for preservation of the character of a rural town, which, he believes, can be lost forever after paving occurs. David Elliott reiterated reasons to pave road: it is a very heavily-traveled road and requires a greater amount of gravel and grading time. Mud season is problematic on Higley Hill and paving also helps reduce dust and gravel runoff, which helps to meet requirements for preserving water quality.

Scheduled Business:

Sand bids from Zuluzny, Cersosimo and Fitzpatrick were considered by the Select Board and Road Foreman. Zuluzny asked for \$15.50/cubic yard delivered; Cersosimo asked for \$11.94/cubic yard delivered; and Fitzpatrick asked for \$11.70/cubic yard delivered. Although the lowest bid is usually accepted, David wanted a chance to examine the quality of sand from Fitzpatrick before accepting the bid. Tyler pointed out that trucking from Fitzpatrick would be minimal compared to trucking from the other companies, and the environmental impact of trucking sand would be less. The Select Board voted to accept Fitzpatrick’s bid if the David finds the material to be acceptable upon inspection.

this coming week. If the sand quality is not acceptable, Cersosimo's bid will be accepted. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

Bob Elliott visited to speak about paving Higley Hill Rd. and to give a historical perspective. Bob feels strongly that the paving should be done. He emphasized the wear and tear on one's car while driving on gravel road. Jim Herrick offered the counterargument that rust is more costly and the use of road salt on pavement makes it worse.

The Select Board invited those who came for unscheduled public comment about paving to come back for public comment or to schedule more time to speak at a future Select Board meeting.

The Select Board checked in about the condition of Moss Hollow with David. He said he noticed some washboards and minor potholes after inspecting the road two weeks ago. The road was graded the next day. David said there is a grading plan to help keep track of what the Road Crew is grading. Every road gets graded approximately three times each year. David will try to keep track of this rotation more carefully in the coming year. The resident that had complained about Moss Hollow Road felt that it was in poor condition again (after the recent grading) and David took note of this and said he would re-inspect the road immediately.

Sheriff Mark Anderson visited the Select Board and shared data about call types in Marlboro. The Sheriff's Department aims to provide services at the lowest cost possible. The yearly contract is an average of hours of service provided (with less coverage during the summer months than other times of the year). Sheriff Anderson reminded the Select Board that the monthly invoice includes a list of incidents and actions, but access to up-to-date information online can be provided to the Select Board. Sheriff Anderson stated that, while patrolling roads in town, he and the other officers try to balance time between Route 9 and town roads. He reminded the Select Board that a percentage of traffic ticket fees come back to the town. Tyler mentioned that the radar speed signs on Route 9 have helped with speeding in that spot, but this is an area that still needs more enforcement. Sheriff Anderson and the Select Board discussed the mobile speed carts that the Sheriff's Office can set up, as well as speed carts that can be requested through the Windham Regional Commission. Sheriff Anderson said he will set up his speed cart on Higley Hill Road in a few weeks, as this road is of special interest to the Select Board in the recent deliberations over possible paving.

David Elliott returned to the meeting after checking Moss Hollow Rd. He stated that it could be better, but he did not notice any glaring problems.

The Select Board returned to the discussion about paving a section on Higley Hill. Jesse stated that he would like to see the following: an actual quote of costs involved, a list of culverts that need to be replaced, as well as other work needed to improve the structure of the current road in order to pave, an investigation into signage on Route 9, directing motorists to remain on the paved roads to reach Mt. Snow and signage indicating that Higley Hill is not paved all the way through, investigating setting weight limits for Higley Hill, and possibly making an appeal to GPS companies to take Higley Hill Rd off

maps routing motorists to Mount Snow. He would also look into the issue of road salt and its effects more thoroughly. The Select Board plans to return to this discussion at future meetings.

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 10/26/19. (Gibbons, Kreitzer) The Select Board Report for the November/December issue of the Marlboro Mixer was approved. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

OLD BUSINESS:

Jesse spoke with the tick-testing subsidy program coordinator at UMass laboratory again. A coupon code will be issued by the UMass-based program and the Select Board will publicize it so residents may start taking advantage of the program.

The Select Board signed the Better Roads Grant Agreement.

The Select Board discussed the upcoming Town Meeting discussion to take place at the next regular Select Board meeting on October 24, 2019. Tyler will write an agenda for the discussion and will send out a reminder to the community about the meeting. Forrest Holzapfel will be in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Select Board appointed Will Shakespeare to the Planning Commission.(Gibbons, von Ranson)

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:

The Select Board acknowledged receipt of information about the Vermont Council of Rural Development's event, "Celebrating Vermont," on October 27, 2019.

The Select Board also acknowledged receipt of a resident's email regarding the condition of Moss Hollow Road (discussed earlier in the meeting with David Elliott).

The Select Board received information about VLCT's Computer Awareness for Municipalities Webinar on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 and ANR's State Government Municipal Days 2019 Workshops.

The Select Board also acknowledged receipt of an Act 250 notification regarding Marlboro College's nordic trail improvement project.

The Select Board's November 28, 2019 meeting has been tentatively rescheduled to Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019 at 5pm, due to a conflict with Thanksgiving Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

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

