

TOWN OF MARLBORO  
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 14, 2019

5:00 PM

**ATTENDANCE:** Present were Select Board members Tyler Gibbons, Chair; Jesse Kreitzer, Vice Chair; Julia von Ranson, Member; Jonathan Morse, Francie Marbury, Rachel Richardson, Adeline Richardson, Andrew Richardson, Michelle Clift, Lauren Poster Town Residents; Patti Smith, Representative from the Green River Watershed Alliance; Kelly Price, Game Warden; and Lauren MacArthur, Select Board Assistant.

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

**Changes to the Agenda:** “Discussion: Marlboro Campus Committee” added as an emergency agenda item to the end of the agenda.

**Unscheduled Public Comment:** Jonathan Morse came to ask the Select Board to follow up on the Route 9 discussion that happened on October 4, 2019 with VTrans, legislators, and residents of Marlboro and nearby towns. (Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk had sent a detailed report to the Select Board about what was discussed there.) Jonathan emphasized some of the main issues that had come up at the meeting, such as a potential turn lane at South Road, improvement at the Hughes Road/Route 9 intersection, improvements in pavement condition, and considerations about truck traffic, noise from “jake brakes,” oversize loads, and the enforcement of chaining up in winter weather. The Select Board intends to discuss this issue at the November 26, 2019 meeting.

**Scheduled Business:** Tyler opened the discussion about the trapping of beavers on Lower Dover Road and invited Andrew Richardson to speak first. Andrew stated that, as a hunter and trapper, he feels he has done his best to make sure to listen to people and to be respectful of landowners in choosing hunting and trapping sites, including speaking with neighbors and gaining permission from landowners. He apologized for any misunderstanding about whether the Town had hired him to trap beavers and made sure it was clear that he was doing this as an individual, not as a representative of the Town. He feels that making a choice to hunt and trap is his right, especially when he has landowners’ permission. Tyler thanked Andrew for refraining from trapping until after this discussion with the Select Board took place. Francie Marbury spoke about her appreciation for the beavers and the ecosystem that they have created.

Tyler clarified his hesitation about even having this discussion at a Select Board meeting because the Select Board has no legal right to dictate whether or not beaver trapping should happen on this site. Because the Town had just installed a Beaver Deceiver at the proposed trapping location, the issue had become entangled in a Town investment to mitigate beaver damage to the roads and there was some concern about how Andrew represented himself as a road crew member to receive permission from the landowner.

Patti Smith spoke as a representative from the Green River Watershed Alliance about increasing and enhancing beaver populations as a method of flood control. A peat mat

builds up when beavers keep building in a specific area, which absorbs water like a sponge.

Game Warden Kelly Price stated the importance of an open dialogue between different viewpoints about these issues. Rights of hunters and trappers are protected by Vermont's laws. Kelly stated that there is a surplus of beavers in the state and a very low number of trappers. Landowners have the chance to choose how they would like to deal with beavers, but he emphasized the importance of knowing where boundaries and right-of-ways are. He also pointed out that beavers are not to be trapped on land, which minimizes the likelihood of pets getting caught in traps.

Jesse refocused the discussion, saying that the Select Board wanted to be sure it was clear that Andrew would not be trapping beavers as part of his employment as a road crew member, but as an individual, and that the Town's interest in this site is primarily the new investment in a Beaver Deceiver.

Andrew pointed out that two weeks after the Beaver Deceiver was put in, it was clogged, but Skip Lisle did come check it and fix it. Patti said that it takes time for the Deceiver to be adjusted to work well on a specific site and requires a few adjustments.

The Select Board reiterated that they want to support Andrew in his constitutional rights. Andrew stated that he will choose not to trap there because he is a community member and wants to respect the opinions of others. Tyler stated appreciation for Andrew's attitude and his willingness to participate in this discussion.

Jesse had tried to call Skip before this meeting, and will call him again to find out how the Beaver Deceivers will be maintained and to ask if Skip could send regular reports about the Beaver Deceiver and how it is working.

The Select Board acknowledged receipt of a letter from Sue Bert, requesting that the Select Board create a policy about beavers and roads that would protect beavers. The Select Board will refer Sue to the Conservation Commission to pursue this matter.

Lauren Poster attended the meeting, representing her daughter, Ariel Poster, and her fiancé, Alexandro Ramirez and their Facility Use Agreement. It was determined that no camping would be permitted at the Town Park. Neighbors will be notified about the event. Tyler, as Chair, signed the agreement.

**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 10/24/19. (Gibbons, Kreitzer)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Select Board followed up on the Town Meeting Forum on October 24, 2019. The conclusion from the forum was that changing the venue and time and/or day of Town Meeting does not seem appropriate at this time, but making the meeting more accessible via live-streaming is being pursued. The Community Center has agreed to host overflow participants and project Town Meeting via live-streamed video. Andy Reischman is willing to help set up the filming for live-streaming. Some volunteers will be needed to hold microphones. Forrest is talking to the town's IT consultant to get obtain proper

bandwidth for this endeavor. The Select Board also received additional comments regarding Town Meeting via email from Lissa Harris, who echoed concerns about accessibility and also requested availability of digital copies of the Town Report. Tyler will respond to let her know the outcome of the public forum.

The Select Board returned to the discussion about possibly hiring a fourth road crew member. The Select Board agreed that, instead of hiring a fourth person for the road crew at this time, they would like to encourage greater organization of road crew projects. A white board will be purchased to install at the Town Garage, as requested by one road crew member. This will allow them to keep track of completed, current, and future projects. The Select Board would also like to include a paragraph about road crew projects in the “Select Board Report” in the bi-monthly *Marlboro Mixer* and to encourage the road foreman to bring regular project reports to Select Board meetings. David Elliott will be present at the November 26, 2019 meeting.

The Select Board also returned to the discussion about the possibility of paving a portion of Higley Hill Road. The Select Board agreed that alternative remedies should be pursued to mitigate traffic issues on Higley Hill, rather than paving it.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Select Board signed a driveway permit for 5661 Auger Hole Road.

Jesse spoke with Sheriff Anderson about traffic calming on South Road. A trooper had been sent out to speak with a private resident who was using a radar speed gun and signaling to motorists from the side of the road. Sheriff Anderson let Jesse know that there is state funding for radar speed signs that could be used on South Road. As requested, a mobile sign had been installed on Higley Hill Road for a period of time, but there was an error in data collection, so no useful data was gathered.

The Select Board reviewed an email from Forrest Holzapfel and a quote from Coldflame Mechanical, LLC regarding the installation of heat pumps for the Town Office and Post Office. The Select Board voted to approve the installation of heat pumps in the Town Office and Post Office. (Kreitzer, Gibbons) The Select Board would also like to recommend doing blower door tests for the Post Office and Town Office and to make sure that drafty windows are replaced and weatherization is completed before installing the heat pumps.

Peter Barus was hired to serve as the DRB’s Administrative Assistant after the Select Board reviewed his resume, letter of recommendation and cover letter. (Kreitzer, Gibbons)

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:**

The Select Board acknowledged receipt of an update from Diana Todd, President of the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association, regarding the oil leak on Hogback. The leak has been remedied and the first stages of clean-up have begun.

The Select Board agreed to write personal profiles for the next issue of *The Marlboro Mixer*.

The Select Board received information about free webinar on local broadband planning on November 19, 2019, offered by the BDCC.

The Select Board received information about VLCT's Ordinance Enforcement Workshop on December 4, 2019.

**Emergency Business:**

Kevin Quiqley, President of Marlboro College, sent a request to the Select Board asking the Town to choose a representative to the Campus Task Force Committee by midnight tonight. Due to last-minute nature of the request, and the desire to represent the best interest of the Town on this committee, the Select Board agreed that having a Select Board member serve on the committee was the most efficient course of action. Jesse volunteered to serve on this committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

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

