

TOWN OF MARLBORO  
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

5:00 PM

**ATTENDANCE:** Present were Select Board members Tyler Gibbons, Chair; Jesse Kreitzer, Vice Chair; Julia von Ranson, Member; Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk; Linda Peters, Town Treasurer; David Elliott, Road Foreman; Gail MacArthur, Pat D'Angelo, Malcolm Moore, Bob Elliott, Jonathan Morse, Jean Boardman, Bradley Poster, Julian Ferholt, Deborah Ferholt, T. Hunter Wilson, Joe Mazur, Adrian Segar, Amanda Whiting, Michael Boylen, Lucy Gatwick, Laurie Panther, Town Residents; and Lauren MacArthur, Select Board Assistant.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Tyler Gibbons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**Unscheduled Public Comment:** Gail MacArthur spoke to the Select Board about Marlboro College and asked if there is anything we can do as a town. She requested that the Select Board help to gather as much information as possible, including a timeframe of decisions and deadlines. She asked if the Select Board could attempt to exert some influence in extending the timeframe to allow for more organization and planning for the future of the Marlboro College campus.

Pat D'Angelo spoke with the Select Board about her concern that town employees on the Road Crew were using their time to clean up after Green Mountain Power. Her neighbor had called Green Mountain Power to request that a tree near power lines be taken down. GMP sent Asplundh to do the job, but there was quite a bit of wood dropped into the ditch on the side of the road. The Road Crew ended up cleaning it up afterwards. David Elliott, Road Foreman stated that Green Mountain Power does not usually clean up these sites and that it did not take the Road Crew very long to clean up the ditch; therefore, it seemed that the issue was resolved and was not seen as an ongoing problem by the Road Foreman.

**Scheduled Business:**

Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk and Linda Peters, Treasurer spoke to the Select Board about the position of Trustee of Public Funds. Linda has served in this role, but it has come to their attention that the law requires the town to have three Trustees of Public Funds. Linda has also decided to step down from this position. Forrest has a list of people to talk to about running for the position. The three Trustee for Public Funds positions will be included in the upcoming election in March unless the Select Board is able to appoint people to these positions before then. Forrest had put out a query to other towns to see how they handle the positions of Trustees of Public Funds and he shared that some towns don't have Trustees of Public Funds, and the Select Board performs the usual function of the trustees. In other towns, the Town Treasurer is not involved in decisions made by the Trustees of Public Funds. In Marlboro, the Trustees of Public Funds are responsible for handling the funds for King's Cemetery, the Mary Hinkley Fund, Center Cemetery, and the Hogback endowment.

Forrest also brought up the ongoing question about the separate roles of the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association (HMCA) and the Hogback Preservation Commission (HPC) and the flow of town appropriations to these two entities.

Forrest presented the zoning permit for Heidi Barrows and asked on her behalf that the Select Board waive the zoning permit fees because Ms. Barrows has lost two homes to fire on that site. The Select Board voted to waive the zoning permit fees. (Gibbons, Kreitzer)

Forrest continued the discussion about weatherization of the Town Office/Post Office building. Jorge Romo has been hired to insulate around the windows. Forrest believes it makes sense to wait on installing heat pumps until the weatherization is complete and electrical issues have been dealt with. Forrest has spoken with an electrician about getting power to the Post Office when the power goes out and the back-up generator for the Town Office comes on. An electrician will bring one line through to the Post Office for a single outlet, which will cost \$800. It would cost \$1200 to switch all the light bulbs in the building to LED's. The idea of raising the Post Office rent a bit to cover the electric was proposed. Other energy-efficiency ideas were discussed, such as adding more solar panels on the Town Garage and seeking funding for switching over the light bulbs.

Forrest presented a letter that he'd written to Jesse Devlin of the State of VT Highway Safety and Design, outlining concerns that were brought up at the meeting about Route 9 held in October, 2019. Jonathan Morse joined the discussion and stated that he thinks law enforcement presence should be increased on Route 9. Tyler explained that the Town has contract with Sheriff's Office and they currently spend a certain percentage of time out of Route 9, although this percentage could be increased. Jonathan also suggested asking for an accelerated timeline for repaving on Route 9.

David Elliott, Road Foreman spoke with the Select Board about recent projects, such as the three main stone-lined ditches that have been completed. The Road Erosion Inventory required for the Municipal Roads General Permit will be completed next summer.

Skip Lisle is currently installing a Beaver Deceiver on North Pond Road. David spoke with Skip, who said that a second Deceiver would be ideal to lower the water level. David supports this project idea.

The Select Board let David know that they were putting the idea of hiring the fourth road crew member on hold. The Select Board requested regular reports about what the Road Crew has been working on. Information will be included in the *Select Board Report* in the Marlboro Mixer. The Select Board will bring a white board to the Town Garage for keeping track of projects.

The Select Board let David know that, rather than paving Higley Hill Road, they would like to pursue a number of ideas to reduce traffic on the road. The Select Board asked if the State grant money could be put towards additional work on Higley Hill to improve the gravel road. David said that the \$275,000 in grant money is available now, and could be used for improving Higley Hill. Marlboro is at the top of the grant list now, (but after the grant money is used, Marlboro will return to the bottom of the list and will need to

wait before starting any other major paving/re-paving or road improvement projects that require state funding).

The Select Board wondered if there is a legal issue with installing a sign that says "Local Traffic Only." The Select Board suggested the installation additional signage and permanent signs on both ends of Higley Hill that say "Dirt Road Ahead," and inquired about the possibility of adjusting weight limits. Jesse will follow up with Heidi Taylor at Deerfield Valley Rescue about the installation of signage that directs ski area traffic to remain on paved roads.

David informed the Select Board that the Road Crew's old Ford F150 will be sold for \$1200. David also let the Select Board know that the Road Crew is interested in purchasing a new excavator at some point.

Diana Todd, HMCA Chair and Mike Purcell, HPC Chair presented the joint HMCA/HPC budget, which is similar to last year's budget. This year, the HMCA is requesting funding for invasive plant control. The HPC is hoping to start re-writing the management plan and budgeted funds for hiring a consultant to assist with this process. Funds for a tenth anniversary celebration were also requested (to celebrate the ten years that the Town of Marlboro has owned the Hogback Conservation Area). The Select Board approved the 2020 Budget for HMCA and HPC. (Gibbons, von Ranson)

Diana and Mike also asked the Select Board to approve a modification to the ten-year plan for the Early Successional Habitat (ESH) Project. The plan had been to cut the thirty-year-old growth on each of the five main ski slopes. The HMCA and HPC are now learning that the last two slopes are not suitable for cutting (too narrow) and so they would like to cancel the plan to clear on Ripparoo and Sugar Slope. The Select Board approved this change to the ESH project. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

Adrian Segar presented a report from the community meeting regarding Marlboro College that took place on Saturday, November 23, 2019. He stated that the plan for Marlboro College to merge with Emerson College and close its campus in Marlboro would have a huge impact on the Town. He expressed concern for the 100 jobs that would be lost, the cultural heart of the town disappearing, control of campus given to a remote entity, the possibility of an abandoned property, the possibility of losing the town's post office, and the possible impact on the population of the elementary school. He said the vast majority of those at the meeting on Saturday agreed that the college had shut the community out of the process and that the proposed plan removed the possibility of town control of the campus.

Julian Ferholt shared thoughts about neutrality and the belief that the Select Board should take a clear stance on the issue because the closure of the college was a threat to the well-being of the town. He asked what the Select Board could legally do in this instance and urged them to find out. Jesse clarified that he wanted to be unbiased and objective in his role as representative to the Campus Task Force, serving as a conduit for town residents to share ideas and concerns with the working group. He also clarified the limited scope of the task force committee.

Adrian asked the Select Board to obtain competent legal advice about the various stances the Town might take. He also requested holding a special Town Meeting to vote on a position for the town to take.

All visitors to the meeting left at this point.

The Select Board discussed the concerns raised about Marlboro College and agreed that consulting an attorney to clarify what legal role the Town can take in this process would be their next step.

Tyler will also draft a letter to Kevin Quigley, President of Marlboro College to let him know that the Select Board is hearing much concern and confusion over the college's next steps. The letter will ask Kevin to hold a forum (similar to the one held after the potential Bridgeport merger was announced) or disseminate information to the community in some other fashion as soon as possible. A separate correspondence could also request that the College and Emerson build more time into the agreement to allow for consideration of the future of the campus.

Jesse will attend the community meeting about the future of the Marlboro College campus (entitled "ReImagine Marlboro") on Saturday, November 30, 2019.

**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 11/14/19. (Gibbons, Kreitzer)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The installation of the Beaver Deceiver on North Pond Road was discussed earlier in the meeting. Skip Lisle will be contacted to determine the cost of installing a second pipe system on North Pond.

**INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:**

Jesse attended the community meeting about Marlboro College on Saturday, November 23, 2019 and focused on neutrality and transparency as he would like to represent the best interests of the Town on the Campus Task Force.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

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

