

TOWN OF MARLBORO  
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Town Office

5:00 PM

**ATTENDANCE:** Present were Select Board members Jesse Kreitzer, Chair; Julia von Ranson, Vice Chair; Aaron Betts, Member; David Elliott, Road Foreman; Andrew Richardson, Road Crew Member; Lauren Poster, Community Center Chair; Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk; Susanne Shapiro, Town Health Officer; Jay Sparks, Emergency Management Director; Francie Marbury, Chair of the Marlboro Alliance; Lauren MacArthur, Select Board Assistant.

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

Changes to the agenda: "Scheduling of Annual VTrans Meeting" added to *Information Items and Mail*.

**SCHEDULED BUSINESS:** Jay Sparks, Emergency Management Director, explained that he has been in communication with Vermont Emergency Management and went to the COVID-19 debrief meeting yesterday in Brattleboro. Vermont is currently not under a state of emergency, which means that business as usual can continue and cancellations are not necessary, but the situation is fluid and rapidly changing. Currently, there have been two confirmed cases in Vermont. Brattleboro Memorial Hospital is fully staffed and prepared with three negative pressure rooms and capacity for more. COVID-19 tests are being sent to the state lab in Williston. Many young people are not showing symptoms and most people don't need hospitalization, but the elderly and immuno-compromised are at high risk, including those with heart disease, lung disease, and other illnesses. The main recommended precautions are hand-washing and social distancing.

Jesse Kreitzer asked if there is a role that municipal governments can play. Jay stated that the most important task is to take care of the elderly, especially if Vermont declares a state of emergency or if the elderly need to self-quarantine.

Francie Marbury, Marlboro Alliance Chair, asked about the exponential rate of transmission, extensive testing that's been done in other countries (and hasn't begun here), and cancelling events. Susanne Shapiro, Marlboro's Health Officer, explained that younger populations aren't showing symptoms, but can still spread the virus. There are criteria for doing testing and currently, there aren't local people who meet the criteria. She said there has been no testing in Townshend yet at Valley Cares or Grace Cottage Hospital. The elderly are being encouraged to stay home. Susanne described the new protocols at Valley Cares, cancelling events, and only allowing essential staff into the building. She recommends avoiding gyms, large groups, and being proactive (not waiting for authorities to impose quarantines or lockdowns).

There was discussion of organizing by neighborhood to look in on people who may need support.

Jay will call and see how many people in Marlboro have registered with the Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies (CARE). People needing help can call 211 or the Town Office.

A letter, drafted by Susanne and Jay, and signed by the Select Board and Town Clerk as well, will be sent out to all town residents over the age of 60. The letter will encourage staying home, letting family do errands, calling the doctor before going to routine appointments, renewing prescriptions ahead of time. Volunteers will send out the letters on Monday, March 16.

School closings are possible, and the Select Board would like to bring the school into this discussion.

Andrew Richardson shared that the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department has changed its response protocol pertaining to medical calls. Only one masked, gloved responder at a time will attend each medical call, especially involving the elderly or those reporting respiratory challenges. Trained medical personnel will also do a screening for COVID-19 and will inform the ambulance if there are symptoms of the virus present.

Lauren Poster, Chair of the Community shared that the Community Center installed a hand sanitizer dispenser in the entryway of the Community Center and encouraged the school and Town Office to do the same. She also urged coordination with the school and Marlboro Cares. Lauren offered the Community Center as a drop point for groceries or other supplies gathered for those who are trying to stay at home. Some town events have been cancelled, including the Marlboro Mudfling.

Jay Sparks, EMD, will be the main point person and will coordinate with Marlboro Cares.

The Select Board reorganized and appointed Jesse Kreitzer as chair. (von Ranson, Betts)

The Select Board appointed Julia von Ranson as vice chair. (Kreitzer, Betts)

The Select Board adopted the Select Board Rules of Procedures. (Kreitzer, Betts)

The Select Board adopted the Conflict of Interest Policy. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

The Select Board designated the Brattleboro Reformer as the official newspaper for publications and notices. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

The Select Board designated marlborovt.us as the official town website. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

The Select Board signed pay orders.

The Select Board approved minutes from 2/27/20. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

David Elliott, and Andrew Richardson visited to share concerns about pay scale and insurance, especially in relation to hiring a new road crew member.

Jesse Kreitzer shared feedback from references for the road crew applicant interviewed on March 5, 2020.

The Select Board went into Executive Session at 5:54. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

The Select Board came out of Executive Session at 6:00. (von Ranson, Betts)

The Select Board voted to hire Leon Knapp as Road Crew Member. (von Ranson, Betts) Jesse will check in with Linda to confirm the pay rate and then get in touch with David.

A white board will be ordered for the Town Garage, as decided in a previous meeting.

The Select Board debriefed Town Meeting. A letter has gone out from School Board and Select Board to the legislature. At the next meeting, the Select Board will sign a letter to legislators requesting that Town Meeting be considered a state holiday.

The Select Board reviewed a detailed response from VTrans to the letter sent a few months ago, detailing the outcome of the October meeting regarding concerns about Route 9.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Select Board signed liquor license renewal forms for the Colonel Williams Inn.

The Select Board appointed the following: (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

Ashley Bies, 4 years to 2024, to the Conservation Commission  
Jamie Tanner, 4 years to 2024, to the Conservation Commission  
Mike Purcell, 4 years to 2024, to the Conservation Commission  
Eric Slayton, 3 years to 2023 (unexpired term), to the Conservation Commission  
Matthew Tell, 1 year to 2021, Development Review Board Alternate  
Bennett Grout, 1 year to 2021, Development Review Board Alternate  
Christine Collela, 3 years to 2023, to the Hogback Preservation Commission  
Tim Segar, 4 years to 2024, to the Planning Commission  
Patti Smith, 4 years to 2024, to the Planning Commission  
Edie Mas, 4 years to 2024, to the Planning Commission  
Pieter van Loon, 1 year to 2021, Tree Warden  
Hugh Whitney, 1 year 2021, Weigher of Coal  
Edie Mas, 1 year to 2021, Windham Regional Commissioner  
William Shakespeare, 1 year to 2021, Windham Regional Commissioner  
Allan McLane, 1 year to 2021, E911 Coordinator  
Allan McLane, 1 year to 2021, Town Communication Coordinator  
Lucy Gratwick, 1 year to 2021, Senior Solutions Representative  
Robert Anderson, 1 year to 2021, Inspector of Lumber, Shingles and Wood  
Stillman Vonderhorst, 1 year to 2021, Windham Solid Waste Management District

The Select Board appointed Steven John as town representative to the Deerfield Valley Communications Union District. Bill Esses and Robert Anderson were appointed as alternates. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

**INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:**

Lauren shared that she will be stepping down from the Select Board Assistant position this summer.

The Select Board received information about upcoming VLCT trainings and ICS 402 trainings.

Select Board members scheduled the annual Vtrans Meeting. It was decided that it will take place on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 8am. David Elliott will be notified.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren MacArthur, Assistant to the Select Board