

TOWN OF MARLBORO  
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Meeting Via Zoom Call Online

5:00 PM

**ATTENDANCE:** Present: *In attendance via Zoom, due to COVID-19 precautions:* Jesse Kreitzer, Select Board Chair; Julia von Ranson, Vice Chair; Aaron Betts, Member; David Elliott, Road Foreman; Pieter van Loon, VLCT Forester and HMCA Board Member; and Lauren MacArthur, Select Board Assistant.

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

Changes to the agenda: *Bi-Town Economic Development Office's Sign Recommendations* was added to Old Business.

**SCHEDULED BUSINESS:** David Elliott, Road Foreman, spoke with the Select Board regarding a complaint about two dumped couches on Augur Hole Road and Higley Hill Road. The Road Crew agreed to pick them up as part of the Green Up Day effort. David does not want to set a precedent by picking up all dumped items. If items are dumped on private property, clean up is the responsibility of the landowners. The Select Board would like to deal with roadside dumping on a case by case basis. The Select Board highly discourages littering/dumping.

David spoke with Beaver Solutions, LLC and asked them to give their opinion regarding the North Pond Road site. When they are next working in this area, they will hopefully be able to do a site visit with David. In the meantime, David has used the backhoe to build up the area near the road and deter the beaver.

The Select Board encouraged the Road Crew to continue to follow CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19, including sanitizing, social distancing, and wearing masks when interacting with the public.

**Unscheduled Public Comment:** Pieter van Loon spoke about doing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) trapping and monitoring. There have been Emerald Ash Borer found within 40 miles of Marlboro. Pieter proposes using a “trap tree”, a girdled tree that EAB would hone in on because it is stressed. He suggested having one on Hogback with educational material and flagging to keep people away from the tree. The State has provided sticky traps and one would be placed in close proximity to the trap tree and another one along Old Route 9. Traps would be checked in the middle of summer and end of September. The trap tree will be cut down at the end of September and checked for EAB larvae. There will be more information shared on the HMCA website about the monitoring. The Select Board stated support for this monitoring. If EAB is present, Pieter, as Tree Warden, would help develop a plan for the town to deal with the pest. He would work closely with David Elliott to manage roadside trees.

The Select Board approved minutes from the regular Select Board meeting on 5/14/20. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Select Board discussed current COVID-19 situation management in Marlboro. The Select Board voted to release a statement of recommendation that all people wear masks in public places within Marlboro and all those working in a retail setting wear masks as well. (Kreitzer, Betts) Jesse will compose a statement based on the Town of Brattleboro's Emergency Order that was recently issued

regarding mask use.

The Select Board reviewed a proposal from Development Review Board Chair Steven John. The Select Board approved the proposal, stating that the DRB Administrative Assistant be paid a flat fee of \$50 per DRB hearing. (Kreitzer, von Ranson)

The Select Board will follow up with the Planning Commission regarding cemetery plots and will ask the Planning Commission to determine whether expansion is possible, and if so, who to hire to do the clearing work necessary.

The Select Board received a response to their inquiries to Marlboro College, following up on the letter from the college regarding the closure of the college and jobs impacted. Becky Caterelli, Chief Operating Officer, stated that similar letters were sent to Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary of Commerce and Community Development; Andrea M. Hussey, DLW Coordinator, Workforce Development, Vermont Department of Labor; and Michael Harrington, Acting Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Labor. She also stated that 17 permanent residents of Marlboro (e.g. not living in college housing) will have their jobs impacted, plus an additional 10 who have been temporarily living in college housing. Although the number is not official, it is anticipated that 16 tenured and 4 tenure-track faculty will be going to Emerson. In addition to faculty residents of Marlboro, it looks like there are six Marlboro residents who are part of the college staff and have not been offered jobs at Emerson. The Select Board had asked if there was anything the town could do to support individuals who will be losing their jobs, but Ms. Caterelli did not have any immediate suggestions.

The letter sent from Marlboro College regarding the college's closure and impact on jobs was forwarded to Adam Grinold of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) by the Select Board after the last regular meeting on 5/14/20. He responded, stating that he has been in touch with Kevin Quigley, Marlboro College President. He stated that the BDCC is working with the VT Department of Labor to sponsor a career connection event for all employers in the region, in addition to participating in the Rapid Response program. The BDCC has offered Marlboro College to have all employees send their updated resumes so that the BDCC can help connect these employees with local employers, including the purchaser of the campus.

The Select Board acknowledged the press release that came out today, announcing that Democracy Builders plan to purchase and use the Marlboro College campus. The Select Board is excited to welcome Democracy Builders to Marlboro and is hoping to facilitate an information session with Founder and CEO Seth Andrew to learn about his school, answer questions from residents, and find ways to work together as they settle into Marlboro.

The Bi-Town Economic Development Office of Dover and Wilmington has drafted a resolution to urge the Vermont Department of Transportation to install signage on Route 9, directing traffic to remain on Route 9 to travel to ski areas (rather than cutting across Higley Hill). Jesse will meet with the committee soon. The Select Board are in support of Wilmington and Dover's efforts and agreed to adopt the resolution (Kreitzer, von Ranson).

**NEW BUSINESS:** In celebration of their 50th anniversary, Green Up Vermont has gifted our town with a sapling maple tree. The Select Board recommended that it be planted at Marlboro Elementary School. MES has a spot for the tree and has given permission for volunteers to plant it there.

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

The VLCT COVID-19 Fiscal Impacts Survey is being filled out by Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk.

The Select Board acknowledged receipt of the Animal Control Officer's 2020 Incident Log. There were 23 calls or emails in 2020, and the ACO has worked approximately 14 hours. The Animal Resource Fund has paid out \$106 in dog licenses so far.

Jesse will be attending the Community Center's Zoom Coffee Hour on Saturday, May 30 from 9-10am to answer questions about Select Board business.

The Select Board acknowledged receipt of an Act 250 Submission concerning the Marlboro College Nordic Trail Improvement Project.

The Select Board received information regarding the Department of Public Service's COVID-19 Emergency Broadband Plan.

The Select Board expressed great appreciation for Tyler Gibbons and Dan MacArthur, who recently volunteered their time and cleaned up the recycling center site.

Jesse reported that he checked in with the Marlboro School Board and they said they don't need assistance at the moment. According to Doug Korb, School Board Chair, the board is awaiting legislative decisions and outcomes so they know the way forward. They have posted COVID-19-related information on the school website.

The Select Board received information about VLCT's upcoming webinar on Open Meeting Law.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren MacArthur, Assistant to the Select Board