

Minutes
TOWN OF MARLBORO
REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 23, 2020, 5pm Zoom Call Online

ATTENDANCE: Present: *In attendance via Zoom, due to COVID-19 precautions:* Jesse Kreitzer, Select Board Chair; Aaron Betts, Pam Burke, Select Board Assistant; David Elliot and Andrew Richarson, Road Crew; Members of the Public: Sue Burt, Robert Unsworth, Dario, David/Michele Clift, 2 unidentified attendees on phone calls. Absent: Julia von Ranson, Vice Chair.

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

Public comment

Amy Tudor, asked a procedural question about using Muster Field.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on 7/09/20, (Kreitzer, Betts) Approval and Signature of Pay Orders in the office today (Kreitzer), Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on 7/20/20 after requested additions/revisions (Kreitzer, Betts)

OLD BUSINESS

Marlboro College Closure/Democracy Builders Transition

The Select Board reflected on the special Select Board meeting on Monday July 20th and the complexity of the issues facing us locally and nationally. The Select Board thinks it was a valuable discussion and the Select Board thanks everyone for participating and Degrees of Freedom for requesting it.

Jesse made a motion to ask the Vermont Council on Rural Development to assist with a mediated forum. Motion passed. (Kreitzer, Betts) Jesse made a motion to collect all the questions submitted during the special meeting and via email, pass them on to Degrees of Freedom, and invite the DoF team back on August 13, 2020, to share any responses. Motion passed. (Kreitzer, Betts)

Installation of Route 9 Signage

Jesse met with VTrans and the bi-town economic development committee and reps from the Selectboards from Dover and Wilmington to discuss the installation of destination signage on Route 9. The complete slideshow with data & information about the area can be viewed online at:

Proposed solutions include installing new destination signage to “ski areas” on Route 9 near Augur Hole Road and at key intersections along Higley Hill Rd to guide motorists to Dover/VT-100. VTrans will not permit the installation of a destination sign at the intersection of Route 9 and Hughes Road. Jesse will follow up with the Wilmington Selectboard to discuss its previous request to install a “Dirt Road Ahead” sign at the intersection of Higley Hill and Route 100 in Wilmington. He will speak with David Elliot about installing a “Dirt Road Ahead” sign on Augur Hole Road in Marlboro. It was also noted that a Route 9 paving project will start in

2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Forum

Jesse met with members of The Marlboro Alliance to discuss the motion from the Select Board regarding a town forum to discuss the Marlboro College/Democracy Builders transition, and they will be addressing it at their next full meeting in September. However, they informally decided that the Vermont Council on Rural Development may be better equipped to coordinate and host the forum (see motion above). Francie Marbury has offered to work with the VCRD to plan the forum. Jesse thanks Francie for the offer.

Town wide Survey

Discussions are beginning around a town-wide survey with the goals of improving workflows and identifying blindspots in the town's operations and services. The Select Board will ask town staff, boards, and committee chairs to prepare questions to include on the survey. The survey might also include a town logo competition. Discussion was tabled until a later date.

Beaver Dam on Larrabee Road

Bob Unsworth thanked the Select Board and road crew for all their hard work. Last year a beaver moved his work over to the downstream side of Larrabee Rd. causing the culvert to be clogged. Bob is concerned about trout and wildlife habitat. Sue Burt said she was happy with how dealing with the beaver turned out last year. She thinks we should have a town-wide policy on how to deal with beavers. David Elliot & Andrew Richardson stated that the town's main responsibility is to keep the roads open. They've tried to work as much with the beaver as possible. The town is allowed to open culverts and let water down stream. Andrew said he needs to keep the culvert from getting blocked to the point that the water inside is chest high.

On July 29, 9am David Elliot will meet with Tyler Brown from the VT State Fish and Wildlife Department to assess the situation. He assumes it'll end up with some sort of beaver baffle to keep the water from coming up into the culvert. He's requested a hydraulic study to be done to determine what water flow. He assumes it will be similar to what they just did on Lahar Rd. David invited anyone to join in the meeting the Mr. Brown.

Expansion of Town Cemeteries

Dan Dennis has shared plans of Center cemetery with the Select Board. There is a question of whether ledge may or may not make the undeveloped section of the cemetery difficult to use. David suggested looking at Center Cemetery for cremation plots. Sally White said her dad donated the land and she is familiar with the property lines. Sally thinks it's still a good spot and would like to be notified of any decisions that are made. Forrest Holzapfel, Linda Peters & Jesse Kreitzer will be looking into expanding the King Cemetery on Fox Rd. There is money available for the expansion. Trees would need to be cleared. A map of the cemetery boundaries can be viewed online at:

Tax Rate

The Select Board acknowledges receipt of the tax rate document for 2020. It has been signed by Jesse. Aaron & Julia will stop by the office this week to sign it.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL

The Select Board acknowledges receipt of the following items:

1. Kevin Ellis, On behalf of Democracy Builders Fund, letter from the Vermont Attorney General's office regarding the sale of the Marlboro campus.
2. Contract for Animal Holding from WCHS
3. Information on the [Vermont Sole Proprietor Stabilization Program](#)
4. Emails concerning Marlboro College/Democracy Builders/Black N Brown at DP from Lissa Harris, Ariel Poster, Lindsay Swanson, Emma Sherefkin, Lauren Poster, Daniel Mellman.

The Select Board hopes to host Degrees of Freedom at their August 13 meeting.

Sally White brought up speeding on South Rd. The Select Board has recently taken up the issue and the town will be purchasing smart radar signs. We have a temporary sign on South Rd now collecting traffic and speed data. Sally asked if temporary speed bumps could be an option. Jesse said he would bring it up with the Sheriff. The town is working on installing signs by October. Sue asked for a copy of the cemetery plot (will attach to these minutes)

Jesse made a motion to move to executive session to discuss Select Board workflow, motion approved. (Kreitzer, Betts)

The executive session ended and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.