

Minutes
Town Of Marlboro
Regular Select Board Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 2020
5pm Zoom Call Online

Present: *In attendance via Zoom, due to COVID-19 precautions:* Jesse Kreitzer, Select Board Chair; Julia von Ranson, Vice Chair; Aaron Betts, Member; Pam Burke, Select Board Assistant; Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk; David Elliott, Andrew Richardson, Road Crew; Diana Todd, Nancy Anderson, Hogback Mountain Conservation Association; Francie Marbury, Louis Audette, Tim Segar, Jason Kohn, Alexis Audette, Jean Boardman, Staley McDermot

The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm

The minutes of the Regular Meeting Of 11/12//20 were approved (Kreitzer, Von Ranson) and the pay orders signed.

Winter Road Maintenance, Stratton Hill Road and Adams Crossroad

Road Foreman David Elliot agreed to maintain Stratton Hill Road up to the Audette's driveway, as requested by the homeowner. The Selectboard reviewed traffic data compiled by Allan McLane detailing traffic volume on Butterfield Road and Adams Crossroad to support his request to extend winter plowing on the road. David Elliot suggested requesting a professional road survey from the Windham Regional Commission. Jesse suggested Allan continue collecting anecdotal data on a section of Adams Crossroad from Butterfield Rd. to Route 9 throughout the winter.

Road safety in Marlboro Town Center

Tim Seegar stated that the Planning Commission has talked about how dangerous the center of town is and are wondering what options the town has. The Select Board shared that the town has received data from the Windham Regional Commission's recent traffic study of South Road and has posted it on the town website. The Select Board will invite Colin Bratton, Transportation Planning Program Coordinator from the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) to attend the December 17th meeting to discuss the data. Jesse will circle back to the Windham County Sheriff as well to discuss increasing enforcement in the area during peak travel times. VTrans will perform a Road Safety Audit of South Road/Town Center in the spring. VTrans said that sidewalks are required to have crosswalks and discouraged the use of speed bumps. They encouraged increased speeding enforcement. Based on Mr. Bratton's recommendations, the Select Board may ask WRC to pursue a sidewalk feasibility study. There is a general agreement that speeding and pedestrian safety in the town center is a problem.

Hogback Mountain

Since the Hogback Conservation Area land was donated to the town in 2010, Hogback programs and activities have been funded using the endowment fund that was donated to the town at the same

time as the land. The Select Board has been the gatekeeper of those endowment funds, annually reviewing and approving the combined HMCA/HPC budget request. There is some question as to what role the newly appointed Trustees of Public Funds will play in handling these funds in the future.

Diana Todd shared the budget request for the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association. The 2021 budget request is identical to the 2020 budget request. Most of the funds approved for 2020 were not spent because of COVID-19 concerns.

The Hogback Mountain Conservation Association and the Hogback Preservation Commission would like to meet with the Trustees of public funds and explain the history of the funds so that they can be well informed when investing. They also have questions on how they'll be able to access funds. The discussion was tabled for a future meeting when all respective parties can participate.

Town Meeting 2021

Francie Marbury joined the meeting to discuss a voter-backed petition she would like to appear on the Town Meeting 2021 warning concerning a Fair and Impartial Policing Policy. This raises the question of whether the Select Board will require signatures for articles this year and if they will permit electronic signatures. The Select Board will vote on this issue at the December 17th meeting.

Forrest Holzapfel joined to share what information he has so far concerning Town Meeting 2021 from the Secretary of State's Office and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. The Vermont Legislature has passed [Act 162](#), which allows a legislative body to vote to adopt the Australian ballot system for own Meeting in 2021 and is expected to make some further provisions. Forrest has collected examples of other town ballots and warnings.

There must be an informational meeting held ten days in advance of Town Meeting and ballots have to be available twenty days in advance, which means people could potentially vote without having any information about the articles. Forrest said the School Board are also concerned about the lack of discussion and the lack of opportunity to amend articles.

The mailing of ballots is the responsibility of the town, unlike the election in November which was a statewide mailing. It is still to be determined whether voters will have to request a ballot or would the town send a ballot to every voter. The associated labor and costs will be part of the discussion. In-person voting will still be an option at the Town House on Town Meeting Day.

Forrest stated that he will be putting out information for candidates. Jesse stated that he does not plan to run for a second term.

The agenda for the Select Board's December 17th meeting will include items to be voted on concerning Town Meeting 2021.

Adjourn 6:29 (Kreitzer, Betts)