

Minutes
Town Of Marlboro
Regular Select Board Meeting
Thursday, December 17, 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; Pam Burke, Select Board Assistant; Forrest Holzappel, Town Clerk; Jean Boardman, Carol Ann Johnson, Francie Marbury, members of the public

The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm

The minutes of the Regular Meeting Of 12/3/20 were approved (Kreitzer, Von Ranson) and the pay orders signed.

Jesse noted that Colin Bratton, Transportation Planning Program Coordinator at the Windham Regional Commission will attend the Jan 14th Select Board meeting to discuss the traffic study data the WRC collected in the center of town.

Town Meeting 2021, changes due to pandemic

Jean voiced concerns over how the community will learn of changes to Town Meeting and how to best communicate to townspeople. Forrest noted that there are currently 715 voters in town. Last year's Town Meeting had about 24% participation. The November election had 93% participation because ballots were mailed to every voter, so he anticipates greater Town Meeting participation by switching to Australian Ballot. Forrest noted that there has been long standing conversation around how to make Town Meeting more inclusive and many people have been in favor of switching to Australian Ballot in the past. Carol Ann stated that she's always been in favor of an Australian Ballot, but also agrees that the town would have to do a good job educating the public about issues that appear on the ballot.

By law, the ballot must be mailed by Feb 10th and there must be an online informational meeting at least ten days in advance of Town Meeting Day.

There is general concern about how to reach townspeople who aren't online and how to best communicate all the information that would usually be shared at in-person Town Meeting. Forrest also wants to look into seeing if there is anything we can not have on the ballot this year to keep it to a minimum of articles. It is possible that the mailed ballot could be four pages long.

A motion was made to adopt the Australian ballot system for Town Meeting 2021 and to mail ballots to all active voters on or before Feb 10th, 2021. (Kreitzer, Von Ranson) The motion passed.

A motion was made to waive the signature requirement for articles for Town Meeting 2021. Candidates are not required to collect voter signatures in order to get their name on the ballot; However, consent forms are still required. Therefore, any candidate wishing to add their name to a ballot must complete the consent form and submit it to the town clerk. Candidates will need to submit their consent forms to town clerks not later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixth Monday preceding the day of the election. Consent forms may be withdrawn by notifying the Town Clerk in writing

not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday after the filing deadline. (Kreitzer,Von Ranson) The motion passed.

A motion was made to hold two Informational Hearings concerning the town and school budgets on Feb 17th and 18th, 2021. (Kreitzer,Von Ranson) The motion passed.

A motion was made to request that the Secretary of State waive any statutory deadlines or other statutory provisions in order to apply the Australian ballot system to Town Meeting: motion to request that the Secretary of State waive any statutory deadlines or other statutory provisions, or provisions set forth in a town's governance charter or a school district's articles of agreement, related to a town election as necessary in order for a town to apply the Australian ballot system to its meeting. (Kreitzer,Von Ranson) The motion passed.

The conversation returned to how to improve communication in the town. Forrest and Pam will work together on an article for the Mixer, a new page for the website and getting information into the Brattleboro Reformer via press releases or letters to the editor.

VCDP Implementation Grant Award Conditions

The conditions of the VCDP grant the Alliance and Selectboard received for a new HVAC system in the Marlboro Town House stipulate that the town needs to adopt certain documents.

Jesse moved to adopt the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan (Kreitzer,Von Ranson) The motion passed.

Jesse moved to adopt the VCDP Subgrant Agreement (Kreitzer,Von Ranson) The motion passed.

Jesse moved to adopt the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (Kreitzer,Von Ranson) The motion passed.

New Marlboro SEVCA Representative

The Select Board received a letter asking to appoint Laurie Gianturco, M.D. as SEVCA Representative from Marlboro. Jesse moved to appoint Laurie Gianturco, M.D. as SEVCA Representative (Kreitzer,Von Ranson) The motion passed.

Authorization of Select Board Member to Review & Approve Pay Orders on Behalf of the Entire Board

With the pandemic closing the Town Office and the Select Board meeting online, the Select Board has recognized the need to authorize a single Select Board member to review and approve orders on behalf of the entire board. A motion was made to appoint Jesse Kreitzer of the Marlboro Selectboard to approve and sign orders for all payroll and operating expenses for the Town of Marlboro until March 2, 2021. This policy is adopted retroactively to March 2020. Any orders that are approved under this authority must state definitely the purpose for which they are drawn. The full selectboard must later be provided with a record of all the orders approved. Jesse moved to adopt (Kreitzer,Von Ranson) The motion passed.

Hogback Budget

The Hogback Mountain Conservation Association budget for 2021 was presented at the December 3rd Select Board meeting by Diana Todd. 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 HMCA will be meeting with the Trustees of Public Funds in January. Jesse asked invited them to send a representative to the next Select Board meeting to report back.

Jesse moved to adopt the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association budget for 2021. (Kreitzer, Von Ranson) The motion passed.

King Cemetery Expansion, Contractor Site Visit and Bids

Jesse said the Select Board will meet on Jan 12 2021 at 3pm at the King Cemetery. Any contractors who'd like to submit a bid are encouraged to join them.

Info Items and Mail

- Windham County Sheriff's Office FY20 Town Report
- WSWMD Offer of Assistance
- WSWMD Annual Budget & Town Assessment, Annual Report and Offer of Assistance
- WRC Downtown Transportation Fund Grants
- VLCT Equity Committee
- Email from FirstNet stating that the Route 9 Cell tower is now operational.
Sean Reilly, Principal Consultant for FirstNet, has been invited to join the regular Selectboard meeting on January 14,

Jesse moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. (Kreitzer, Von Ranson) The motion passed. The Board entered executive session 6:01. The Board exited executive session at 6:11pm and the meeting was adjourned.