

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Regular Select Board Meeting Thursday, June 10, 2021, 5pm Zoom Call Online

Present: In attendance via Zoom, due to COVID-19 precautions: Julia von Ranson, Select Board Chair; Aaron Betts, Vice-Chair; Jim Agate, Select Board member; Nick Morgan, Select Board Assistant; David Elliott-Road Foreman; Colin Bratton, WRC; Sgt. Chris Norton, Windham County Sheriff; Peggy Tiffany, Animal Control Officer; Forrest Holzapfel, Town Clerk; Brian Whitehouse, resident.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

Scheduled Business

There were no changes to the agenda and no initial public comment.

The Minutes from May 27, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.

Existing pay orders were approved unanimously.

New Business

South Road Speeding Discussion

Brian Whitehouse was one of the original residents who brought this issue to the Board's attention and was present at the meeting. Colin Bratton from the Windham Regional Commission spoke of the WRC's initial traffic investigation which found that the average speed through town (25 MPH Zone) was 38 MPH and that approximately 85% of the traffic flow was over the posted 25 MPH limit. The study also showed that the highest rate of speed (speeding) was in the Northbound direction from the direction of the Firehouse and former college campus.

It was also discussed that while traffic in the Southbound direction (from Route 9) was somewhat slower than the other direction, there were still a great deal of speeds in excess of the posted 25 MPH limit. It was noted by the Board and other attendees that from the Northbound direction, there was an issue with signage as both the speed limit and the dangerous intersection signs were victims of Winter snow-clearing and were "down".

Colin took the meeting through a new roadway plan that has been implemented in many small towns that is called Advisory Shoulders and consists of creating (via painted lines) a single vehicular roadway with large pedestrian/cycle shoulders on both sides. The idea being that the cars on the road would share the single lane, moving over onto the shoulder when able to when facing oncoming traffic. In this way, speeds are reduced dramatically. There was much discussion of this idea and agreement that a great deal more information was needed on both how successful this strategy is and how it could be implemented (or if it could be based on codes and standards).

While investigating other options, several immediate steps were seen as possible and should be taken, including: Moving the newly acquired Speed Feedback Device (from the Windham County Sheriff's office) from its current location facing Southbound traffic in front of the historical society to a Northbound facing location near the Firehouse; Widening the shoulders were

appropriate including mowing; tighten up the lanes slightly by painting the shoulder lines a little more towards the center while still maintaining the lane width according to State codes and standards.

Julia asked and Colin agreed to return in about four weeks with more information on the Advisory Shoulders in terms of implementation and safety, to which Colin agreed to return and present the Board with more information.

A clear sense of the Board was that any major change in road use and traffic patterns needed a great deal of study and discussion and that nothing is imminent.

Finally, on this issue, Sgt. Chris Norton advised that there were some funds (State and/or County) for permanent speed feedback devices, that in addition to providing drivers with feedback can be permanently mounted and would provide speed information to the town. Sgt. Norton advised that he would send information to Nick, who would follow-up on steps to proceed down this road.

Animal Control Ordinances Discussion

Peggy Tiffany (the Marlboro Animal Control Officer) asked the Board for their go ahead to implement her plan for moving forward with Animal Control in Marlboro allowing both people and their animals to live together happily. The Board advised Peggy to proceed with her plan that Peggy will be laying out in the June 2021 edition of the Marlboro Mixer.

Peggy also brought up her other major issue regarding how to handle the confusion over how to proceed with handling and enforcing the licensing procedure for Dogs in Marlboro. Peggy Tiffany asked the board to approve her suggested measures so she could proceed and get the information into the Marlboro Mixer. The Board told her to go ahead with her planned actions outlined in her email. Peggy will be outlining the new plan in the Mixer.

Peggy's other major issue is that there is confusion over how the unlicensed dog population is handled. Forrest noted that the existing ordinance allows the town to assign fees should an owner consistently refuses to license their pet, the sense of the Board was to use a more moderate approach including public pressure and the use of warrants which are "reminders" delivered by the town constable via phone or in person that it is time to relicense the pet.

A final point of discussion was a clarification in the ordinance regarding the leash or "under voice control" to more clearly define what voice control is and the awareness of the owner of the ordinance that when out in public they must control their animal. Such a clarification may require an actual change in the ordinance which the Board will review both the ordinance and the process to change it in an applicable manner. On this issue, Peggy also expressed her concern that the ordinance may need to be changed or amended to more clearly define what a problem animal is in terms of their tendency to chase other animals or act aggressively towards

other pets or people. Further discussion was recognized as necessary, and the Board and Peggy will continue to work on this issue.

Reopening of Town Offices, SB Meeting Format and Mask Mandate Discussion

Due to workflow requirements, commencing on July 1, 2021, the Town Office will be open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The Town Clerk will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the Town Treasurers will be available on Wednesdays. Forrest and Nick will work to get the word out using the website, Facebook and Front Porch Forum, along with any other means they think up.

Forrest suggested and the sense of the Board was to agree that mask wearing would be a personal preference with the Town Hall staff also allowed to wear a mask or not based on their own preferences.

As for Select Board meetings, the Board decided to hold in person meetings tentatively commencing with the July 22, 2021, meeting and based on a suggestion by Aaron decided to hold the meetings in the Meeting House to provide more room to spread out. In addition, beginning with the July 22, 2021, meeting the Select Board meetings will have a new 6:00pm start time.

Renewal of Liquor License for Vermont Distilleries, Inc. (Julia and Aaron) Passed unanimously.
Sign Warrants for Currently Unlicensed Dogs

Forrest requested that the Select Board sign the warrants for the currently unlicensed dogs.
Motion to sign warrants (Julia and Aaron). Passed unanimously.

Old Business

Update on Town Employee Consultant Project with adAptivaHR

Nick reported that to move forward with this project and get cost and time quote, adAptivaHR needs job descriptions for all jobs for the town. Nick will continue to work on this issue.

Progress Report Marlboro Community Center HVAC Air Filtration project

In order to proceed with this progress report a special meeting must be held and warned for (30 days in advance). This meeting will be scheduled shortly, and the appropriate warning published in the paper of record and other locations.

Adjourn – 6:22pm