

Minutes - Amended

Town Of Marlboro Regular Select Board Meeting

Thursday, July 22, 2021, 6pm @ Town Meeting House & Zoom Call Online

Present: Julia von Ranson, Select Board Chair; Aaron Betts, Vice-Chair; Jim Agate, Select Board member; Nick Morgan, Select Board Assistant; Nancy Anderson & Bob Anderson, HMCA; Andra Horton, MCC; Via Zoom: Carol Berner, Resident; Leon Knapp, Marlboro Road Crew

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Identify Any Changes To Agenda – none

Scheduled Business

6:00 – 6:10 Unscheduled Open Public Comment - none

6:10 Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2021 – moved (von Ranson, Betts)

 Passed Unanimously

 Signature of Pay Orders – moved (von Ranson, Betts)

 Passed Unanimously

New Business

HMCA will present and discuss with the Board the Memorandum of Understanding that they are drafting, regarding the proposal by the Select Board to transfer the Hogback Preservation Fund to the HMCA

Nancy Anderson reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Board so that the Select Board understands what is occurring concerning the transfer of the Endowment Funds to the HMCA so that they can be administered properly and fulfill their function. Nancy further noted that the HMCA has been in touch with several experts and advisors on the wording of the MOU and that she was at the meeting to address any questions the Board may have.

Julia asked for a quick recap of what had preceded this moment. Nancy laid out the following: In 2010 the land was gifted to the town along with an endowment, but due to very narrow State regulations, the endowment had to be very conservatively invested and did not and was not producing as it should to support the land. In 2018, the State regulations were loosened up and the HMCA and the town began discussions of how best to handle the endowment. During those discussions it was determined that putting the endowment in the hands of the HMCA through such a document as the MOU was the proper and best way to proceed.

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The MOU sets up the endowment to be administered by the HMCA for the benefit of the property and that the funds will be invested by and coordinated by the Vermont Community Foundation, which handles a large overall portfolio, has vast experience in handling such endowments and a solid track record in meeting the needs of such endowments. The distributions of the endowment funds would be handled by the HMCA.

Julia noted that there would be a special town meeting to seek public input and approval of the transfer of the endowment fund to HMCA. This meeting will be scheduled and warned for some time in the fall, with the exact date still to be determined.

Motion to accept the MOU from the HMCA and move forward with the planning and holding of the special town meeting. (von Ranson, Betts) Passed Unanimously

The HMCA asked what else the Board might need, and Julia advised them to work out any final details and to coordinate with the Town Clerk (Forrest Holzapfel) who will be heading up the town meeting.

Request from MCC to relocate Black Lives Matter sign to the Island in front of the Thyme Garden. The MCC has been asked to remove the sign from its current location. (Andra Horton)

Andra gave a brief history of the Black Lives Matter sign outside of the Marlboro Community Center (MCC) and related that it had been asked to remove the sign due to the growing political nature of signs such as BLM. In an effort to continue to display the BLM sign, the MCC was asking to see if the sign could be placed on Town property in front of the Thyme Garden near the town office.

Julia noted that while the Board has not discussed the general issue, the BLM sign does fall under the town's prohibition against political or "electioneering" type signage that can not be displayed within the town's limits. This prohibition was put in place to prevent an escalating situation of an over-proliferation of political messaging within the town maintaining the town's neutrality.

While Jim and Aaron thought that it might be appropriate to allow the BLM sign and revisit the situation should complaints or problems arise. Julia again stressed the town's rules against political statements and suggested instead that the issue be part of the next Town Meeting, so that it can be properly warned, discussed, and voted on, so that the decision is one of the entire town.

While the Board agrees with the sentiment of BLM, the sense of the Board was that this should be a decision that the town makes.

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Initial Review of “Marlboro Costs and Benefits of WSWMD 2021” report.

The board reviewed the documents and found them informative, but there was no real Board action to be taken at this time. The Board asked Nick to add an item to the next Marlboro Mixer that the Board is looking for an alternate representative to the WSWMD to ensure continuity.

Old Business

Update on hiring search for Road Crew Member

Leon Knapp joined via Zoom and reported that Dave has interviewed several candidates. The Board asked Nick to reach out to Dave for details and status. Nick also suggested possibly looking into a temp agency that may provide immediate assistance as the search for a permanent member continues. The Board liked the idea and asked Nick to research the possibilities and report back.

Adjourn 6:47p