

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Regular Select Board Meeting

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 6pm @ Town Office & Zoom Call Online

Present: Julia von Ranson, Select Board Chair; Aaron Betts, Select Board member; Jim Agate, Select Board member; Nick Morgan, Select Board Assistant; Leon Knapp, Road Crew; Steven Johns, DVFiber; Colin Bratton, WRC; Brian Whitehouse, Marcia Hamilton, Adrian Segar, Jean Broadman, Residents

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.

Identify Any Changes to Agenda – None

Scheduled Business

6:00 – 6:10 **Unscheduled Open Public Comment** – Steven Johns, our representative with DVFiber, attended to provide update on status of fiber optic broadband in the area while also highlighting the upcoming Annual Report meeting being held (in person and virtual) on 11/10/21. Information on the Annual Meeting can be found on the Select Board page of the town website (<https://marlborovt.us/boards-minutes/select-board/>) and general information on DVFiber’s mission and goals can be found on their website (<https://dvfiber.net/>).

Steven provided the Board with an update on how DVFiber will have access to ARPA funding from the State which will help with the implementation of their plan including the intention to take advantage of the ability to contract with professional project management to facilitate building out the fiber network. Steven noted that DVFiber expects connections to individual residences should commence in the 4th Qtr of 2022.

6:10 Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2021 – moved (von Ranson, Betts)
Passed Unanimously
Signature of Pay Orders – moved (von Ranson, Betts)
Passed Unanimously

New Business

Review of VTrans report and analysis of Speeding Mitigation with C. Bratton from WRC.

Please note that the report from VTrans referenced during the Board Meeting is available for review on the Select Board page of the town’s website (<https://marlborovt.us/boards-minutes/select-board/>).

Colin Bratton from the WRC attended the meeting to review the VTrans study of the town with regard to mitigating speeding through the town which has been brought to the Board’s attention as an issue that needs attention. The discussion reviewed the report from VTrans which made several suggestions as to increased signage as well as the location of that signage. Other options discussed included installation of speed bumps, implementation of a crosswalk with appropriate signage in the middle of town, strategic placement of stop signs, repainting of road lines (shoulder and center-line) that would reduce the width of the travel lanes slightly (still within regulations) which has been shown to decrease speeds, increase brush clearing along the shoulder to increase visibility, increase Windham County Sheriff presence (ticket writing), and a brief discussion of the road pattern known as “advisory shoulders” which has been used successfully in several Vermont towns.

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The sense of the board was to review this information and move forward with quick and lower cost options – still to be determined – while continuing to evaluate more involved strategies.

Adoption of a Select Board Policy on handling recordings from hybrid meetings (in accordance to State Open Meeting regulations).

The Board briefly reviewed a policy on audio recordings and agreed to table adoption until the next meeting to provide time to review the written policy more fully.

Discussion regarding the ACO building (damaged by fire) and solutions moving forward

The Board agreed that based on evaluation of the existing shed, there should be no problem with the demolition of the shed and moving the current fencing to the property of the Animal Control Officer. The Board asked Nick to find a contractor who could handle this and report back to the board for final approval.

Deadline for BCRC/SeVEDS projects is November 30, 2021 - Are there any applicable projects.

A listing of existing projects was provided to the Board and at this time none of the projects have application for Marlboro, but the Board will continue to monitor should a project arrive that is of interest. A representative from ScVEDS will be attending an upcoming meeting to outline for the Board how the organization could be helpful to the town moving forward.

Snowmobile usage on Hogback trails.

Two snowmobile clubs from neighboring towns have inquired about being able to continue to use the VAST trails on the Hogback lands during the winter as they have in the past. As this is really the concern of the Hogback Conservancy, the Board asked Nick to get these groups in touch with the Conservancy so any details and permissions can be granted as appropriate.

Request from WRC regarding some info from Towns on what needs are for assistance with project management.

Nick presented to the Board the information that the WRC was ready, willing, and able to assist in project management for involved and complicated projects should the need arise. The Board noted this offer from the WRC and will definitely consider taking advantage of this offer should the need arise.

Old Business

Continuing discussion on expanding the Road Crew's size.

The Board took advantage of Road Crew member, Leon Knapp's presence to get his opinion on the hiring of an additional member for the road crew. It was the sense of the Board, which, pending a conversation with Road Crew Supervisor, David Elliot, where he agrees with the idea, the Board would move forward with beginning the process of finding an additional member for the road crew.

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Fire Hydrant repair issue and temporary solutions.

The Board discussed the advisory from the Fire Department of the need to repair one of the dry hydrants servicing the town. After researching the situation, the Board determined that the repair of this hydrant (including costs) was the responsibility of the Fire Department. Board Chair Julia noted that she would reach out to Fire Chief Rusty Sage to discuss this issue.

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Adjourn – 8:05p