

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Regular Select Board Meeting

Thursday, January 27, 2022, 6pm Via Zoom Online

Present: Julia von Ranson, Select Board Chair; Aaron Betts, Select Board Co-Chair; Jim Agate, Select Board Member; Nick Morgan, Select Board Assistant; Steven John, Jean Broadman, DVFiber; Edith Mas, Donald Sherefkin, Marlboro Planning Commission.

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

Scheduled Business

Identify Any Changes To Agenda: Add discussion of WRC comments on Town Plan to the agenda

6:00 – 6:10 Unscheduled Open Public Comment – None

6:10 Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2021 – moved (von Ranson, Betts)

Passed Unanimously

Signature of Pay Orders – done

New Business

Discussion of WRC comments regarding Marlboro Town Plan

Donald and Edie informed the Board that the Town Plan had been submitted to the WRC and that there was some initial feedback from the WRC detailing that the Town (Board) needed to submit a specific written request for the WRC to make a full review of the plan. The Board and PC is in receipt of the template for the letter and will be executing it shortly. Another point brought up by the WRC concerned the energy components of the Plan and the course of action to gain the proper energy certification from the WRC to implement the energy portion of the plan.

The Board discussed the implications of the Certification with the Donald and Edie in terms of its impact on the overall plan and Donald and Edie reported that getting the certification at this point is not necessary and can be applied for at a later date prior to decisions to implement aspects of the Plan's energy components. Donald noted that he would continue to review the energy certification process and requirements and report back to the Board. As for the Plan as a whole, submission to the WRC does not require the energy certification and the PC noted that they would move forward with the submission and report back to the Board on its progress.

Report on DVFiber and Broadband implementation from Steven John

Steven John, a representative of DVFiber and a Marlboro resident, came before the Board to provide an update on the progress DVFiber (the CUD handling Marlboro's "wiring" for Fiber Optic Internet) as it moves forward with its plan to provide Broadband Internet to the residents of Marlboro.

Steven outlined DVFiber's steps so far, including the acquisition of several hundred miles of fiber optic cabling and its continued work with the state to gain financing grants and its work with the towns to coordinate their activities to maximize efficiency and purchasing power. Towards this end, DVFiber is looking to see what interests the Towns in its CUD area would have in committing to work together in both providing and getting funding for the buildout. DVFiber is not looking for that commitment at the present time, just a willingness to review the possibilities and help formulate and implement a plan. The sense of the Board was to agree that this was the proper course of action while holding off any firm commitment until a detailed plan was formulated and presented.

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In reviewing DVFiber’s schedule, Steven noted that the Town of Marlboro should move into actual installation and connection in the 4th Quarter of 2022. With this timeline in place, Steven and the Board both felt that the Board should begin to consider what the Town should and could do to ensure all residents have access to Broadband as it is rolled out, making it not only available but affordable. Steven noted that as DVFiber was a “non-profit” organization the monthly costs of connecting via their system should be less expensive than other options from private companies and that DVFiber was committed to providing excellent service at a reasonable cost. The Board noted their appreciation for DVFiber’s efforts so far and acknowledged that the Board and the Town was looking forward to maintaining the relationship with the end goal of a fully connected populace of Marlboro.

Next steps in Town Administrator hiring process

Nick reported that out of resumes the Board had received and reviewed there were three solid candidates. The Board decided to move to the interview phase and tasked Nick to set up the interviews for the week of 1/31/22. (At the date of these minutes, the interviews have been scheduled and will be completed by Thursday, 2/3/22.) Once the interviews are completed the Board feels confident that a candidate can be selected, and an offer tendered to the candidate.

Discussion of the Town Meeting Warning, Ballot and 2/24/22 Informational Pre-Meeting

One issue arose regarding the Warning/Ballot and the Town 2022 budget. Initially, in approving the Budget, the Board provided a pay raise for Town employees, exclusive of the Town Listers as it was determined that they were already near the top of the pay scale for the area Towns. The Listers asked for this to be reconsidered by the Board, noting the impact on the Budget would be quite small and would not necessitate a change. The Board determined that this issue had already been discussed and reviewed and therefore did not take up the issue. Julia noted that she would advise the appropriate people of the Board’s determination.

Liquor License Renewal for the Beer Naked Brewery

The Board reviewed the request and decided that this renewal was in order and granted it.

Motion: To renew the liquor license for the Beer Naked Brewery. (von Ranson, Betts) Passed unanimously.

Old Business

Update on hiring fourth Road Crew member

David Elliot has been reviewing and contacting candidates and will be providing the Board with a list of candidates to interview. Julia will reach out to David on status and report back to the Board.

Discussion on Recycling Center issues

Aaron reported that the town will be receiving more durable signage for the recycling containers from the hauler. The Board discussed options to reduce the amount of dumping around the containers, including limiting access to certain times, with the area gated off when appropriate. The sense of the Board is being hesitant to do this and will continue with efforts to appeal to residents to be as responsible as possible in the use of the recycling center. To this end, Nick will be composing an appeal to be published on the website, Facebook and Front Page Forum. Once reviewed and approved by the Board, this announcement will be published at regular intervals.

Further discussion on Hogback First Aid building demolition

Discussion on this was tabled until a subsequent meeting, while in the meantime, Nick will be investigating and potentially submitting a grant request for funding to help defray the costs of the work.

Adjourned: 7:15