

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 6:00pm

Attendees: Aaron Betts, Chair; James Agate, Vice-Chair; Molly Welch, Member; Nick Morgan, Select Board Assist. /Town Admin; Andrew Richardson, Road Foreman; Jeff Skramstad, Eva Grimaldi, Tamara Stenn, Andrea Livermore, Allan McLane, Francis Marbury – residents.

Call to Order: 6:02pm

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: none.

Scheduled Business

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: Maintaining Adams Cross Road Year-Round:

Residents came to discuss the feasibility of the Highway Dept. maintaining Adams Cross Road year-round. The issue at hand was noted as more and more traffic using Adams Cross Road (due to GPS directions) the past action of not maintaining the road (i.e. plowing, sanding, etc.) during the Winter months (ending in a “dead end”) was creating a situation where drivers were getting stuck more often (mud, snow, slush, etc.). Also, by the road not being open, drivers were using a less safe access to Route 9.

Road Foreman, Andrew Richardson, had been previously advised of this request and presented to the Board his opinion that by keeping Adams Cross Road maintained (and open) during the Winter, would greatly facilitate the access to Butterfield Road, help alleviate cars getting stuck, and by opening up access to the much safer Eastern access to Route 9. Andrew noted that he was totally in favor of this change and that while the road would need some maintenance work over the spring and summer, this could be easily handled in the normal course of work, and this change to keeping Adams Cross Road open could go into effect next winter. Based on this recommendation and the request from residents, the sense of the Board was to proceed with this action and add Adams Cross Road year-round maintenance to the Highway Department’s regular plan.

Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2023 – (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

Review, Finalize, & Approve Town Meeting Warning for 3/7/23 Town Meeting Day Australian Ballot

Initial discussion on the Town Meeting Warning centered on deciding whether it was the appropriate time to consider a non-binding question on the possibility of paving the dirt stretch of Higley Hill Road. As the possibility of this occurring is several years away, before even considering the question, the dirt road needs to be refurbished whether paved or not, and prior to any action a detailed cost analysis needs to be undertaken. Based on this, the sense of the board was to not include a question on this at this time, and the Board moved on to reviewing the complete warning.

Nick reviewed the 20 articles of the warning (including approval of the final number for the Highway Department budget). Motion to approve the Town Warning as presented (including Highway Department Budget). (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)

National Grid Tower Contract

The Board had invited Jesse Kreitzer who had negotiated the previous agreement with National Grid but

Marlboro Select Board Minutes – January 26, 2023 – Page Two

was unable to attend. The Board agreed to change the date of this discussion to 3/9/23 meeting. In the meantime, Nick will provide Town lawyer Bob Fisher with the past agreement for his analysis and will work with him on a plan to move forward.

Drinking Water for Highway Department Garage

After doing some research, Nick reported that large bottles (5 gallon) of water are available through WB Mason @ ~\$17.00 each and a “bubbler” can be secured from Walmart for approximately \$150.00.

Motion to approve the purchase of bottled water from WB Mason and a bubbler from Walmart.

(Betts/Welch – Passed by 2-1 vote)

Town Administrator Report

- Nick provided the email response to questions from Senator Nader Hashim (from the 12/22/22 meeting).
- The Board appointed Nick to act as the main contact for the WRC Energy Group who will be assisting area towns in negotiating the Energy related State & Federal funding resources.
- Nick advised the Board of an informational meeting hosted by the BDCC/SeVEDS on funding resources on 2/6/23. Nick advised that he would be attending the session in Bellows Falls at 230pm.
- In an effort to resolve the issue of the First Aid Building on Hogback, the HPC and the HMCA have agreed to meet with the Board on 3/9/23.

Old Business

Speed Calming

Having found several sources for “lighted speed signs”, Nick requested direction from the Board. The Board advised Nick to get firm quotes for 2 signs (which would be placed strategically on South Road) that will flash when speed is over the limit. The Board also asked Nick to quote “movable speed bumps”. Last year, VTrans provided a report on sign size and location and Andrew and Molly asked to be provided copies for their review.

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:27pm (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)