

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 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; Mary Sargent, Zoning; Jeff Skramstad, Kate Kirkwood, Cory Ross, Philip Johansson, Kate Morgan, Residents.

Call to Order: 6:04pm

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

Scheduled Business

Unscheduled Open Public Comment

At the request of the Town Treasurer, Linda Peters, the following motion was presented: Move to approve the Marlboro Town Treasurer to procure a line of credit to fulfill obligations to the School pending incoming Tax Revenue. (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)

In this public comment time, Select Board Member Molly Welch requested that the following be read into the record(minutes). The statement is made as a resident of Marlboro and not in her capacity as a Select Board member. A motion was put forward to place this statement into the minutes (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously):

I am reacting to implications made in the front page article in The Commons this week. The Town Clerk implies that he has been working with and has the support of the Select Board. In the article he uses the pronouns, “we”, “us”, and “they” indicating that he is not alone in his campaign to switch permanently to the Australian Ballot in Marlboro town elections. I want to go on the record saying that this is not the case. The Town Clerk did come and share his ideas with us, much as many people do, without any action being required by the Select Board. I want to go on record saying that there is no such unanimous support from the Select Board for the Town Clerk’s campaign, and we have not acted on the subject as the official Select Board aside from listening and including articles on the warning for this year.

Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2023 (Betts/Agate – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

Town Meeting Informational Meeting 2/25/23

Facing a potential that Road Foreman, Andrew Richardson, might not be able to attend informational meeting, the Board discussed possibilities, including a potential second informational meeting. The Board and Andrew agreed that the Board should be able to handle any questions and should a more detailed answer be required, such questions will be noted down and Andrew’s response published in the week following the informational meeting.

Jim wanted to be sure that there was a table of ARPA funds expended so far and was assured that such a table would be published in the Town Report and would also be available for distribution at the Informational meeting.

Nick noted that there will be a “public notice” published in the Brattleboro Reformer the week of February 13th and that several announcements would also be published on the Town’s Website and the Front Page Forum with the time, date, and location of the meeting and the Zoom link to join the meeting remotely.

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Highway Department Discussion

Nick and Andrew reported on several initiatives that are being undertaken by the Highway Department:

- Andrew will be coordinating with Vtrans to set up a traffic “counter” on Higley Hill Road to get a solid read on the amount of Traffic on this stretch of road. This project should begin in mid-March.
- Additional guidelines will be added to the driveway permit application to ensure that residents know what will be their responsibility and what will be the responsibility of the Highway Dept.
- Andrew will be doing a road sigh survey in the coming weeks prior to ordering and installing all appropriate signage on the town’s roads.
- Andrew discussed the possibility of reclassifying some roads serving a single residence from class three to class four. While the town will continue to maintain these roads during the spring, summer, and fall, and handle any major maintenance any time of year, while Winter maintenance (i.e. plowing) will revert to the homeowner. Once Andrew has assembled his list, the Select Board will review, and hold public discussions prior to any action being taken.

Discuss Recycling Station at Highway Dept.

The Board noted that the recycling area at the Highway Department remains a concern and that further investigation into alternatives and a possible “transfer station” need to move forward and will be major topic of conversation over the next few meetings. The Board noted that it would put out a request for input from the town as answers are sought.

Tim Segar and the Planning Commission – Next Steps

Tim came to discuss potential projects that the Planning Commission was reviewing. At present, three areas seem to be coming to the fore: Energy Efficiency, making better use of the Town Park/Town Center, and how the town might move towards providing some low to mid income housing. The Board requested that the PC come up with some initial plans including the scope of the project, rough costs, and possible funding resources. Nick advised Tim that in recent meetings he has attended, the WRC as well as other State agencies have put themselves at the Town’s disposal and urged Tim to reach out to them for assistance. At the same time, Tim asked for the Select Board to assist in this process which the Board pledged to do. Towards this end,, Nick took the action item to reach out to the WRC to see about the process to participate in an initial planning process including \$4,000 grant to facilitate improvements in energy usage and efficiencies.

Tim brought up a possible plan the PC is considering to do an anonymous survey of Town residents to gather information on “short-term” rentals in Town and the residents opinions on these types of rentals in the Town of Marlboro. Tim noted that there may be a need for funds to support the mailing of this survey to which the Select Board was not averse to, but wanted actual numbers before committing any funds (Nick will reach out to the Treasurers to determine what budgetary constraints (if any) there may be.

South Pond Greeter Program

Philip, Cory Ross (Regional Conservation District), and Kate came before the Board to discuss instituting a pilot Greeter Program at South Pond to work to avoid the introduction of invasive species via boats to South Pond. Cory Ross is helping to spearhead this project and noted that the State can provide \$2,700 towards this effort (or about 35% of the \$8,000 cost of the pilot) with the remaining \$5,000 plus raised through other means. To date Marlboro Park has pledged \$1,000 and the AHCC has committed to the remainder but would appreciate any contributions to this that the Town might be able to commit. The Board asked Philip to come back with a hard number they would like from the Town and the Board noted that it would consider this at the next meeting as will as discuss how this would move forward in the future to be self-sustaining.

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Kate made the point that this type of program was highly advantageous and can help educate everyone on the dangers of invasive species and how to help prevent and mitigate the problem.

Town Administrator Report

Nick provided the Board with several reminders on upcoming issues and meeting topics, including:

- That the 3/9/23 meeting will be the organizational meeting of the new Board
- Also at the 3/9/23 meeting, the HPC and HMCA will be coming to discuss and make decisions on funding the destruction and mitigation of the First Aid Building on Hogback.
- The possibility of having the Sheriff's department invest more hours in town to slow traffic and ticket those drivers exceeding the speed limit. This could be a possibly better use of funds than lighted speed feedback signs, which also remain a possibility.
- Nick also noted that he was sending the existing National Grid Tower contract to Bob Fisher for his review in advance of entering negotiations for new five-year adjustment to the existing contract.
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Old Business

There was no old business to consider at this meeting.

Move to Adjourn @ 7:23 (Betts/Welch – Passed unanimously)