

Draft Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Regular Select Board Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 6:00pm

Attendees (in-person & via Zoom): Jim Agate, Molly Welch, Jeff Skarmstad, Nick Morgan – SB Assistant, Andrew Richardson – Road Foreman, Tamara Stenn, Kate Kirkwood, Tim Segar – Planning Commission, Ryan Williams

Call to Order @ 6:00p

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes To Agenda: None

Scheduled Business

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: Tamara asked the Board if they had information on fiber service for Marlboro and was advised that Fidium (Consolidated) handles a small portion of the town while the majority of the town will be serviced by DVFiber. The Board advised contacting DVFiber directly for further information.

Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2023 – (Welch/Skarmstad – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

Select Board Organization

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

James Agate nominated for Chair (Skarmstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Molly Welch nominated for Vice-Chair (Skarmstad/Agate – Passed unanimously)

Appoint two representatives to the Windham Regional Commission:

Edie Mas and Will Shakespeare have both expressed interest in continuing in their roles with the WRC.

Motion to appoint Edie Mas and Will Shakespeare as Marlboro's representatives to the WRC (Skarmstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)

The Select Board reviewed and voted to adopt the 2023 Select Board Rules or Procedure and the Select Board Conflict of Interest Policy.

Motion to approve the 2023 Select Board Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy as written and on file at the Town Office. (Skarmstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Decision to designate the official Newspaper for Publications and Notices:

Motion to designate The Brattleboro Reformer as the Newspaper of record for publications and notices. (Welch/Skarmstad – Passed unanimously)

Decision to designate the Town Website marlborovt.us as the Official Town Website

Motion to designate < marlborovt.us > as the official Marlboro Town Website. (Skarmstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)

New Business

Rescheduling 3/23/23 Select Board Meeting

Due to scheduling issues by two Board members, the rescheduling of the 3/23/23 meeting was discussed, with 3/16/23 and 4/6/23 being put forward as possible alternatives. After discussion, the Board decided that 3/16/23 would be the best date for the rescheduled meeting.

Motion to reschedule the 3/23/23 Select Board meeting to 3/16/23. (Skarmstad/Welch – Passed unanimously). Nick advised that he would post the new meeting date on the Town's website and Front Page Forum after the meeting.

Scheduling issues with 3/23/23 meeting. Motion to move 3/23/ meeting to 3/16 – Jeff/Molly – PU.

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Town Meeting

The Select Board reviewed the results of the Town Meeting vote which led to a discussion of how to proceed this year now that the Town residents had voted to continue with Australian Ballot. The main point discussed was the scheduling of three or four open informational meetings for the Town residents to have input into the 2024 Town Meeting Warning and Ballot. These meetings would most likely happen in the fall (September – December), to be held once a month. The sense of the Board that this would be a good step and would work over the next few meetings to determine exact dates and times for these meetings.

Energy Commission or Coordinators

As interest in the Energy Commission/Coordinator has increased and two residents have stepped forward to volunteer. The determination of whether this will be a Commission or Coordinators depends on whether three volunteers step forward to form a Commission. If not, the role will be designated as Coordinators.

The Board decided to appoint Tamara Stenn and Kate Kirkwood, tentatively, to the Energy Commission, should a third person not be found, they would be re-appointed as Coordinators.

Motion to dissolve any previous Energy Commissions that may have been in place. (Agate/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Motion to create a new Marlboro Energy Commission. (Agate/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Motion to appoint Kate Kirkwood & Tamara Stenn to serve on the Energy Commission. (Skarmstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Kate and Tamara, who were present, noted that they were actively seeking a third member, as is Nick. They also advised that they will be re-establishing an Energy Commission page on the website and that there is a meeting planned for Monday, 3/20/23, to discuss organization of the Commission, including goals and future plans. Nick advised that he will post this meeting and an agenda on the website and Front Page Forum.

Energy Resilience Grants from the State & WRC

The State & WRC have announced an Energy Resilience Program of Grants to assist towns in a variety of ways to improve the Energy Resilience and Efficiency of the Town's usage of energy. There is a significant amount of funds in this program for energy audits, small \$4,000 "starter" grants to towns for a variety of uses, and down the road a couple of months much more substantial grants available to Vermont towns.

In order to handle this program efficiently, the Board agreed that it would be a good idea to form an Ad Hoc committee to coordinate this program for Marlboro. The Committee would be comprised of the Energy Commission (coordinators), Town Admin Nick, a Select Board member, and a member of the Planning Commission. This committee would do the research and make a proposal to the Select Board at a regular meeting which would then be voted on by the Board. The sense of the Board was that this is a good idea and once details were worked out would officially create this Ad Hoc Committee.

Tim Segar

Tim noted that he really liked the Ad Hoc idea and that the Planning Commission would definitely participate. He also suggested that Kate & Tamara review the Town Plan's section on Energy for ideas and direction. Tim also wanted to take the opportunity to publicly thank two Planning Commission members, Matt Tell & Staley McDermet, who are stepping down from the Commission. The Select Board echoed this sentiment and sent a big Thank You to these two town residents for their service.

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Moving forward with the Recycling Station

The problem of improper use of the Recycling Station at the Highway Department Garage continues and needs to be addressed. There is a large cost to the town to provide this service and also a cost of having the Road Crew clean-up and maintain the area when it is improperly used.

The Board asked Nick to double check with TTT trucking on the existing cost to pick up and process the recycling (i.e. is it cheaper if all recycled items were separated rather than co-mingled).

The Board felt that this issue is very important to the town and in order to properly evaluate how to proceed, a special meeting should be held, warned and advised, so that residents would be able to come before the board to hear the details and express their opinions and possibly provide solutions.

The Board decided to have further discussion at the 3/16/23 meeting and set a date for this meeting far enough in advance to provide time for residents to be informed and organize their schedules.

David Elliott's Tools

Jim asked Andrew if there had been a resolution to the disposition of David Elliott's tools that are still at the Highway Garage. Andrew noted that he is still speaking with David's son Danny about this, but that it is a somewhat complex issue that has a lot of details to be worked out.

Andrew also noted that he has ordered tools to replace those that potentially belonged to David, and they are starting to be delivered, further noting that having these will help with the situation.

Molly took the action item to contact Danny to work through a solution and the Board as a whole agreed that a meeting with those involved should be held in the near future to resolve this issue.

Town Administrator Report:

Regional Policing Letter from WCSO – Nick noted that he was still waiting for further explanation from the Sheriff and would send him an email to set up a phone call.

National Grid Tower – Nick reported that he has had initial conversations with Bob Fisher and is moving forward with the process.

Update on Mold Remediation – While Andrew continues to get quotes and scope of the remediation, Nick has contacted the Town's insurance carrier, who acknowledged that the town does have coverage. The Insurance company suggested the town request an adjuster come out for an inspection to provide information on what might be covered. Nick asked the Select Board if he should pursue this and they told him to proceed.

Nick also noted that he was investigating other possible funding sources, including possible funds from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC).

Old Business

None at this time

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:09p (Agate/Skarmstad – Passed unanimously)