

Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 2023, 6:00pm

Call to order @ 6:00pm

Attendees: James Agate – Chair; Molly Welch – Vice Chair; Jeff Skramstad – Member; Nick Morgan – SB Assistant/Town Administrator; Andrew Richardson, Road Supervisor; Kate Kirkwood – Chair-Energy Committee; Elizabeth McEwen, Cheryl Rusin, Robin Reiske – Voices of Hope; Bob Fisher, Town Attorney; Marcia Hamilton, Gail MacArthur, Lucy Gratwick, Michael Boylen, Adrian Segar (Zoom) - Residents

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

Scheduled Business

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: While the actual approval of the application would take place later in the meeting, due to Kate's time constraints this evening, she advised the Board that she had completed the simple application for the MERP \$4,000 "mini-grant", explaining that these funds do not need to be specified in the application, but accounted for as they are spent. Kate reiterated that these funds are for providing residents with information regarding energy resilience in the form of pamphlets, brochures, Energy Fair type events, speakers, and other informational based projects. Kate noted that the Marlboro Energy Committee was taking point on these projects but would present finalized plans to the Select Board prior to implementation. Nick also reiterated that while this part of the MERP was for providing residents with information, the come-on portions of the MERP program would address resilience for the municipal building. Nick & Kate also both noted that the Energy Committee was connecting with the "Window Dressers" program to see how Marlboro could tap into this resource for the community.

Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2023 (Agate/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2023, Special Meeting on Recycling Center (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

Voices of Hope Elizabeth McEwen, Cheryl Rusin, & Robin Reiske (15 min) voicesofhopevt@gmail.com

The representatives from Voices of Hope, a grass roots organization in the Deerfield Valley area, are working to assist those impacted by substance issues as well as more general mental health issues. Their major goals include providing Naloxone availability in those areas where emergency services may be able to respond quickly, they also offer training and support for those struggling with substance abuse issues. They schedule many events, including an upcoming Bar-BQ, to provide community outreach. They are not officially connected with other organizations, such as AA, but work to direct those in need to groups and organizations that can provide help.

A major component of their efforts is working with municipalities, charitable organizations, and businesses to provide them with a "kit" or "aid box" that contains doses of Naloxone, rescue breath masks, etc. VOH provides, maintains, and resupplies these kits, which clearly specify that once 911 has been called the use of this kit can provide immediate emergency care prior to the arrival of EMS personnel. As part of providing these kits, the VOH does its best to educate on the benefits of Naloxone and the need for rapid care in the case of substance overdose. Nick asked if the use of these kits falls under the "good Samaritan law", and the VOH did indeed stress that once 911 has been called, a person is protected by the good Samaritan law in Vermont.

Elizabeth did detail that the VOH does sponsor substance abuse groups (such as NA & AA) in their Wilmington facility. Elizabeth also detailed and reviewed several of the group's flyers and pamphlets and hoped that the Select Board would help with the distribution of these materials. Andrew asked whether having these boxes in public places might cause that space to become a "hot spot" for substance use. Cheryl noted that they have spoken with business owners and police departments and have not seen this as being an issue but stressed that it was the location's choice to have the kits and whether to have them visible to the public or not.

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The general sense of the Select Board was very favorable to Voices of Hope and agreed to help in anyway they could and thanked the representatives for their efforts and for introducing themselves and their organization to the Board. Nick also suggested that the VOH might want to see if they could be a part of the Marlboro Town Fair in the fall with an informational table to distribute their information to the community.

Signature on previously approved appointment of Allan McLane as Tree Forest Fire Warden State-required paperwork.

Allan McLane's re-appointment as the Marlboro Tree Forest Fire Warden was approved at an earlier meeting and the signature requirement on this document was just a formal declaration to the State that the Board had re-appointed Allan to the position. As Chair, James Agate signed the document which will be forwarded to the state next week to finalize this appointment.

Warming Center Update

The Board wanted to review and discuss the funding options for the Warming Center. Nick led off the discussion outlining the difficulty of finding Federal, State, or Municipal funding to upgrade the physical "plant" of a religious organization.

Molly brought up the alternative of the Marlboro Alliance and/or the Marlboro Community Center could get, instead of a permanent generator attached to the building, a large "portable" generator (950 watt?) that could be hooked up to the existing propane tanks. Such a generator could most likely easily power the MCC to provide, heat, water, lighting, etc. and in the event that the MCC moved away from the existing building, the generator could be taken away with the MCC, thus avoiding the separation of Church and State issue. It was questioned whether such a generator could be "automatic" and while the Board was unsure about that (and the issue could be looked into), the Board was unsure as to the need for an automatic generator was needed as someone would need to come to open up the MCC anyway and could start the generator with the push of a button.

It was discussed whether alternative sources could be found, and the topic of what funding was unavailable was revisited, and again it was noted that Federal, State, and Municipal funds (including ARPA) could not be used to improve the physical plant, but that private funding could be used. It was also noted that the Town could provide a more limited amount for a portable generator.

Jeff noted that the Board was in favor of what the MCC is trying to do and is just working through the issues. It was brought up that there was some sort of grant used for the HVAC system and it was noted that Jesse Krietzer had been in control of that. The Board asked Nick to reach out to Jesse to get more information. It was further discussed whether the Warming Center could be added to the LEMP and if that was the case would that change the equation. Nick also noted that he would speak with Jay Sparks (the Town's EMD) to see if it could be included.

Bob Fisher, the Town Lawyer, joined the meeting and was asked about the issue. Bob noted that even if the Warming Center was included in the LEMP, "it" would be a little bit closer, but could still be problematic. Bob also noted that the hurdle was that the Church still maintains ownership of the building. The more Town use of the building can help but will have to be revisited as the issue becomes better understood. The Board noted that it will continue to investigate and keep the community advised of developments.

Highway Department:

Parking issue at Ames Hill/Cowpath Intersection:

Parking issues at the junction of Ames Hill and Cowpath 40. Andrew introduced the issue of converting the "log landing" area next to the South Pond access road. Andrew noted that he had brought this topic up several years ago and was advised by the Ames Hill Organization that they did not want to make it easier for people to park at this location as it potentially could "invite" many people to use this area.

The cars parked on the side of the road in this area are a huge safety problem as well as a problem for access by Emergency Vehicles and Snowplows. Andrew feels strongly that this needs to be done because it only takes one problem for it to be a major issue. It was asked if it would be possible to widen this section of the road to provide

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parking space and due to the town's right of way and private property issues makes this impractical.

The easier solution is to use the "log landing" with the Town Highway Dept maintaining it. It was noted that while the Ames Hill Association was not amenable to this solution when last presented, but as the Association has had a change in its Board and Molly volunteered to contact Leland of the Association Board to see if they might be willing to back this plan as they own the "log landing".

The Board noted that once they hear from the Association, they will revisit the issue and publicize the discussion to solicit opinions from the community.

Update on Beaver Issues-Tabled
Higley Hill Road Timeline-Tabled

National Grid Contract Update – Bob Fisher

Bob outlined the counterproposal, 10-year term; increase license fee to \$12,000 with yearly increases tied to CPI; Trail maintenance that should have been done; propose a \$1,000 per year funding for town to do future maintenance; installation of a gate (that was previously contracted for). While Bob could not predict National Grid's response, he does expect a response within a week or two. Possible alternatives were discussed if they did not accept the maintenance funding, but any decisions on this should wait for their response.

The Board discussed the \$1,000 maintenance add-on, noting that by the Town taking this on, the maintenance would most likely get done, without the Town having to "play cop" to get National Grid to do the agreed upon maintenance.

The Board gave its permission to Bob to submit the counterproposal to National Grid and proceed with any negotiations moving forward.

YouTube and Privacy issues on uploading Board meetings.

Nick reported that there are only between 6-20 views per video and that at this time the privacy issue did not seem to be of importance. The Board concurred.

Move to appoint Julie Sweethill the new Green Up Day coordinator and Sarah Lavigne the new co-coordinator (Agate/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Move to appoint the Town Administrator (currently Nick Morgan) as the Town's Public Information Officer for Emergency Operations and Management (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously).

Nick noted that he is working with Jay Sparks on finalizing the 2023 LEMP and that he will be attending the 6/22/23 meeting to discuss and prepare the Board for the 6/28/23 WRC & State Emergency Management seminar. Jay also reiterated through Nick that he would really like the Board to do the 100-level online FEMA training.

Motion to approve the submission of the \$4,000 MERP Mini-Grant Application as filled out by Kate Kirkwood. (Skramstad/Agate – Passed unanimously)

Nick also advised that the MERP building assessments should be released soon and that he and Forrest are on top of this and will most likely go for the stage two version of the assessments.

On scheduling, Nick noted that he would reach out to Patti Smith and see what upcoming meeting would work best for her to attend to further discuss the Beaver Conflict issues the town is currently experiencing – Nick will suggest 6/8, 6/22, & 7/13/23 and will advise the Board for final approval.

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:35p (Agate/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)