

**TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT**  
~ Minutes of the Non-binding Informational Meeting ~  
**MARLBORO PRE-TOWN MEETING ELECTION : Meeting 1 of 3**

**September 16, 2023 @ 2 pm in the  
Marlboro Community Center & by video conference**

Legal voters and interested persons are further warned and notified that an Informational Meeting (discussion and information, no voting) to prepare for the 2024 Town Meeting Election will meet in-person & via ZOOM on **Saturday, September 16, 2023**, from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Marlboro Community Center (in-person) or for those who prefer joining remotely via ZOOM, below is the following link and/or phone number:

Link: <https://Us02web.Zoom.us/j/89755939733> Meeting Id: 897 5593 9733

To Join by Phone: 1-646-558-8656

**Present:** Marlboro Select Board members Jim Agate, Molly Welch, Jeff Skramstad, Select Board Assistant & Town Administrator Nick Morgan, Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel, Clarence Boston, Staley McDermet, Gail MacArthur, Nancy Anderson, Assistant Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny, Michelle Holzapfel, Kimi Hasegawa, Steven John, Nancy Tognan, Lou Tognan, Andrew Frost, Jean Boardman online Barbara Cole, Beth McDermet, Linda Fuhrman, Don Fuhrman, Adrian Segar, Gussie Bartlett, Robyn Boardman, Lucy Gratwick, Jonathan Morse

**Agenda**

Called to order at 2:02 pm by Chair Jim Agate.

Announcement by Gail MacArthur of an upcoming Community Center event.

Identify Any Changes to Agenda, none presented.

**Review of Meeting Procedures**

Nick Morgan spoke including how to participate as well as previewed the upcoming other meetings in this series in advance of building the Warning and articles for 2024 Town Meeting Election. Voters are participating both on video conference and in person.

**Opening Remarks from Select Board**

Molly Welch spoke to outline how articles can be added to the warning and the ballot and that this is the first in a series of three meetings so the Select Board can reflect the wishes of the voters on the ballot.

**Review and discussion of new Recycling Center changes**

Jeff Skramstad spoke about the recent changes to the Recycling Center, having moved to a zero sort system. Gail MacArthur asked questions. Nick Morgan spoke about installation of security

cameras. Nancy Anderson asked about which kinds of plastic can be recycled and Nick said he would ask Casella, who do the actual recycling, for details.

Open discussion by Select Board & Residents on potential articles for 2024 Town Meeting Election:

- Clarence Boston asked that the upcoming ballot have an article to restore traditional in-person floor vote Town Meeting. He prefers tradition over the change to the Australian ballot, and that he felt misled by the Town government. He stated that he would generate a petition for submission to the Select Board.
- Nancy Anderson spoke taking the opposite opinion and prefers access to the ballot for all voters over the in-person meeting. She also recommended that Town Meeting Day lunch be restored.
- Chair Jim Agate spoke about participation at Town Meeting. He prefers the increase in participation with the current format. Jeff Skramstad amplified how this series of meetings are to engage the community in advance of the vote by allowing articles to be submitted for consideration.
- Don Furhman spoke about the increase in participation he saw at the last Town Meeting election and prefers any methodology that helps more people have a say.
- Adrian Segar lamented the loss of the discussion at the in-person Town Meeting.
- Andrew Frost expressed his appreciation for this forum. He told a story about how his wife has just been naturalized as a US citizen but previously was not allowed to participate on town committees or run for office due to her status. He would like to look into making an article that would allow a non-citizen with a green card to participate in local government. Forrest and Nick offered to help Andrew Frost research and develop this. Others expressed solidarity with this idea.
- Staley McDermet spoke about the service organizations that appear all lumped into one article toward the end of the ballot and asked if these could be separated individually so voters can choose which organizations to support.
- Gail MacArthur said in the past these organizations would come to in-person Town Meeting but with the voting change, there are fewer opportunities. Forrest suggested these organizations be invited to come to the pre-Town Meeting in late February to present their information, duly noted by the Select Board. Discussion of the deadlines we are required to meet.
- Steven John asked about getting a draft of all the forthcoming articles before the upcoming two meetings in November and December, so that voters can review the article language, as can be done by amendment in the in-person Town Meeting format.

- Gail MacArthur had questions about holding Town Meeting at a later time so that discussion can take place, followed by an Australian ballot vote. Forrest offered to ask the Secretary of State if there is provision in the law for alternative dates.
- Nancy Anderson asked questions about the ARPA funding the town recieved. Broad range discussion of what has been spent so far and what the Select Board is targeting for remaining ARPA funds:
  - Town Garage
  - Town Office
  - Master Plan for Village Center
  - Road equipment
  - Fiber optic connection with DV Fiber
- Jean Boardman wanted to know how ARPA funds are spent and asked if a report be could be distributed. Assistant Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny said that would be easy to produce.
- Molly Welch brought up the new Vermont law which aims to encourage development of new housing and multi-unit dwellings to address the lack of places for Vermonters to live. The Planning Commission has reviewed the Zoning Regulations and an accessory dwelling is already an accepted use in the Rural Residential district which encompasses most of town. Broad discussion about the lack of available housing and what directions the town could make.
- Jim Agate spoke in support and gratitude of Town Administrator Nick Morgan, Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel, and the Treasurers Linda Peters and Rebecca Sevigny.
- For the next meeting in November, the Warning will be blocked out for the consideration of the public as well as for the discussion. General public request for articles to be considered. Rebecca Sevigny asked that we explain what an article is to the public.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Holzapfel  
Marlboro Town Clerk