

## **Minutes**

### **Town Of Marlboro Select Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2023**

Attendees: Jim Agate – SB Chair; Molly Welch – SB Vice-Chair; Jeff Skramstad – SB Member; Nick Morgan – SB Assistant/Town Admin; Rebecca Sevigny – Asst. Treasurer; Kate Kirkwood – Energy Committee (ZOOM); Eva Grimaldi, Hanna Bookman, Lindy Coleman, & Mike Purcell – Conservation Commission; Jennifer Ramstetter, Linda and Don Fuhrman, Jean Boardman – Residents.

**Called to Order @ 6:01pm**

### **Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda**

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

### **Scheduled Business:**

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes from September 26, 2023 – (Welch/Agate – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

### **New Business:**

Green Mountain Conservancy – Jennifer Ramstetter: Jennifer came before the Board to provide information on the expected purchase of several parcels of land owned by the Hendricks family (children & grandchildren) to the Green Mountain Conservancy in order to put this valuable natural resource under protective care of an organization such as the GMC dedicated to preserving Vermont's natural resources. Of interest to the Town of Marlboro and its residents, the Marlboro Trail runs through this land and will be maintained for the continued enjoyment of this natural resource by town residents and visitors. While the final agreements have not been reached, a final deal is close. Jennifer and her group are helping with the process and Jennifer made a point to note that much of the water and wetland on the parcels are headwaters and contributories to the Green River and as such along with other flora and fauna make these parcels unique natural resources. *Please note that several pages of descriptions and maps that Jennifer shared have been attached to these minutes as an addendum for your review.*

As this process concerns private lands and requires no contributions from the town, this presentation was purely for informational purposes and does not require action by the Board. Nonetheless, after the presentation, the Board did express their support of the GMC obtaining this land.

Conservation Commission: Members of the Conservation Commission came before to Board to request funds (in the amount of \$500) be included in the 2024 budget to be applied to costs associated with their duties, such as mailing, informational pamphlets, informational events, etc. Should such funding be approved, the Conservation Commission would request access to funds from the Select Board as needed. The Board saw no issue with this and noted that they would include this in the proposed budget in time to have discussions regarding it at the December Town Warning session.

In addition to the request for funds, the Conservation Commission also wanted to review the current status of the Town's Beaver population. It was noted that not only was a concern for the Town roads and issue, but also what about impact on private property. As the Board and Highway Department are working with VT ANR on keeping the roads protected, it was discussed and advised that the Conservation Commission should reach out to ANR as well to get their help in developing a town wide plan for co-living with the town's beaver population and the benefits they provide in terms of watersheds and wetland, but also how to protect property as well without harm to the beaver population.

The Conservation Commissions noted that they would take up this issue, reach out to the VT ANR, and keep the Board apprised.

Dog Bite Incident: Town ACO, Peggy Tiffany, has been dealing with and advised the Board of a dog bite incident. Peggy has communicated with all parties involved and, in a letter, provided the owner with a list of four recommendations concerning how the dog must be handled when it is within the bounds of Marlboro, and the consequences of not doing so. Peggy also submitted the letter to the board for their “official” approval of these recommendations. After a review of this letter, the Board adopted the following motion: **Motion to approve and adopt the recommendations A-D contained in the 9/28/23 ACO (Peggy Tiffany) letter. (Welch/Skramstad – passed unanimously).**

Highway Department: As Andrew was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, Nick updated the Board on the following:

- The Town is looking to install a camera system to monitor the recycling area and if need be, provide license plate numbers to the Sheriff’s office in the event of a littering or dumping situation. While a RING (or like) system could work, Nick has requested a quote for an option from the Town’s security system contractor before the Board can make a decision on cost and capabilities.
- Regarding the mold situation at the garage, Nick reported that the Town’s insurance would not cover the situation and so the Town will have to pay for the remediation and future prevention for itself. In order to get a solid cost bid and have professional coordination of the process, both Nick and Andrew felt it best to put out an official Request for Bid for a contractor who could handle all phases (remediation, repair, and future prevention) of the fix. The Board agreed that this was the proper course of action and tasked Nick with putting out the bid request (targeting at least three bids) with the goal of attacking the situation in the Spring.
- Associated with the Mold issue, the engineer who did the initial inspection did note that an improved air exchange/dehumidifying solution would be a highly advisable improvement. With the coming MERP grant funds coming, this part of the solution might be something the grant could support. As the process continued forward, Nick advised that he keep the Board apprised.

### **Old Business**

Town Administrator Report: Nick reported on several continuing situations, including the following:

- The payments from National Grid have been received and the work on the maintenance of the access trail to the tower is moving forward (per Mike Purcell) and should be completed by the end of the month.
- The Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant the town received is being put out for bid and bids should be arriving shortly.
- In preparation for the upcoming Winter season, Vermont Emergency Management has set up several training sessions for town officials and Nick is working to coordinate both the online, self-controlled sessions as well as a live training with VEM for the Select Board and other town officials.
- The process for acquiring FEMA reimbursements for the July 2023 rain/flood event is moving forward and Nick and the treasurers are working closely with FEMA representatives in filing all the necessary paperwork as quickly as possible.
- The Municipal Energy Resilience Program continues to move forward. Marlboro has been approved for assessment for both the Town Office Building and the Town Garage, which should be completed by the end of the year. The exact date of the assessments is expected soon. After the assessments have been completed the final phase of the MERP will be the release of the implementation grant process, of which the assessments are a major component. As more information becomes available, Nick advised that he would keep the board apprised.

**Adjourn @ 7:11p (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)**

### **Jennifer Ramstetter Addendum to 10/12/23 Select Board Minutes:**

The forested landscape of the Hendricks' land (what we hope becomes Old Oaks Headwaters Preserve) features:

- A key piece of the forested headwaters of the Green River with waters flowing into Harrisville Brook and Pond Brook and then into the Green River
- A diversity of landscapes and community types including Northern Hardwood Forest, wetlands, and talus slopes
- Tree species including sugar maple, yellow birch, American beech, red maple, red oak, red spruce, hemlock with ages of the oldest trees likely ranging from 80 -150 years old.
- Patches of forest with trees that are likely 150-200 years and some older and that exhibit old forest characteristics including abundant large diameter trees and downed woody material and snags, extensive pillow and cradle topography, large canopy gaps, mixed ages of dominant tree species, and varied vegetative structure.
- A central piece of an important unfragmented forest block that is considered a priority by Vermont Conservation Design for its habitat connectivity and surface waters, and it ranks above the regional average using The Nature Conservancy Resilient Design tool for climate resilience and carbon storage in the face of climate change.
- Wetlands including beaver meadows and ponds, streams, vernal pools, and two state significant occurrences of Red Spruce-Cinnamon Fern Swamp (S3), one with a large population of Massachusetts Fern (S2)
- Proximity to other lands protected from development through VLT easements—e.g., Hogback Mountain Conservation Area, Ames Hill-Marlboro Community Center (forested land around South Pond), Whittemore-Paton Trust (also forested land around South Pond), and several individual landowners.
- Habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors
- Important and characteristic species including bobcat, porcupine, moose, white tail deer, black bear, a variety of migratory songbirds and resident bird species, flowering spring ephemerals, ferns, and shrubs.
- Inspiration for further conservation efforts within the forest block
- The forest through which a significant portion of the Town Trail in Marlboro runs. For decades, town residents and other friends, members of the Marlboro Music Festival, the former Marlboro College, and the current Potash Hill, Inc. have walked and cross-country skied on the Town Trail and several other trails on the land. Recently, the Marlboro Nordic Ski Club has had skiers of all ages out on the trails.