

TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT
~ Minutes of the Non-binding Informational Meeting ~
MARLBORO PRE-TOWN MEETING ELECTION : Meeting 2 of 3

**November 18, 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, November 18, 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, Assistant Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny, Carol Ann Johnson, William Shakespeare, Steven John, Kimi Hasegawa, Richard Bennett, Trey Wentworth, Nickolas Katrick, Michelle Holzapfel, David Holzapfel, Nancy Tognan, Lou Tognan, Nancy Anderson, Gail MacArthur, Tim Segar, Jean Boardman, Jonathan Morse, Clarence Boston, Patty Webster, Kent Webster
online: Marcia Hamilton, Gussie Bartlett, Staley McDermet, Keats Diffenbach

Called to order at 2:05 pm by Chair Jim Agate.

- No changes to the agenda identified. Town Administrator Nick Morgan pointed out that the meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the Select Board Soundcloud account next week, and furthermore that the next meetings in this series will be December 16 and January 6, 2024.
- Opening remarks from Select Board outlining the process of how articles can be added to the Warning and then onto the Ballot for the voters to decide. Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel further detailed the process behind making articles, as well as how a townsperson can create and submit a petition for consideration.
- In-depth conversation about the groups of social service agencies grouped together on the ballot. The in-town organizations have been separate in the past. Most of the out-of-town agencies have previously been in a table as one bulk article. There were many opinions expressed both for and against bundling these together:
 - Forrest Holzapfel displayed a Tax Rate Calculator which shows that all the agencies in the table together amounts to \$0.005 on the tax rate so fiscally is not a huge decision.

- Trey Wentworth asked to place the articles for SEVEDS and American Red Cross alone as they have been contentious in the past amongst townspeople.
 - Jonathan Morse sees no need to break all the organizations into separate articles but Steven John thinks having separate articles gives voters the most choice.
 - Nickolas Katrick, a 15-year Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company member, spoke about the fire & rescue services shown as separate articles.
 - Gail MacArthur, a Town Auditor, suggests that everyone read the town report which shows how each of these organizations help Marlboro residents specifically.
 - Forrest Holzapfel pointed out that for the pre-Town Meeting Informational Meeting in the 10 days before the Town Meeting election, the Select Board had previously expressed that they would invite these social service agencies to speak to the voters.
 - Molly Welch asked for a sense of the meeting as to the question of bundling the social services or not. After further discussion, a majority of those present felt that for the coming year each agency should be listed separately, and then proceed from there in coming years.
- The Select Board steered the conversation to going through each article one-by-one. Questions and comments were:
 - Constable Clarence Boston asked if Constable can be voted to be for a three-year term? Forrest Holzapfel to check on what Vermont law proscribes.
 - Nancy Anderson asked how the budget looks overall. The Select Board stated that the January 6, 2024 meeting will be all about the town budget items.
 - At the prior meeting a question was asked about ARPA funding from the Federal Government. Assistant Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny created a report which detailed expenditures so far. Roughly \$40,000 is left of the original \$310,000 and Forrest Holzapfel spoke to the breakdown of the report.
 - Nick Morgan outlined other grants the town has in-process such as Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP), FEMA, other grants being researched for town expenses such as remediation of the former First Aid building on the Hogback town property which has hazardous building materials in it.
 - Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company Board President William Shakespeare spoke to the 75th anniversary of MVFC as well as the changes in dollar amounts to their proposed

articles. He further detailed the overall state of affairs of the company, the dire lack of new, younger volunteers as well as their task to keep up with the fire house and equipment maintenance. Board clerk Carol Ann Johnson is working on getting grants to purchase new turnout gear for the volunteers at \$8,000 each. Will stated they are trying to get in a financial position to be able to afford new equipment. The increased amount requested is to build their facilities and equipment up to standard.

- Forrest Holzapfel spoke to potential articles as discussed at the last meeting and reviewed the questions that had been asked at the last meeting:
 - The Vermont Secretary of State's office confirmed that an article allowing non-citizen voting brought forth as an idea by Andrew and Jeanine Frost is not possible unless Marlboro has its own charter, which it does not.
 - Gail MacArthur had asked if we can change the date of the Town Meeting Election further ahead to allow more space in the election timetable but the Vermont Secretary of State's office says no, only to the three days prior to the 1st Tuesday in March as proscribed by Vermont law.
 - Marcia Hamilton stated the Select Board has the discretion to put articles on the Warning without a petition.
- Brief discussion of the possibility of establishing a volunteer corps to help Highway Department monitor beaver ponds & existing deceivers and culvert screens. This would be similar to the recycling center corps of volunteers.
- Tim Segar, Chair of the Planning Commission spoke about the forthcoming changes to the Zoning Regulations. He spoke further about Potash Hill and its zoning designation and issues surrounding the property.
- Forrest spoke about the Master Plan for the village center and highlighted the project as drawn up by planners from Stevens & Associates.
- Carol Ann Johnson thanked the Select Board, Town Administrator, Treasurers, and Town Clerk for showing all the background processes that go into the creation of the ballot for the voters' consideration.
- Molly Welch stated that she appreciates people coming out to discuss these items and share in the process. December 16th will be the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Holzapfel, Marlboro Town Clerk