

Minutes

Town of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2024 @ 6pm – Town Office & Via Zoom

Attendees: Molly Welch – Chair; Jeff Skramstad – Vice-Chair; Kate Kirkwood – Member; Nick Morgan – Town Administrator; Forrest Holzapfel; Linda Peters – Treasurer; Mark Anderson – Windham County Sheriff; Michelle Holzapfel, Norman Peters, Courtney Bodenstein – Residents.

Call to Order @ 6:00pm

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: Karla Bills was unable to attend the open public comment section.

Scheduled Business (*Note: Times are approximate*):

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: Karla Bills – Town Office Groundskeeper – Unable to attend.

Unfortunately, during the open public comment section, the ZOOM portion of the meeting was “Zoom Bombed”, and an unknown person asked for time and proceeded to go on a 3–4-minute rant filled with objectionable hate filled statements which the Select Board has decided is inappropriate to go into any further.

Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2024 (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

New Business

Mark Anderson – WCSO Update:

The Select Board invited Windham County Sheriff, Mark Anderson, to attend the meeting to provide an update on his plans for the Sheriff’s department to continue to provide service to the Town and improve the quality and quantity of that service. Sheriff Anderson reviewed how his department is funded through State, County, and local (contractual) sources. The Sheriff outlined a plan he is developing for a “regional policing” model which would allow for increased coverage for Windham County towns by allowing the department to allocate its resources (mostly personnel) in such a way as to have deputies in place to respond more quickly and efficiently. He noted that the department is currently running a “pilot program” with the towns of Putney and Westminster, and it has been going well, which has spurred him to work on developing the program County-wide. A main component of the program which will necessitate many more discussions and meetings will be Windham County towns to join a “consortium” with a fixed cost based on population and other factors instead of the current individual yearly contract model.

The Select Board expressed interest in hearing more and being involved in the working out of the details and ensuring that the new plan will increase services for the town. The Sheriff noted that nothing would happen without extensive input from all towns and without causing a decline in services.

The Select Board and the Sheriff both discussed the importance of “local control” for towns and that this program will enhance this goal.

Finally, the Sheriff advised that starting in June there will be a series of meetings between the Department and Towns to further flesh out the program and begin to talk about its feasibility for towns and how it would be implemented in the future.

The Board thanked the Sheriff for attending and all parties agreed to keep the lines of communications open as the County works through this plan.

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Report on Delinquent Taxes:

As Rebecca (Assistant Treasurer), who is working on this, was unable to attend, this topic was tabled until the 4/11/24 meeting.

Michelle Holzapfel – Wooden Topographical Map of Marlboro:

Michelle has been working on a beautiful Wooden Topo Map of Marlboro to scale, which will be put on display at the Town House for the 4/22/24 Earth Day event. As it is in the final stages of completion, Michelle wanted to show it to the Select Board. The Board was amazed at the piece and heartily saw the piece as a great display and was looking forward to its completion and its “unveiling” on Earth Day. The Board thanked Michelle for her efforts and was effusive in their praise for her work. (Please see the attached addendum from Michelle detailing the piece.)

Highway Department:

General Update & Road Conditions – While Andrew was unable to attend the meeting, he advised Nick and Nick reported that effective with April 1, 2024, the Highway Department would be moving to their Spring/Summer schedule of 10-hour days, four days per week (Monday – Thursday) as they did last year, which worked very well. Andrew also advised Nick to assure the Board that, of course, if needed the Department would work as much as was necessary to maintain the roads.

Discussion of HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) – Nick advised that he is working with the WRC & Andrew to see if the HMGP has opportunities that the Town could take advantage of and that he would report on any updates.

Team Rubicon – Nick reported that there is a new program in process where during emergencies, a Vermont Town can make a request to this program for extra assistance, everything from assisting the highway department to debris clearing to assisting residents, etc. This program is manned for US veterans. Nick will be gaining more information on the program (process, costs, etc.) and will report to the Board as the information becomes available.

Appointments:

The Board acted on the following appointments:

DVFiber: Motion to appoint the following to the DVFiber Board for a “one-year” term - Steven John – Marlboro Rep: Bob Anderson & Jean Boardman – Alternates (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD: Motion to appoint the following to the Marlboro Development Review Board for a “one-year” term: Steven John, Brent Seabrook, Gail Macarthur, Jean Boardman, & John Nevins as full members and Matthew Tell & Eva Grimaldi as Alternates. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Tree Warden: Motion to nominate Pieter Van Loon to the post of Marlboro Tree Warden for a standard “one-year” term. (Welch/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously)

Conservation Commission: Motion to appoint the following to the Marlboro Conservation Commission for a “one-year” term all members of the Commission: Eva Grimaldi, Elizabeth Johnson, Katherine Andrews, Lindy Corman, Hunter Jack, Hannah Bookman, & Mike Purcell. (Welch/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously)

Energy Committee: Motion to appoint the following to the Marlboro Energy Committee for a “one-year” or “two-year” term as indicated by the number in parentheses after their name: Kate Kirkwood (1), Ryan Williams (2), Tamara Stenn (1), Erika Korb (2), & Robin MacArthur (2). (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Planning Commission: Motion to appoint PC member Patti Smith to the WRC Board, second WRC board seat is vacant. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously) Motion to appoint Will Shakespeare to a “four-year” term on the Planning Commission. (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Planning Commission (continued):

The PC advised the Select Board that the PC is actively seeking a volunteer to fill the vacant WRC seat and requested any assistance in this endeavor the Select Board could provide. Nick advised that he would post the call for a volunteer on all the regular resources (FPF, Facebook, the Town Website, and the upcoming edition of the Marlboro Mixer).

The Select Board was advised by the Planning Commission Edie Mas is leaving the Commission after 20+ years of service. The Select Board wants to recognize and commend her long service and gratefully thanks her. A written statement of commendation will be published in the Marlboro Mixer, Front Porch Forum, Facebook, & the Town's Website to officially recognize her service to the Town.

Liquor Licenses Approvals:

At the request of the Town Clerk the Select Board considered and **Moved to Approve the following long-standing liquor licenses.** (Skramstad/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously)

- Pizzapalooza – OCP Permit
- Vermont Distilleries – OCP Permit
- Vermont Distilleries – First Class License
- Vermont Distilleries – Third Class License

Designate New Signatories for Town Bank Accounts: Due to changes in the Town's Treasury Department, new signatories for the Town's bank accounts (as indicated in the following motion) needed to be approved and the information transmitted to the banks. The Board saw no issues with this request and proposed the following motion: **Motion: Approve new signatories for ALL Marlboro Town Bank Accounts at TD Bank, Community Bank, Brattleboro Savings & Loan, and M & T Bank: Primary Signatory – remove Linda Peters and replace with Rebecca Sevigny; Alternate Signatory – remove Andrea Howe and replace with Forrest Holzapfel.** (Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously)

Old Business

Town Administrator Report:

Nick brought forward the idea of having more regular interaction with the Town's Commissions & Committees. The Board committed to reviewing the minutes from these committees (provided on a regular basis by Nick) and scheduling members of the commissions to attend a Board meeting to discuss activities.

Nick reported that the Town's ACO has scheduled vacations coming up and that Molly has arranged with the ACO to cover during her absences.

The final FEMA document (hopefully) has been transmitted to FEMA and we are awaiting word on approval.

Nick has been in touch with Serv Pro, Catamount, and Quality Cleaning & Restoration seeking quotes on remediating the mold condition at the Highway garage.

Motion to enter Executive Session @ 7:25p – Skramstad/Welch – Passed unanimously.

Motion to return to Regular Session @ 8:23p – Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:24p – Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously.