

Minutes

Town of Marlboro Select Board Meeting

Thursday, September 26, 2024 @ 6pm – Town Office & Via Zoom

Attendees: Molly Welch – SB Chair; Jeff Skramstad – SB Vice-Chair; Kate Kirkwood – Member; Nick Morgan – Town Admin/SB Assistant; Rebecca Sevigny – Treasurer; Mary Sargent – Zoning Admin; Colin Bratton – WRC (via ZOOM); Spencer Knickerbocker & Malcom Moore – Marlboro Nordic Ski Club; Bill Hannigan, Genny Beemyn – Residents (via ZOOM).

BEGIN ZOOM RECORDING:

Call to Order - 6:02pm

Sign Guidelines of Conduct - Done

Regular Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: None

Scheduled Business (*Note: Times are approximate -early arrival-15-20 minutes- is suggested*):

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2024 – Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from September 6, 2024, Special Meeting- Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2024, Info Meeting - Welch/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously.

Signature of Pay Orders - Done

6:04p Move to enter executive session (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

6:27p Move to re-enter regular order (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

New Business

Any items arising out of executive session – None at this time.

Due to late arrival of attendee issues regarding traffic on Hogback was moved and the item of Whitaker Farm Road was taken up.

Update Whitaker Farm Road – (*as this issue involves Kate Kirkwood who lives on the Road, Kate announced that she is participating in this item as a resident and not a Select Board member and recuses herself from any decision-making votes*). Bill Hannigan and Genny Beemyn as residents on Whitaker Farm Road joined Kate in coming before the Board to review the status of moving to classify the current section of road to a Class 3 designation. Bill Hannigan “took point” and gave a brief overview of the actions the residents on this stretch of road. He outlined the general points that Whitaker Farm Road is split between an active town road, and then an “unmaintained” section continuing from there where the five homes looking to reclassify the road are located. They had extensive discussions with Andrew about what needs to be done to bring the existing road up to standard and worked with Andrew on what the group would have to do and pay to achieve this. Bill noted that this is a costly undertaking, but the group is and have committed to this project. The group has developed a detailed plan with their contractor (Thorin) and have received a commitment from Andrew that he will work with Thorin to make sure the work meets road specifications including correct culverts, “road paper”, type and depth of gravel, etc. Prior to completion of Thorin’s work, Andrew would review the work and provide his approval. The other major issue that was discussed was the need (per Vermont State Statutes) for the Select Board to notice (30 days prior) a site visit & public hearing (including certified mail announcements to abutting landowners) on reclassifying the road followed by a 60 day period for the Board to solicit any further input prior to announcing their decision. The group noted that as work is not scheduled to start until Late Spring/Early Summer there should be no issues here. A final issue that was brought up is the possible need for a survey of the layout of the proposed roadway. Statute states that if the section of road in question was never a town road (at any classification level), then a survey is mandatory.

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New Business (continued)

Update Whitiker Farm Road (continued) - At present it is not clear if this section of Whitaker Farm Road was ever a classified town road. Forrest has done some initial research into the town's records which did not yield a conclusive result. Nick has sent this initial information to the town lawyer (Bob Fisher) who will do more in-depth research to determine if a survey is required or not. Bill, Genny, & Kate acknowledged that they understood, and Nick accepted the "action item" to communicate with Bob and move this process along as quickly as possible.

Speeding and traffic issues at the top of Hogback with WRC Member Colin Bratton – Due to the continuing issues of speeding & traffic control on top of Hogback (including the recent tragic accident), the Board asked WRC's Transportation Member, Colin Bratton, to come to the Board to provide information on what the town can do and how to interact with the State since this area (Route 9) is a State road and not under town control. The Board asked what was possible for the town to do (i.e., increased signage, crosswalks, radar feedback signs, changes in road configuration - the passing lane up towards the top of Hogback coming from the Marlboro direction-, "rumble strips", etc.). Colin advised that most if not all of these options were in the State's hands, though he did note that the radar signs could be done if purchased and maintained by the town. Colin noted that the best solution (though not a quick one) would be for the town to write an official request to the VT District 1 division of Vtrans requesting a Traffic Safety Project, which would do a full study of the area and develop a plan. Colin noted that this could be a two-to-three-year process. The Board tasked Nick to write up a letter requesting this project. Nick advised that he would do so, providing a copy to the Board for approval and Colin for his advice. Nick noted that he should have this ready by the next meeting. The Board thanked Colin for his input and ultimately his help in constructing the letter.

Highway Department – Andrew was unable to attend so the following items were tabled until the 10/10/24 meeting: Update Underground Electrical on Cowpath 40; What does Department need to knock down mold (Hydrogen Peroxide based spray); and General Updates.

Treasurer Quarterly Report – Rebecca Sevigny provided the Board with her quarterly report on the town's financial situation. Aside from reviewing the line-by-line items, Rebecca noted that tax revenue is starting to come in significantly and she was able to pay off the Tax Anticipation Loan (limiting the town's interest expenses) as well as paying many bills. Rebecca also noted that Evan Wyse has been doing a great job with the Delinquent Tax records and has been able to retrieve a significant amount of funds. Rebecca also outlined that she was consolidating the town's funds with Community Bank, which is a real positive as they are providing a great deal of assistance and advice. A major effort that she is making currently and will upscale next year is to take funds when they arrive and do not need to be paid out immediately and putting them in CDs to accrue interest income. She is also working with the School Board to do the same with their funds "on hand" (which at times can approach a million dollars). This plan could really provide a significant boost in funds. The Board was strongly behind this plan and urged Rebecca to continue to investigate these options of investment (100% safe and FDIC guaranteed). Rebecca also advised that Community Bank has a program where any funds on deposit that are not expended in a day and nightly "swept" into an interest-bearing account (where they are still 100% available but earning interest). Again, the Board was very positive about this and thanked Rebecca for her innovation and efforts, in not only organizing and handling the town's funds, but finding ways to actually make the town some extra money in interest.

Marlboro Nordic Ski Club and the South Pond Trail – Spencer Knickerbocker and Malcolm Moore from the Marlboro Nordic Ski Club came to the Board to discuss the South Pond Loop of the Cross-Country trail. After a discussion of what the club does to maintain the trails, both grooming during the winter and general maintenance during the other seasons for use as trails for walking, running, biking, etc., Spencer asked the Board for their official permission to continue the trail maintenance; to provide permission for

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New Business (continued)

Marlboro Nordic Ski Club and the South Pond Trail(continued) - the Nordic Club to proceed with possible Grant applications; and provide letters of support for those applications. Molly advised that she would write up a general letter of support (which would receive Board approval once written) for the grant applications. The Board then considered the following motions:

Motion to approve the Nordic Ski Club to maintain the cross-country ski trails including the South Pond Trail (Welch/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously).

Motion to approve the Nordic Ski Club to proceed to actively seek out and apply for grants to maintain and improve the trails (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously).

There was a brief discussion of how the Nordic Ski Club to help the town in an emergency snow situation and Nick advised that he would contact the town's emergency management director and have him reach out to Spencer to see what abilities the club might have and how to possibly roll that into the town's general response plan.

Appropriation requests for the Town Warning – Nick advised that appropriation requests for the 2025 Town Warning are starting to come in and that he would check with Forrest on the statutory requirements of what leeway the Board has in accepting these requests for appropriations. He noted that he would provide more information at the next meeting.

Old Business

Update Zoning Administrator Job Description & Plan – Tabled

Town Administrator Report:

Appoint Alternative (Carla Meskill) to WSWMD – Sign Paperwork – This appointment was handled at a previous meeting and Molly simply signed the document that needs to be sent to the WSWMD.

Final Approval by SB on DVSJ Jan 2025 event – After final approval of the special condition document by both the HMCA & the DVSJ – Molly signed the facility use agreement for the DVSJ event in January 2025.

Update on GMP Battery Wall – Nick reported that he had begun the process with GMP and a potential contractor and advised that he would be contacting GMP in the following week to review next steps.

Update MERP – Kate and Nick have completed and submitted the Implementation Grant Application and advised that the town will hear back around 10/27/24, and also advised that due to the quick two-day turn around to accept, a special meeting of the Board may be required.

Heat/Air Exchange – Garage – There will be a site visit at the Town Garage on October 15th with a contractor to begin the bid process. Nick noted that should the town receive the MERP grant there could be funds available for this project.

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:50p (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)