

TOWN OF MARLBORO, VERMONT
~ Minutes of the Non-binding Informational Meeting ~
MARLBORO PRE-TOWN MEETING ELECTION : Meeting # 2 of 4

**October 26, 2024 @ 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 2025 Town Meeting Election will meet in-person & via ZOOM on **Saturday, October 26, 2024**, 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 Molly Welch, Jeff Skramstad, & Kate Kirkwood, Town Administrator Nick Morgan, Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel, Marcia Hamilton, Michelle Holzapfel, Nancy Anderson, Nancy & Lou Tognan, Steven John, Dianna Noyes, Lauren Poster, Jean Boardman, Francie Marbury, Lindy Corman

online: Staley McDermet, Gussie Bartlett, David Holzapfel

Called to order by Select Board Chair Molly Welch at 2:01 pm

Molly and Town Administrator Nick Morgan explained the procedure for the meeting and that this is the second of 4 meetings. Molly further detailed their list of topics broadly:

Emergency Management

- An Emergency Management meeting was held in September with Emergency Management Director Jay Sparks as well as members of the State Emergency Management team. The goal was to create a comprehensive list of contacts and order of operations in emergencies.
- The meetings helped show where there are gaps in our process, such as how to reach vulnerable members of the town, and that communication is the most difficult part of emergency situations. The town is working on creating structures and building communication lines.
- The objective of setting up Marlboro Elementary School as a shelter is progressing, working in collaboration with the School Board and Principal. When a need arrives in an emergency, it is agreed that the school is in a good location.

On-going work of the Select Board & Marlboro Town Government

- Many Town Ordinances and Regulations need to be revised and updated. Personnel Policies are very out of date, so a systematic look at them is underway.
- Evan Wyse is working hard on the Delinquent Tax Collection process
- Treasurers are also working on their work flow and are exploring revision of their systems
- Town Road standards always need to be updated
- Steven John asked about the retirement disbursement and how the town is managing the financial aspect of this situation. Forrest replied that the cost total was about \$265,000 paid to Vermont Municipal Employee Retirement System to bring the town into compliance with State law on providing retirement to employees who work over 24 hours per week.
- Town Administrator Nick Morgan has been working to get an improved municipal health insurance policy through Blue Edge, a subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield, that will save the town around \$16,00 annually
- The road grader purchased cost \$400,000 and will all be paid off in four years.
- Nancy Anderson wondered about the plan for replacing road equipment which Jeff Skramstad addressed
- The Road Crew is working around the town roads ditching, and we are working toward compliance on stone-lined ditches with many, many more miles to go
- The Road Crew is now 5 members
- The Marlboro School buses need a new location as they have been stored in the second town garage for many years. A new solution is required. One idea is to build a shed for the busses on the parcel of land that the “town pound” sits on just past the Town Garage.

Review Process for Items to be included on Warning

A brief discussion of how the Town Meeting Warning and Ballot will be adjusted for clarity at the next Informational Meeting including

- Marlboro specific items
- Health Care Services
- Emergency Services
- Social Services

Discussion of how to balance giving voters the most choice but making the task of counting not so burdensome.

- Francie Marbury asked if some of the organizations could come in advance of the final Warning so that more discussion could come before the Warning is created. More discussion of the services provided.

Steven John asked the Select Board for their position on putting things on the ballot versus just being in the budget. If petitioned, the article is on the ballot. If the Board decides to include certain items in the budget, the voters could rebuke the Board.

More discussion regarding the pros and cons of the in-person Town Meeting versus mailing the ballot to all voters.

Speeding in Marlboro

The Windham County Sheriff has been stopping people per the town contract and written around \$3,000 in tickets. Their contract with us is for 20 hours a month. The Select Board has found them responsive in Town Center, on South Road, Ames Hill Road, Town Hill Road and Higley Hill Road. The speed tables to reduce motorist speed will be installed in the spring in the town center.

- Dianna Noyes asked about a crosswalk between the parking lot across South Road over to the Town Center parking lot
- Nick spoke about the speed tables and everyone hopes they will be effective
- Molly spoke about the Master Plan for the Town Center

Select Board On-going Items

- Jeff spoke about the town working with **Green Mountain Power** on the burial of utility lines under town roads (Cowpath 40, Lower Dover Road) to increase resiliency in outages and storms. The PowerWall program will be installed as backup electric in the Town Office. Further discussions will be needed to bury power through the center of town.
- Molly discussed the **Town Garage** which has a black mold problem on the upper ceiling walls and the following action steps: The walls will be sprayed by the Road Crew with a solution to kill the mold and then will work toward fixing the problem with Catamount Environmental. Ben Mousseau of Cold Flame Mechanical will spec a air-to-air heat exchanger as a possible remedy. Rebuilding a portion of the garage will be budgeted for in the future.
- Molly brought up that the **First Aid building on Hogback** has hazardous materials in it and we will need to raise \$40,000 to \$50,000 to remove the structure and dispose of it correctly. The Select Board is looking into how to accomplish this long-standing issue

and the price to cure keeps rising. Michelle Holzapfel wondered if a chain-link fence could be put around the building to protect the town from liability.

- Spencer Knickerbocker of the Marlboro Nordic Club asked the Select Board about maintaining and updating the **Pent Road to South Pond** as well as seeking the grant money to do so.

Closing Remarks

Discussion of the future schedule of the Select Board for the upcoming holiday period.

Nancy Anderson asked for the review of employee benefits for the next meeting.

Steven John will present more information on DV Fiber at the next meeting. He talked about an upcoming documentary that will be screened in the Community Center on November 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Holzapfel
Marlboro Town Clerk