

Minutes**Town Of Marlboro Special Select Board Meeting****Wednesday, July 2, 2025, 5:00pm**

Attendees: Molly Welch – SB Chair; Jeff Skramstad – SB Vice-Chair; Kate Kirkwood – SB Member; Nick Morgan – SB Assistant/Town Admin; Andrew Richardson – Road Supervisor; Chad McGann - Municipal Roads Program Coordinator at Vermont DEC; Residents - Rachel Richardson, David Manning, Sunny Tappan, Nat Waring, Anthony Burner, Carol Burner, Karl Isselhardt, & on ZOOM – Brian Hoell, Donna Cabibbo, Ralph Melanson, Charlotte Melanson.

BEGIN ZOOM RECORDING:**Call to Order @ 5:03pm****Sign Guidelines of Conduct- Done****Special Select Board Meeting Agenda****Scheduled Business:**

5:00-5:10p Unscheduled Open Public Comment: None

New Business**Highway Department - Update and Review of Road Work on Stratton Hill Road:**

The discussion focused on reviewing road work on Stratton Hill Road and Adams Brook Road. The Board noted that there had been concerns about the work being done on these two roads and after their own site visit and upon hearing that Chad McGann, Municipal Roads Program Coordinator at Vermont DEC within VT ANR, had inspected the site, they set up this special meeting to have Mr. McGann attend to bring his expertise and advised residents of the meeting to seek their input.

To start off the meeting, after a brief description of the project by Highway Supervisor, Andrew Richardson, the Board asked Mr. McGann to provide his thoughts. Mr. McGann explained that all Vermont towns need to follow a permitting process (Municipal Roads General Permit) and that the program, which basically works to prevent erosion, stormwater runoff, and road washouts, supported by several grant programs through VTRANS & AOT. The State evaluates those roads that could pose erosion issues and dictates which road segments (100 meters each) are prioritized and addressed over time. Mr. McGann further noted that the focus is generally on those roads that are “Hydrologically Connected” particularly those roads within 100 feet of waterways. He also noted that in order to be in compliance with the permitting process, towns are required to address those road sections designated by the State. The work generally entails some mix of road surface improvements (graveling), ditching & stone, hydroseeding, and culvert repair.

In answer to some resident’s questions later in the meeting, Mr. McGann also discussed that the program has specific parameters, for example, in order to facilitate proper water flow, the ditches need to be parabolic at their bottom rather than sharply a “V”; trees in the ditching line can be removed; and as importantly, a “feasibility exemption” process to alter the process, should “historic trees”, stone walls, wetlands, or other obstructions or features that might need to be worked around. Such exemptions allow a town to retain certain features while staying in compliance with the permitting process.

After his discussion of the program, the Board asked Mr. McGann about his inspection and his evaluation. Mr. McGann noted that the work appeared to be going well, and was happy to hear from Andrew that the Hydroseeding had taken and that grass was growing. In general, he was pleased with the use of ditching stone, the shape and size of the ditching, and the plans for graveling and culvert repair.

A resident raised a question about one of the larger trees having one of its roots exposed in the ditch, to which both Mr. McGann and Andrew noted they were aware of but felt confident that the tree was stable as its root system was extensive. With Mr. McGann further noting that the tree should continue to be monitored and if it becomes a concern could be taken down. Andrew agreed with this and noted that he is always monitoring things like this.

The majority of the residents in attendance noted that while the work is at times disruptive and while the work is ongoing, of course it is not going to “look great”, most expressed gratitude for the much-needed repairs to address severe erosion and drainage issues. Sunny Tappan and others shared personal experiences of being stranded during storms and highlighted the importance of the work for emergency access and daily travel. Brian Hoell raised concerns about water entering his driveway during storms, and Andrew explained that the project would involve replacing culverts, adding gravel, and potentially modifying a bank to improve drainage which should correct this issue. Andrew assured the

residents that once the work was completed things would “look” much better and advised any resident who wanted to see the “end result” could look at several roads in town: Starver Road, Fox Road, North Pond Road, Town Hill Road, and Cowpath 40, where similar work had been completed in past years.

Another resident was concerned and brought up the issue of advance notice of future road work, not only at this location, but at other locations in town, and wondered whether all legal requirements for notification of residents and landowners had been followed. The Board was unsure of any statutes that might apply to regular road maintenance but **tasked Town Administrator, Nick Morgan, to request the town attorney to investigate and report back to the Board on this issue and include any findings in future minutes where the findings will be discussed.**

This topic also brought up a discussion on what to do moving forward. The Board asked Andrew if it would be possible to have his plans for future scheduled road maintenance to be provided to the Board with sufficient time for the Board to schedule an “open discussion” of upcoming road maintenance at a regular Select Board meeting. Andrew noted that this was very possible. Noting he is already making his plans for next Summer’s MRGP road maintenance and would easily be able to be ready to present it at a Select Board meeting inter so that any residents along the proposed work would be able to come in and hear what and where the work would be done. The Board really liked this idea and pledged to follow through with such meeting(s) in the late Winter or early Spring.

There was continued discussion of specific items from the residents in attendance (in person and on ZOOM). For a complete review of these discussions, the Board provides the recording of the proceedings on the Town’s Soundcloud page. Click the following link to be taken to the recording of this meeting (recordings of previous meetings are also available): <https://soundcloud.com/marlboro-select-board/2025-07-02-special-select>

The discussion ended with residents expressing general optimism about the improvements and offered to collaborate further with Marlboro to address specific issues. Andrew and the Board thanked Mr. McGann for his explanation of the State Process concerning town road permitting, thanked the residents in attendance for their input, both their concerns and their appreciation of the need for the work. Andrew and the Board also pledged to be more informative about future planned road maintenance and to provide an opportunity for consultation with town residents and property owners, stressing the need for more communication among all parties.

Executive Session

- Executive Session if needed – Motion Language below:
Motion: Fining that premature knowledge of the topic that we need to discuss now would be deleterious to the public & town the Select Board deems it necessary to hold an Executive Session. & Motion: That we move into executive session to discuss personnel issues according to Vermont Statute 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(a) 6:08pm (Welch/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously)

Return to regular session @ 6:52p (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)

Any Items Arising Out of Executive Session - none

Motion to Adjourn @ 6:53p (Welch/Skramstad – Passed unanimously)