

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

December 13, 2025 @ 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 2026 Town Meeting Election will meet in-person & via ZOOM on **Saturday, December 13, 2025**, 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: *Join Zoom Meeting <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, Road Foreman Andrew Richardson, Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel, Lucy Gratwick, Nancy Anderson, Michelle Holzapfel, Arne Hammarlund, Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund, Jim Herrick, Tim Segar, Lauren Poster, Hollie Bowen, Paul Love, Marcia Hamilton, Megan Littlehales, Gail MacArthur, Ryan Williams, Beth McDermet, Staley McDermet, Thorin MacArthur, Gary MacArthur, Nikolas Katrick, Jonathan Morse, Evan Wyse, Malcolm Moore, Lou & Nancy Tognan, Carol Ann Johnson, Laura Tarleton.

Online: Don & Linda Fuhrman, Gussie Bartlett, Jeremiah Wallack, Susan Kundhardt, Woody Bernhard, Joan Carey, Carol Hendrickson, Peggy Tiffany, Sandy Muschler, David Clift, Cherrie Corey, Peter Mauss, Russell & Andra Horton, Catherine Rhodes, Frances Marbury, Erik von Ranson, Jean Boardman, Rebecca Sevigny

Called to order by Molly Welch at 2:04 pm and the details of participation were explained for all.

Review of Marlboro Road Maintenance 2025 & plans for 2026 (Road Foreman Andrew Richardson)

- Molly Welch detailed how the Select Board has been working hard on cleaning up numerous problems and the municipality's areas of non-compliance with State law including:
 - A new Zoning Administrator has been hired who is very knowledgeable and experienced.
 - Addressing the pay scale for all town employees and codifying the way raises are done.
 - Revising the Road Standards Ordinance.
 - Reviewing the maintenance of Class 4 roads and road sections which are maintained but hardly used.
 - Update of the Road Naming Ordinance.
 - Moving towards bringing all our roads into compliance with the State law.
 - The way road equipment and road maintenance has been done in the past is costing huge money for us now (crowning, ditching, brush cutting on all roads are built into the plan).
 - Much progress has been made as we get more things to a good standard.
- Andrew Richardson spoke:
 - He learned a lot from the last year and in particular with their summer project ditching one

mile on Adams Brook Road. Ditching and 20 culvert crossings were completed to State specifications. He spoke about how the Road Crew needed to do better to alert those on the road as to exactly what the road work entailed.

- He detailed plans for the coming summer ditching and upgrading along Ames Hill Road.
- The work the Road Crew did in ditching and drainage on Higley Hill and Town Hill Road has made a big difference in the amount of mud in spring.
- He talked to many landowners along Ames Hill so no one will be surprised when they begin work in summer 2026.
- The burial of the electric lines along Ames Hill by Green Mountain Power this past summer might have been inconvenient to residents but has allowed the Town to have 30+ culverts replaced by GMP at no cost to the municipality
- Peggy Tiffany asked about the increased depth of ditches now and wondered about safety for motorists (in particular about a portion of the Augur Hole Road).
 - Andrew pointed out the ditches are deeper now than in the past due to new State of Vermont engineering standards as well as standards in all our neighboring towns.
 - Andrew drew a sketch to show the way water moves through the ditch and how a shallow ditch doesn't allow water to shed which increases mud and the possibility of washouts.
 - Increased culvert sizes help move water off the road.

- Questions for Andrew Richardson from the voters:

- Paul Love asked about Green Mountain Power (GMP) putting in power poles.
- Jim Herrick spoke about ditch work and our town's relationship with Green Mountain Power.
- Andrew spoke about the learning process he went through working with GMP and that communication was challenging.
- Megan Littlehales asked about ditches and what is required to comply with the standards.
 - Andrew replied about the shapes of ditches required for us to be in compliance with State regulations as well as how stone-lined ditches are required by the State when the road is a 5% road grade or steeper, while hydro-seeding can be done to hold the ditch shape on flatter grades.
 - He pointed out that there is the MRPG Report online which residents can consult
 - <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/contacts/permit-information-application-s-and-fees/municipal-roads-program>
- Jonathan Morse asked about some of the trees cut on Cowpath 40, ditch depths, and the lack of width of the lanes
- Catharine Rhodes followed by Arne Hammarlund wondered if GMP can repair some of the errors they made in some of the ditches during their electric burying process. They report that some of these ditches on Ames Hill Road have already filled in even though work was done just this past summer.
- Jim Herrick spoke about the need for filter fabric AND digging the ditches deeper as the combination will be most effective (and more costly).
- Forrest Holzapfel spoke about the standards of the ditches and how more resilient standards put forward by the State are to protect the road infrastructure from increasing storm ferocity.
- Andrew spoke about complying with State standards and how the State will withhold road funding if we do not comply with their standards.
- Lauren Poster asked about salting on South Road and the slush that is created, as well as the possibility of snow fencing to minimize drifting of snow in certain areas. Andrew replied they are trying to salt both lanes evenly and that the slush, while annoying, allows them to use less salt.
- Sandy Muschler asked about the lack of plow poles in contrast with in the past.
 - Andrew replied that they make use of some fiberglass poles but they don't spend the

hours cutting and installing plow poles currently.

- Clarence Boston spoke about water quality, erosion, and the importance of maintaining that quality as well as staying within the State regulations.
 - Carol Ann Johnson mentioned that the temperature fluctuations appear more extreme than in the past.
 - Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund asked about taxation levels due to the road costs and understands that we are playing catch up now, on both roads and equipment, but what is projected for future years?
 - Molly Welch and Jeff Skramstad said that in 2027 all equipment loans will be paid off and a capital fund is being invested in to allow for purchase of new equipment so there is not another huge spike in expense
 - Staley McDermet asked about ditch depths to which Andrew replied.
 - Andrew says the majority of town culverts are metal, plugged, rotten, & undersized and need replacement due to lack of maintenance over the years.
 - Thorin MacArthur asked if we could accomplish the same goals for less money and emphasized the importance of maintenance on ditches and culverts – Thorin wonders if doing more maintenance more often but less drastic changes in the short term could be a solution.
 - Gail MacArthur agreed about maintenance as detailed above.
 - Russell Horton commented about restricting salt use on South Road.
 - Linda Fuhman thanked both the Select Board and Andrew for their work to a round of applause.
 - Jim Herrick pointed out that the budgets will continue to rise but that once the basic infrastructure has been brought to the standard, perhaps the size of the crew could be reduced?
- Molly detailed the next informational meeting focusing on the budget will be January 17, 2026 and that handouts will be available in advance of the meeting so people have time to absorb the details and can come with questions.
 - BCTV has improved these informational meetings dramatically and we thank them and Brian of BCTV for his work on the meeting recording and broadcasting.
 - Gary MacArthur asked about the budget meeting and wondered what we get from the State of Vermont as income for following their road protocols?
 - Andrew stated that the Town of Whitingham does not work within the State MRSG so will reach out to them to see how that works. We get only around \$20,000 from the State of Vermont for being in the program.
 - Gary MacArthur asked about the Zoning Regulations and when updates will be brought up and Molly Welch responded by detailing the process we go through to accomplish the updates.

Round of applause. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Holzapfel, Marlboro Town Clerk