

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

February 28, 2026 @ 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, February 28, 2026**, from 2:00-3:30 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 (by Zoom), Town Administrator Nick Morgan, Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel, Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny, Assistant Treasurer Lynn Schueremann, Lucy Gratwick, Nancy Anderson, Michelle Holzapfel, Paul Love, Lou Tognan, Nancy Tognan, Curtis Rhodes, Auditor Andy Reichsman, Carol Ann Johnson, Malcolm Moore, Michael Boylen, Marcia Hamilton, Steven John, Robert Mosgrove, Jim Herrick, Richard Dror, Wendy Webber, Patty Greenwood, Sylvie Weil, Erik Weitzner, Linda Rock.

Online: Don Fuhrman, Linda Fuhrman, Philip Johansson, Joan Carey, Sandra Muschler, Augusta Bartlett, Peggy Tiffany, Robert Anderson, Kalya Yannatos, Meg Statloff, Andra Horton, David Clift, Jeff Burt, Steve Giard, Phyllis Odessey, Peter Mauss. **44 attending**

Called to order by Molly Welch at 2:02 pm and the details of participation were explained for all. Town Administrator Nick Morgan spoke about an upcoming hearing with Green Mountain Power in April and encourages the public to attend since there will be disruptions to traffic flow on numerous town roads this summer.

Molly Welch addressed an article the Select Board rejected had to do with the Trump administration. Another petitioned article about universal health care they may have rejected in error as they did not understand the premise of the proposed article submitted. Forrest Holzapfel explained some of the changes in opinion at the Secretary of State level and from Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT), regarding the authority of SB to reject articles at their discretion.

Molly updated those present about the Zoning Administrator situation, how she is reluctantly taking on the role until someone can be hired, and is supported by Nick Morgan, Forrest Holzapfel, and the Windham Regional Commission. They are actively supporting the process to hire a new ZA.

Peggy Tiffany commented that the phone number listed for her as Animal Control Officer in the annual report is incorrect, but the phone number on the town website is correct.

Molly Welch went through the warned articles one by one:

Article 1: To elect all Town Officers required by law to be elected at the Annual Town Meeting: Select Board, one three-year term; Town Clerk, one three-year term; Lister, one three-year term; Auditor, one three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, one three-year term.

Discussion: Molly introduced the names of those on the ballot.

Article 2: To see if the town will vote to set October 23, 2026 (70%), and March 19, 2027 (30%), as the two installment due dates for 2026 Property taxes, payable to the Treasurer.

Discussion: Nancy Tognan and Linda Rock asked about cash flow into the town. The whole idea from the municipality is to not need to borrow money as often and spread the tax income out over time. Treasurer Rebecca Sevigny explained that the 70% of the first payment is mostly to pay the school in a timely manner.

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to set a penalty of 1% per month on unpaid property tax from the first installment due date each year, until paid in full.

Discussion: Forrest Holzapfel explained the reason for this from the town perspective, which is that taxpayers who miss the first payment in October will be responsible for 1% of any unpaid amounts until the second amount is due in March. The statutory 9% penalty for delinquencies will come into effect only after the second payment. Peggy Tiffany asked about delinquent taxpayers with large amounts of back taxes in the town report and why the town has not gotten the funds back yet.

Forrest Holzapfel explained penalties and Vermont law, the tax sale process, as well as the history of the town's dealings with back taxes.

Question from Bob Mosgrove about getting everyone to pay, including non-residents.

Question from Jim Herrick about interest rates and how the town handles interest. Rebecca Sevigny said there is autopay setup and five other ways that people can pay their taxes, so streamlining this process for all taxpayer has been a focus for the Treasurers.

Peggy Tiffany spoke about the Marlboro Alliance Emergency Fund which is available for all residents at \$200 per month.

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$838,275.00 for the General Fund.

Discussion: *None*

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,106,230.00 for Town Highways, summer and winter maintenance.

Discussion: *None*

Article 6: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$42,000.00 to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

Article 7: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$48,000.00 to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. for protective wear, breathing apparatus (SCBA), equipment, and firehouse upgrades.

Discussion: Description of sump pump provided by municipality for Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company.

Article 8: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$21,525.00 (FY 2026-27) to Rescue, Inc. for services.

Discussion: *None*

Article 9: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,000.00 to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. for

services.

Discussion: *None*

Article 10: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,234.00 to SE Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) for services.

Discussion: *None*

Article 11: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$408.00 to The Animal Resource Fund.

Discussion: Molly Welch thanked Animal Control Officer Peggy Tiffany for her on-going work.

Article 12: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 to The Marlboro Meeting House to be applied to the operation and maintenance of the building in support of the variety of municipal and community programs held therein.

Discussion: *None*

Article 13: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and expend \$5,000.00 to The Marlboro Community Center in support of its mission to create a welcoming environment which supports, nurtures and enriches the Marlboro Community through its programs.

Discussion: *None*

Article 14: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District, in support of a greeter program to help prevent aquatic invasives at South Pond.

Discussion: *None*

Article 15: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500.00 to support The Moover, the regional public transportation provider.

Discussion: Town Administrator Nick Morgan said this amount raised by \$250 from last year.

Article 16: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$970.00 to support SE Vermont Community Action, Inc. for services.

Discussion: *None*

Article 17: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,050.00 to Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont for services.

Discussion: *None*

Article 18: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,780.00 for the following Marlboro regional organizations: Deerfield Valley Food Pantry \$ 500.00 Marlboro Cares \$ 1,800.00 Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center \$230.00 The Marlboro Library \$ 500.00 Gathering Place for Adult Day Services \$500.00 The Marlboro Mixer \$ 3,000.00 Brattleboro Area Hospice \$ 250.00

Discussion: *None*

Article 19: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,700.00 for the following Marlboro Regional organizations: Groundworks Collaborative \$ 1,500.00 Senior Solutions \$400.00 Youth Services \$ 1,000.00 Green Up Vermont \$ 100.00 Women's Freedom Center \$ 1,200.00 Grace Cottage Hospital \$ 1,000.00 American Red Cross Green Mountain \$ 500.00

Discussion: *None*

Article 20: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to authorize the town to borrow funds in anticipation of tax revenue.

Discussion: *None*

Jim Herrick asked about how we discuss differing opinions and understands the government's position.

Carol Ann Johnson stated she welcomes the discussion and wonders if discussion outside the government would be appropriate.

Forrest Holzapfel spoke about Town Meeting, and how the process is imperfect and the struggle in Brattleboro for the best fitting election process is just like ours over the last three years. No one approach fits everyone in the community. Molly Welch welcomes additional approaches to how to allow residents to approach these topics.

Broad discussion of polarization in our society and lack of participation by all among other challenges in our time. A need for more thought on ways the town could proceed to garner more communication with one another across the political spectrum.

Meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Holzapfel, Marlboro Town Clerk