

MARLBORO SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Date	Thursday, July 16, 2026
Call to Order	6:00 PM
Adjournment	7:01 PM
Location	Marlboro Town Office / Zoom
Members Present	Molly Welch, Chair; Jeff Skramstad, Vice Chair; Kate Kirkwood, Member
Also Present	Nick Morgan, Town Administrator; Andrew Richardson, Road Supervisor; Andrew Frost, Resident; Olga Peters, The Commons / Deerfield Valley News (via Zoom)

BEGIN ZOOM RECORDING:

(Please note: As these minutes are not intended to be a “transcript” of the meeting, a complete audio recording of the meeting can be found on the Town’s Soundcloud page here: <https://soundcloud.com/marlboro-select-board>).

1. Call to Order

Chair Molly Welch called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Thursday, July 16, 2026. The Guidelines of Conduct were signed at the previous meeting. Two changes to the agenda were noted: addition of a driveway permit and liquor license requests, and a discussion of tree removal bids.

2. Public Comment – Village Trust Initiative

Resident Andrew Frost appeared to introduce a proposal to apply to the Village Trust Initiative, an economic development program sponsored by the Vermont Preservation Trust Community Foundation and the Vermont Center on Rural Development, funded in part through HUD. The program, now in its second cohort, accepts applications from towns with a population under 2,500; 13 of 20 available spots have been filled, and the application deadline is September 8, 2026.

Mr. Frost described early thinking around a project centered on the Marlboro North site, a large building (with an estimated 14 bedrooms, a commercial kitchen, and a game room) that would require significant renovation, including ADA compliance work. The concept would involve a community trust structure and a multi-use redevelopment — potentially including EV chargers — with federal funding of up to \$350,000 available through the program. If the application is successful, the project would be opened to community input on final use. The Board suggested Mr. Frost also consider requesting a letter of support from the Conservation Commission.

NOTE: These minutes were prepared with the assistance of AI (Claude by Anthropic) as authorized by Select Board vote on May 28, 2026. The Zoom transcript was uploaded to Claude, which generated a draft that was reviewed and edited by the Town Administrator for accuracy.

2. Public Comment – Village Trust Initiative (continued)

The application requires a letter of support from the Select Board, needed by August 2026. The Board agreed Mr. Frost would send a draft letter to the Town Administrator, who will circulate it to Board members for review and signature.

3. Consent Items

3a. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Approve the minutes of July 9, 2026, Select Board meeting.
(Welch/Skramstad - Passed unanimously)

3b. Pay Orders

The Board reviewed and processed the weekly pay orders.

3c. Driveway Permit

The Board signed a previously approved driveway permit (Michael Peters); no further Board action was required.

4. August 13 Meeting Start Time – VLCT-PACIF Discussion

MOTION: Change the start time of August 13, 2026, Select Board meeting to 3:45 PM in order to accommodate a meeting with a VLCT PACIF representative.
(Welch/Skramstad - Passed unanimously)

5. Liquor License – W.I. Foster, LLC

MOTION: Approve a liquor license for W.I. Foster, LLC, for catering with liquor through August 15, 2026 (DLL application nos. 80258, 80259, 80260, and 80261).
(Welch/Kirkwood - Passed unanimously)

6. Animal Control – Dog Warrant

The Board noted the dog warrant process has been tabled; Nick Morgan advised that the Town Clerk expects to resolve the matter without the need to proceed further.

7. Highway Standards Policy

The Board discussed the draft Highway Standards Policy, noting general satisfaction with the revised document and its adoption as a policy rather than an ordinance, which allows for easier future amendment. The Town Administrator will confirm the remaining adoption process with the Town's legal counsel before the policy is finalized. A follow-up meeting with the abutting landowners who raised concerns will be scheduled once the policy is finalized.

8. DV Fiber – North Pond Road Update

The Board noted there has been no update from DV Fiber on the North Pond Road underground conduit project since the June 11, 2026, approval. The Town Administrator reported having emailed Patrick Moreland for a status update and will follow up again. Given the approaching winter season and skepticism that the work can be completed within the previously estimated five-day timeframe (due to anticipated ledge), the Board agreed to communicate a target completion deadline of late September 2026 to DV Fiber in writing, with Board members copied.

9. Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Birthing Center – Resolution of Support

The Board reviewed a request from the Brattleboro Selectboard seeking regional partner support to help preserve the Level 1 low-risk birthing center at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital (BMH), which serves families across southeastern Vermont and neighboring New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The Board read and adopted a resolution that:

- Strongly recommends that BMH do everything within its power to maintain robust birthing center services.
- Encourages the Vermont Agency of Human Services, the Governor's Office, the Green Mountain Care Board, and the state legislative delegation to act in support of rural maternal medical care generally, and to prevent closure of the birthing center in particular; and
- Urges Marlboro residents to choose Brattleboro Memorial Hospital first for medical services, so that the birthing center can be adequately subsidized.

MOTION: Support the resolution to help save the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Birthing Center and send the signed resolution to the Brattleboro Selectboard as an official statement of the Town's support. **(Welch/Skramstad - Passed unanimously)**

10. Planning Commission – Public Hearing & Subdivision Regulations Update

The Board was informed that the Subdivision Regulations update has been finalized, with a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2026; notice will be posted on the Town website.

The Board separately discussed the revised draft of the Subdivision Regulations, now posted on the Town's Zoning webpage alongside the prior version for comparison. Notable changes include shifting responsibility for abutter notification letters from the applicant to the Zoning Administrator, raising the minor-subdivision threshold from three to four lots, and general cleanup of language and formatting. One concern was raised that the revised regulations do not clearly and explicitly state that a survey is required to subdivide land — that requirement currently appears only within a process flow chart — and it was suggested this be raised at the upcoming public hearing.

11. Windham County Sheriff's Office Regional Policing Council – Update

The Town Administrator reported that he submitted the Town's participation confirmation by the deadline, naming Kate Kirkwood as Marlboro's initial representative to the Council, and received confirmation of receipt.

The Board discussed the Council's purpose: rather than the Sheriff's Office unilaterally setting service levels, a committee of Select Board members from participating towns will help shape the scope and type of policing services desired (e.g., response to domestic disputes, motor vehicle accidents, ATV complaints on public roads, and speed enforcement), which the Sheriff's Office will then evaluate for cost and feasibility. The Town currently contracts for 17 hours per month of deputy coverage for hourly services such as traffic control. The Sheriff's Office (Mark Anderson) has indicated an intention to hold pricing steady under the new model. The Board noted the process is expected to take approximately one year before changes take effect, and that participating early allows the Town to help shape the program's design.

12. Executive Session

MOTION: Move into executive session at 6:30 PM to discuss personnel issues pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1). **(Welch/Skramstad - Passed unanimously)**

MOTION: Come out of executive session at 7:00 PM. **(Welch/Skramstad - Passed unanimously)**

14. Adjournment

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM. **(Welch/Skramstad - Passed unanimously)**

Minutes recorded by: Nicholas Morgan - Town Administrator Date: 07/21/2026.

Approved by Select Board at DATE meeting

These minutes are in draft form until formally approved by the Marlboro Select Board.