



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD
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**Tara White, Chair
Bill West
Beth Dean
Select Board**

**Meeting Minutes
Select Board
Monday, March 25, 2024
6:00pm**

Board Members Present: Tara White, Chair
Beth Dean
Bill West

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Jennifer Greenberg, Administrative Secretary
Peter Platt
Marc Trachtenberg, Zoom
Joe Poindexter, Zoom
Erin Rodgers, Trout Unlimited, Zoom

Tara White called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence for Veterans

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence for Veterans was held.

The Board chose to address the agenda items in the following order:

Award bid for road projects North Road and New Marlborough Branch Road

There is one final piece of work relating to the FY 22 MassWorks grant received for the paving of Route 57--Phase 2. As part of the grant, drainage was replaced at the intersections of Route 57 with North Road and New Marlborough Branch Road. To complete the project, the ends of the two dirt roads will be surfaced with an oil and native stone finish to prevent gravel washout into Route 57. There is approximately \$58,000 left in the grant. Three bids were received:

- Williams Paving, LLC - \$74,110.00
- Palmer Paving Corp. - \$74,625.00
- LB Corporation - \$96,580.00

Chuck Loring, Highway Superintendent, recommends that the Board award the bid to Williams Paving for the lowest bid of \$74,110. He will use his Roads and Bridges account to cover any cost in excess of the grant balance.

A motion was made by Tara, seconded, and so voted to award the bid to Williams Paving LLC in the amount of \$74,110 for the resurfacing of the ends of North Rd. and New Marlborough Branch Rd.

Tara B. White	Aye
Bill West	Aye
Beth Dean	Aye

Approve grant application for Small Bridge and Culvert Replacement (DER)

There is a culvert replacement municipal assistance grant provided by the state Division of Ecological Restoration. As part of a MVP Action grant, New Marlborough had its road crossing culverts assessed and received a partial design on one culvert on Canaan Southfield Rd near Foley Rd. The town would like to apply for funds to complete the design and permit the work to be done next year. Mari has been in contact with Berkshire Regional Planning and will need to submit the application by April 12, 2024.

A motion was made by Tara, seconded, and so voted to allow Mari to proceed with applying for the Small Bridge and Culvert Replacement grant for the design and permitting for work to be done for the culvert on Canaan Southfield Rd.

Tara B. White	Aye
Bill West	Aye
Beth Dean	Aye

Updates and next steps for Hartsville Erosion Project

Erin Rodgers of Trout Unlimited said the project is going smoothly. The approval from the Conservation Commission is waiting for the completion of the National Heritage Review, and a decision is expected at its meeting on April 18. Trout Unlimited recently received notice from the foundation where Erin has applied for funding, and it will have enough funds to complete construction as well as extend planting. Requests for proposals for the construction work were sent out on Friday March 22, and a site visit is scheduled for 9am on Tuesday April 2 at the construction location. The deadline for bids is May 3 and a final decision will be made on May 10. Trout Unlimited aims to complete the project in August or September for turtle protection and low water reasons. The bank will be accessed off of Hartsville Mill River Rd and the work will involve cutting off that portion of the bank so that it's no longer in the water, excavating to add wood, and then covering it over. A Fill and Excavation permit was applied for and should be available this week. The Town is not contributing to the cost of this project. Mari noted that the

Town will be posting signs on the other side of the road to prevent the public from walking on the downstream bank as there is an erosion issue there as well.

Discuss potential town meeting warrant articles for Room Occupancy Tax/Short Term Rental Impact fee

The members of the Select Board are in favor of including a 6% Room Occupancy Tax for short term rentals on the upcoming annual town meeting warrant. Many surrounding towns have also set a tax rate of 6% and received a considerable amount of revenue from the local tax. There is also the option to implement a Short Term Rental Community Impact Fee of not more than 3%, which only applies to “professionally managed” properties with two or more units, and has restrictions on how it can be spent. It was discussed whether the Short Term Rental Community Impact Fee would be worthwhile and if it would deter large companies from buying up properties that could otherwise be used as single family homes. The Select Board would like to give the town the opportunity to vote on whether to implement the 6% Room Occupancy Tax and 3% Short Term Rental Community Impact Fee. Peter Platt inquired about the possibility of using funds collected from the tax to be used to promote businesses in town and generate tourism in some way. He asked whether we could raise property taxes instead. Marc Trachtenberg agreed that the town should have a social media presence to attract more visitors but was in favor of the tax to generate revenue without raising property taxes.

Review proposed Short Term Rental zoning protective bylaw

The Board reviewed the proposed Short Term Rental zoning bylaw submitted by the Planning Board and suggested several changes to the draft.

Mari will provide the Planning Board with the Select Board’s recommendations.

Town Administrator Updates:

The Select Board will join the Finance committee on Thursday March 28 at 6 pm for a joint meeting to meet with any remaining department heads to continue working on the FY25 budget. The Select Board and Finance Committee will also have joint meetings on April 4 and 11. On April 12, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed Short Term Rental bylaw. The Select Board will meet on April 16 at 8:30 am to sign the warrant.

Select Board updates:

None.

Administrative: Payroll and Vendor Warrants, Business Licenses, Contracts, Reserve Fund
Requests Vacation Carry-over Requests

Warrants were signed.

Review and approve minutes of previous meetings

None.

Public Comments (2 minute time limit)

None.

Adjourn

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made by Tara, seconded by Beth, and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Tara B. White	Aye
Bill West	Aye
Beth Dean	Aye

Submitted by Jennifer Greenberg, Administrative Secretary

Date approved: 4/22/24 as amended