



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen

**Minutes Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2017
6:00 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Tena Parton
Owen Hoberman

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:13 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2016 and hold the minutes of December 21, 2016 and January 3, 2017.

Ladder Signs

Both Tena Parton and Owen Hoberman provided the history of the ladder signs. There are nine ladder signs in Town. The original ladder signs were erected in the 1960's. In 2011 the ladder signs were deteriorating. The committee for the ladder signs solicited private funds to have new ladder signs made, the cost of which was \$2,000 each. None of these signs currently require any maintenance. Tena and Owen requested the Town take over the care and maintenance of the signs, all of which are on Town property. There are left over private funds that the ladder committee would like donated to the Library. The Board of Selectmen asked that all files concerning the ladder signs be turned over to the Town.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted for the Town to take over the repairs and maintenance of the nine ladder signs.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, reported that the Planning Board asked if the Selectmen would like to pursue a moratorium on large-scale solar projects while a bylaw is being drafted. The Board responded it would consider a moratorium and asked Mari to work with legal Counsel on a form of motion.

Mari also reported that Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is holding a workshop in Lenox on January 26, 2017 at 6 p.m. regarding marijuana issues, such as zoning, permitting, temporary moratoriums, taxation, etc. Jamie Mullen, Planning Board member, strongly recommends a representative of the Board of Selectmen attend the meeting as they are the Special Permit granting authority.

Mari Enoch, Michele Shalaby and Chuck Loring will meet with MassDOT on January 11 for bridge scoping as part of the TIPS Program. Two bridges are scheduled for replacements by the State in 2020 – a bridge on Campbell Falls Road and the steel bridge on Norfolk Road.

Rick Sullivan from Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council (WMEDC) will be meeting with the Board on January 18 at 1 p.m. to discuss broadband and how WMEDC can be of assistance.

Mari reported and shared a letter that has been received from MBI outlining 2016 activities and updating events planned for 2017.

SELECTMEN'S UPDATES

Board of Selectmen Chair, Nathaniel Yohalem, and Michele Shalaby attended a Regional School Finance Sub-committee meeting on January 5 in Sheffield. The first draft of the budget was presented. It was also reported that school enrollment declined by 51 students. The transportation bid for the school year 2017-2018 is ready to go out. The next meeting is January 19 at 5 p.m. and Nat will attend.

Nat reported that a letter of resignation has been received from a Finance Committee member. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation for appointment of the remainder of the term to the Board of Selectmen.

There is a Broadband Negotiating Committee meeting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. The negotiation commitment with Frontier expires on Saturday, January 14, 2017.

The Board of Selectmen was not interested in having New Marlborough proclaim a School Choice Week, as requested in a letter.

The Board was asked to sign a letter supporting the grant application of the New Marlborough Village Association for Mass. Cultural Facilities Funds to repair the steeple and copper dome of the Meeting House. Tara disclosed that she worked for the Association. The Board voted to sign a letter of support.

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18 at 12:30 p.m.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary