

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 7/9/15**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held July 9, 2015. Attending: Larry Young, Dean Bennett, Tom Jensen, Bernie Pepin, Lynwood Crown, Robert Schnopp, Bernie Pepin, Samantha Mashler (Aegis Renewable Energy).

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Minutes of the June 25th meeting were read and approved.

Rocky Ledge Rd

Residents Crown and Schnopp were present to discuss the attorney recommendation that the town follow its policy and cease maintenance of Rocky Ledge Road—a legal trail. Schnopp says he was told by the Selectboard at the time of purchase that the road would be plowed. Crown stated lack of maintenance would be a safety hazard, and requests upgrading .3 miles of the road to Class 3. Discussed the upgrade of Crawford Hill Rd years ago; it was noted that state law has changed and the Selectboard cannot be forced to reclassify a road, but residents can still petition the board. The board would not be in favor of upgrading the road because of the cost to the town and the liability to upgrade and maintain more trails and roads. Crown offered to ditch the road with his excavator. Bennett moved to provide a letter to Crown giving permission for them to work on the road, so long as the work maintains the right of way and doesn't cut trees unnecessarily.

Aegis Community Solar

Samantha Meshler presented information on Breezy Valley Community Solar Farm LLC being constructed in St. George, VT. The board, and also individual VEC residents, can consider leasing panels at the farm to offset municipal and school electricity costs instead of constructing an array in Charleston. Solar committee members estimate this option would provide the cheapest electricity of the solar options considered thus far. Appears to be cost neutral with 15 year financing. Discussion of various costs, lease-to-buy arrangement, equipment maintenance, and financing options. Information from Aegis, and the town Solar Committee cost analysis, is available for review at the town office. Board emphasized that voters have final say. Tom made a motion to pursue the Solar Farm option and present a proposal to voters at a special town meeting, seconded by Dean and approved. Meshler will consult with VCLT regarding insurance. Board clerk and board will contact school and pursue special town meeting process. The Board will not pursue a Certificate of Public Good, while the solar farm option is considered.

Education Tax Rates received from the state: \$1.3101 homestead; \$1.6273 non-residential.

Discussion of street lights program was tabled until next meeting.

Hazard Mitigation Plan is still awaiting final approval from FEMA. Until passed, Cole Rd mitigation project is also waiting.

USDA Grant for the Sweeney Store was awarded. Town would own the equipment, on loan to the store. Colleen will handle paperwork on a volunteer basis. John Kellogg is still needs an agreement with the building owner.

Road Report

All roads have been chloride. Crushing is almost complete. Reports problems on Hudson Rd caused by farm equipment. DOT has been watching.

State official will present information on the new Shoreland Protection Act on July 23rd at 6:15pm at the Town Clerk's Office.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54p. The next meeting is July 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Selectmen, Town of Charleston