

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 9/10/15**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held September 10, 2015. Attending: Dean Bennett, Larry Young, Bernie Pepin, Tom Jensen, Penelope Newcomb, Diana Marckwardt, Peter Moskovites, Mark & Linda Marsh, and Colleen Kellogg

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Minutes of the August 27th meeting were read and approved as read.

Letter of Resignation from Selectboard Member Tom Jensen received into the minutes. He will continue to assist the board, Town Office and Highway department with projects through at least the end of September.

Public Comment

Diana Marckwardt asked the highway department to correct a lip on Dane Hill, near Susan Tetreault property, where ditching was done recently. The Marsh's discussed Lynwood Crown's free-ranging cows. Board said this has been a problem for many residents, but there is little recourse, and recommends creating a paper trail. Mr. Marsh reports cows have been in pond, killed fish, eaten trees, and trampled garden. He has called Crown, the cops, and the game warden has been up. Larry asked Marsh for a list of affected property owners to accompany a letter from the Selectboard to Mr. Crown—to be prepared for the next meeting.

Solar Project

At the 6pm meeting, the Planning Commission appointed Tom Jensen as chair of the Solar Subcommittee, which plans to pursue an array in the Town Pit. He requests Selectboard support to submit a grant application to help with the cost, and will also file an application to the Public Service Board. Neither obligates the town. Committee members will assemble the grant for Selectboard signature. Dean moved to proceed with grant; seconded by Larry and approved. If a grant is secured, the project could be cheaper than the community solar project recently voted down. All utility customers would enjoy the benefit of reduced municipal electricity costs.

Old Business

Paving work is complete. Gray's will repair pock-marks left by equipment and the board will notify the Clerk when the invoice should be paid. Colleen will meet with Tom and Bernie to make progress on TAP grant for Gratton Hill Ditching. Bruce Melendy, NVDA, says they are making requested revisions to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and will submit to FEMA for another review.

New Business

Dean has been contacted by a couple people interested in serving on the Selectboard. He and Larry will follow up with them before next meeting. Motion to table a decision until next meeting made and approved. Colleen presented a letter asking the board to place articles on the town warning to appoint rather than elect the Delinquent Tax Collector, and discussed advantages to the town. Dean

moved to warn the articles, seconded by Larry and approved. Documents in the matter of Davis v. Maxwell accepted into record.

Road Report

Discussion of road budget and how to allocate the Town's 20% match for the paving work. Bernie is researching purchasing a Volvo excavator and low-bed trailer, and advises payments would be \$12-13,000 per year. A salesman will present information and financing options to the Board, including straight sale. Bernie could demo the machine for a month, and deduct rent from the purchase price. Also pricing on a Mack 10-wheeler Truck. Discussion of how much is currently spent on hired excavators and how new equipment would be staffed. Peter Moskovites suggests Union Bank has competitive financing rates. Dean noted that the plan has been to bring in new trucks when the others were paid off. Bernie and Colleen will work together to update the culvert inventory.

Bills and orders were approved for payment. Mowing bill reviewed. Completed as much mowing as \$9,000 budget allows. Suggestion to hold cost at \$9,000 for 2016. Bernie estimates it would cost \$12,000 to mow the whole town.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51p. The next meeting is September 24, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

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Selectmen, Town of Charleston