

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 2/11/16**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held February 11, 2016. Attending: Selectboard members Dean Bennett, Larry Young, and Meghann Carter; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Residents Dennis Sample, Raymond Helenek, Pamela Helenek, and Jonathan Bruce; Attorneys Jerry Diamond and Glenn Robinson; and Colleen Kellogg, Clerk. Lauren Oates of VT Div. of Emergency Management joined the meeting briefly by telephone.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Motion by Ms. Carter to approve minutes of the January 28, 2016 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Young and approved.

A letter from Raymond & Pamela Helenek, Dennis Sample and Normal Gregory, and Robert Barber requesting discontinuance of Legal Trail 10—a portion of which was Class 4 highway Line Farm Rd until reclassified in December of 2015—was accepted into the minutes. Mr. Diamond stated that all three abutters want it “thrown up,” and he requests discontinuance. His reading of the law indicates that a decision must consider “the public good, necessity and convenience of the inhabitants of the municipality,” meaning current residents and not future. He asked that the warning and hearing process be reopened, stating that he is prepared to show evidence that the road is not used by anyone for any purpose. Mr. Young made a motion to consult with the town’s attorney, seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved. The board set a goal to make a decision about whether or not to reopen process by the March 24<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.

Second Constable Jonathan Bruce made the following report of his training progress: He passed Phase 1—an exam and psych evaluation. The second phase is a 2-week, 80-hour academy training schedule for June, and the third phase will be a ride-along, for which he is contacting nearby towns. He asked the board to consider what duties he should perform and have something written to set expectations. Mr. Bruce feels that liaising with other local law enforcement will be a major duty. He will stand for re-election in March. Mr. Bennett suggested that the academy-trained Constable will eventually be first constable.

Lauren Oates of VT Emergency Management joined the meeting by phone to discuss Charleston’s application for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant to upgrade Hudson Road. The project as currently written is ineligible because the area is in the flood plain, and Charleston does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Ms. Oates recommends keeping the application in the works, but altering it to remove work in the flood plain. The work would need to be complete by 2019. Mr. Young moved to remove the culvert in the flood plain from the project, seconded by Ms. Carter and approved. Ms. Oates will make the change and resubmit to FEMA.

Discussion of possible dates for a meeting with Alan May of Better Backroads to discuss this year’s proposed grant projects and visit an erosion site on East Echo Lake Rd. Mr. Bennett suggested February 23<sup>rd</sup> or March 8<sup>th</sup>. Colleen will set the meeting.

Regarding the Durgin Rd bridge, Colleen produced an inspection report—calling for patching a crack—for review and reported hearing from the bridge program coordinator that it was not bad enough to qualify for funding. He suggests budgeting yearly for bridge maintenance. Mr. Bennett has observed scour under one of the wing walls. It needs to be stabilized, but water resources won’t permit the town to install stone. Mr. Bennett

sees the vertical crack getting bigger. Colleen will follow up with state about recommended patch material, and Mr. Bennett will contact contractors about solutions and pricing.

Regarding a failing bridge (BR5) on Hudson Rd, Colleen has begun a state highway assistance (TH) grant application and asked for a description of the problem. Mr. Young said that a VTrans district tech had visited the site and thought the deck might be reusable, with the main problem underneath. Colleen will contact the tech and continue the application to get the bridge into the queue.

Road Foreman Mr. Pepin reports that next year's firewood is done, and chloride tanks have been made safe to load. The town owns the storage tanks. The crew has also completed some brush cutting. He expects to pick up a new Mack truck soon, and then it will go to Tenco for additional equipment.

Regarding a request for the Selectboard to sign the "Rutland Resolution," Mr. Bennett said the Selectboard voted previously to support the resolution and believes they already signed on. Colleen will verify.

Ms. Carter reported that there is interest among state agencies and land conservation organizations in creating a wildlife management area along the Clyde River. The agencies welcome hearing from any interested landowners of wetland acreage. Mr. Young asked about possible financial impact of taxing land off the tax rolls.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm. The next meeting is February 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston