

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 11/10/16

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held November 10, 2016. Attending: Selectboard Members Dean Bennett, Meghann Carter and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Residents Margaret Maxwell and Ivan Maxwell; and Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Young to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2016 meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Carter and approved.

Mrs. Maxwell asked the Selectboard to approve a form entitled "Permitted use of the Charleston ROW" that would allow entry, exit and plowing the four driveways on her two parcels of land on Bly Farm Rd. She says a recent court decision left her properties land-locked. Written permission could be passed along to a new owner when she sells. Mr. Young asked if travelling over the town ROW gets her onto her property; and she said yes. There was discussion of the division and sale of various portions of the original farm, various surveys of the properties, as well as research into other farms and sales in town. Ms. Carter read some information on public ROWs by Paul Gillies, which states landowners "cannot exercise any dominion over the land," and questioned whether permission is necessary. Ms. Carter made a motion to consult with town attorney Bill Davies, seconded by Larry and approved. On Monday the Clerk will send the permission form and questions to Mr. Davies and ask for a quick turnaround. The Selectboard members agree that property owners should be able to get to their properties, but are concerned that such permission would not end the ongoing dispute, and that even if travel permission were granted, they cannot give permission to park in the area.

Mrs. Maxwell reports that Bly Farm Rd is mucky from farm material being strewn in the road. Mr. Pepin has seen this as well but has not been able to reach a solution with the landowner.

The Echo Lake Protective Association submitted a request to include an appropriation request on the 2017 Town Meeting Warning. Motion by Ms. Carter to approve, seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved. ELPA reports that the Milfoil Prevention greeters found and prevented three instances of milfoil on boats in 2016.

In answer to the board's question, USDA grant specialists replied that grant funds, if awarded, wouldn't be de-obligated unless they weren't spent in at least 2-3 years. Mr. Young asked the board to consider purchasing Mr. Pepin's truck in 2016 as a temporary solution. Motion by Ms. Carter to continue to the USDA application, seconded by Mr. Young and approved.

East Engineering asked to be kept in mind for future work. Their information will be kept on file.

Road Report:

The Gratton Rd project was begun, with 4 culverts replaced. The work looks good and residents seem happy. The crew is caught up on grading, which is tough this time of year with roads frozen in the mornings. They still see problems with road shoulders throughout town. Rust was found on the Truck

3 body. Will be okay for this winter, but will have to do something next summer. Could consider swapping truck bodies if the other International truck is better and not sold.

Bills and orders were reviewed for payment. An invoice for an engineering site visit on a Hudson Rd bridge can be paid in January if the board chooses, since the project is budgeted for next year. The board instructed the Clerk to confirm it will be paid in January.

Adjourned at 8:18 pm. The next Selectboard meeting is December 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm. There will be no meeting on the fourth Thursday of November or December due to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Selectboard, Town of Charleston