

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 08/10/2017
MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held August 10, 2017. Attendance: Selectboard Members Larry Young, Dean Bennett, and Meghann Carter; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; and Resident Jeff Roussell.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Called to Order at 7:00 pm. Motion by Ms. Carter to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Roussell reports that a dog was on his property again on July 30th, and he brought the dog to 2nd Constable/Animal Control Ed Brown for the 5-6th time. He asks that the town send the owners a letter warning them of the consequences of having their dog on a road or on someone else's property. The board will instruct the Town Clerk to draft a letter advising owners that there have been complaints against their dogs and instructing them to (a) license their dogs and (2) keep them on their property per the ordinance. Discussion of arrangements being made to update ticket books and get Ed Brown registered with the Judicial Bureau so tickets can be issued and enforced.

OLD BUSINESS

The Charleston School was billed \$1,650 for their portion of the installation of a concrete pad under the diesel tanks. The tanks will go back onto the pad when Bernie gets back from vacation. The fuel company will empty the tanks before they are reinstalled on the concrete pad.

Tim Ruggles completed the engineering for Bridge 5 and sent the Town a list of contractors from whom he will invite bids. Mr. Bennett asks to add Alliance Consulting to the list, and Larry would like to review the list of Cole Road bidders to possibly invite some of them.

Road Foreman Bernie Pepin has not heard from Dan Pepin since his company was awarded the Hudson Road ditching and culvert project, but he agreed to give the Road Foreman two weeks' notice before starting the project. Mr. Young reminded the Assistant Clerk to send out a letter to landowners to remind them about the project happening and to take their fences down.

Regarding road/ditch erosion on Dane Hill and Crawford Hill Roads, Bernie Pepin will start work Monday on the Grants-In-Aid segment on Dane Hill Road. (If he gets the screen in time, he'll work on winter and instead. This should take one week.) He plans to address erosion problems starting from the top of the hill and work downhill. Beyond the grant-funded segment, Mr. Pepin will do whatever he can to protect road for the time being with the intention of applying for Better Roads funding next year, and will coordinate with VTrans technicians who

are visiting the site this week. The board asks the Assistant Clerk to look into emergency funding and any regulations regarding construction of ponds on private property.

As soon as grass comes in on Gratton Hill ditches, Mr. Pepin will contact Alan May, Better Roads Program, and finish out that grant. The board agreed that old culverts not usable by the highway department can be sold at the Road Foreman's discretion.

Roadside mowing is following the same pattern as last year, with Charleston being half-done and the vendor moving on to Glover. Another vendor, Patenaude, did a good job for the state, so the Town will ask him for a quote sometime early next year. The board asked the Highway department to mark on the calendar the dates that Guyer mows so they can see how long he goes between beginning and finishing the job.

The board would like to hold off their decision on the when to use USDA grant funds for a pickup until they have a preliminary accounting of how the Town is doing budget-wise. Will aim to discuss this at an October meeting.

The Board is happy with the culvert replacement on Hudson at Bowen Hill Rd but would like to make sure that more stone armoring isn't needed in the absence of headwalls. Board instructs the Assistant Clerk to contact JBL/VTrans for an assessment.

The Cole Rd box culvert won't be made until September at the earliest, but the project should only take a week if the weather is on our side. Alliance Consulting is contacting the supplier for an updated ETA.

Green & Son Concrete has the go ahead to start on Bridge 7 abutment repairs anytime. The Board instructs the Assistant Clerk to call Mike Green and get an idea of his plan.

The Solar Subcommittee would like to know if the Town will be taking out a short term note to cover expenses to date. As there is still no Certificate of Public Good from the state, the answer is no.

NorthWoods Stewardship Center is working on being able to do road erosion inventories. Ms. Carter and the Assistant Clerk will find out how NorthWoods might be a vendor on Charleston's inventory. This inventory requires a 20% in-kind match and results in a 5-year plan with project estimates.

The Board would like cost information about the Efficiency Vermont LED street light program, and asks the clerk to gather information about the street light fix that happened about three years ago. Will anything done then take the place of some of the requirements for this program? The

ROAD REPORT

The board noted that improvement has been seen in grading technique. It was also noted that the Orange Book indicates that if the Town has been using a waterbar for over 15 years, then it has the right to continue using it. One on Sanderson Hill has been filled in by a resident, and when

the town crew has the time, they will open this back up. Mr. Bennett says that West Echo Lake Rd needs a stone-lined ditch to keep sediment from falling into the brook below Don Bennett's mobile home and heading right out into the lake. This will go on the Better Roads grant project list.

Bills and orders were approved for payment.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Bennett, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next Selectboard meeting is Thursday, August 24th. There will be a BCA meeting immediately preceding at 6:00 PM for the state-mandated Voter Checklist purge.

Approved this 24th Day of August 2017:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston