

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 6/13/19 - Amended**

MINUTES

Attending: Chair Glenn Peterson, Selectpersons Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; Residents Amanda Farley and Steve Gratton; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES WERE AMENDED AT THE JUNE 27, 2019 MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by the Chair, Glenn Peterson.

Motion by Mr. Moskovites to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2019 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Peterson, and approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Gratton is an Echo Lake property owner and on the board of ELPA, where he is involved with the Lakewise program, along with 50% of lakeshore owners. Lakewise is a voluntary program of VT DEC that helps to educate lakeshore landowners about the science around managing lakeshore properties, including practices that slow down water as it approaches lake, to reduce pollution. He would like the town to stop mowing the roadsides along the lake—includes both sides of the road. The MRGP guidelines prevent mowing of vegetation within 250ft of lakeshore. Mr. Gratton assured the board that he has support from lake owners and said he would be happy to speak with anyone who has concerns about not mowing. Mr. Gratton also passed along a report from the state that grading has been widening the road—it's seen in photos taken over time. Board members were in favor of not mowing, except for certain intersections where visibility and safety mandate it, and they will follow up with the Road Foreman and Tim Patenaude Brush Hogging.

*On June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Selectboard voted to amend the minutes to add the following language to the discussion:* Selectboard members asked Steve Gratton to report back to the board with the measured width and location of a widening area of Echo Lake Rd. The board also asked him to poll residents of the road who don't live close to the lake about their support for curtailed mowing. Regarding Mr. Peterson's conversation with the town's mowing vendor, it was clarified that he will skip mowing the lakeside of the road only.

The Town has been invited to apply again this year to the Grants-in-Aid program, which supports projects to bring road segments up to new standards. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to submit the letter of intent, second by Mr. Young and approved.

Vermont Local Roads has asked to host a "Skills for Generational Differences," workshop in Charleston on August 22nd. Mr. Moskovites moved to offer the town meeting room, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved.

## OLD BUSINESS

The town has been asked to request an investigation by VTrans into the need for a reduced speed limit sign on Route 105 near 5A. Board members expressed doubt that such a sign will change behavior, but they would like to speak directly to local VTrans technicians to get more information. Board members agreed to authorize Moskovites to speak with VTrans on behalf of the board. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to table the matter until further information can be obtained, seconded by Mr. Peterson and the matter was tabled to the following meeting.

Green and Son Concrete submitted an estimate of \$1,400 to repair a crack in the Durgin Rd bridge abutment. A state grant will provide partial reimbursement Motion by Mr. Young to hire Green, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved.

On the matter of Class IV Roads, board members looked at the condition of Town Farm Rd, and report very bad rutted spot below Perkins, a culvert that needs covering, and places where high banks trap water onto the road. The town can bring some material for an immediate fix to make the road passable, but the road is too soft for town trucks and a turnout is needed to dump material. For a longer lasting fix, the road would need ditching, stone, and equipment time.

A working draft of the town's Equipment Replacement Schedule was reviewed. Board members agreed it looks good as a work in progress and also to continue to develop it.

Motion by Mr. Peterson to enter executive session to discuss legal advice, seconded by Mr. Moskovites. Executive session began at 7:52 pm and ended at 7:59 pm with the following action: Motion by Mr. Peterson to send a letter to landowners Alan and Judith Davis regarding removal of personal property from Town Highway 26, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved unanimously.

Bills and Orders were approved for payment.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Michael Gonyaw accepted NVDA appointment and will follow up with town office/Selectboard after NVDA meetings.
- Notification from Westmore that Charleston Town Forest acreage in Westmore will be taxed on a value of \$7,100 for 2019, after current use exemption.
- Vermont State Transportation Board will hold a public hearing regarding a petition to rename VT Route 105, 6:00 pm June 19<sup>th</sup> at Brighton Town Hall.
- The deadline to complete ditching work on sections of Westmore and Hinton Hill Roads, funded by Grants-in-Aid, was extended to July 31, 2019.
- The state and VLCT will hold a training for local BCA members on property tax appeals, Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup> in Derby. RSVP by June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Approved this 27th day of June, 2019:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston