

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 5/28/2020**

MINUTES

Attending in person: Selectpersons Pat Austin, Larry Young and Peter Moskovites; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg. Attending by telephone: Scott Jenness, President of Borderline Ridge Riders.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved. There was no public comment.

ROAD REPORT

Mr. Pepin said the crew is doing maintenance on Bowen Hill Rd to address high priority drainage issues and will finish in 3-4 weeks then return to similar work on Hudson Rd. They are graveling in several locations including Echo Lake Rd and Gratton Hill. He said the warranty on the 2015 Mack has ended and recommends at least a 7-year warranty on future purchases.

NEW BUSINESS

- In response to complaint calls, two letters were sent to property owners asking them to license their dog and/or comply with the dog ordinance by keeping their dog on their own property. The board will be kept informed.
- The Town has received a \$500 grant from Green Mountain United Way toward the costs of providing emergency meals to residents during April and May.
- Planning Commission Chair John Kellogg sent an email proposing to cancel the June Planning Commission meeting since there is no business to address. Selectboard members had no objection, and the clerk will confirm cancellation with the Planning Commission. The next Planning meeting will be September 10th at 5:30 pm.
- Mr. Austin asked the Selectboard to consider limited use of ATVs on town roads as several towns have opened. Roads involved would be: (1) Fontaine Rd to connect to Derby; (2) Dane Hill, Crawford Hill, and Chilafoux Roads to connect to Brownington; and Durgin Rd only if Morgan opens their side. An application would also be made to the state to open Route 105 between Dane Hill Rd and Durgin Rd. He suggests trying it for 2020, supports economic benefits like gas and retail/restaurant sales on trail routes and feels that formal approval gives the town the best chance to enforce responsible use. Scott Jenness said BRR has been working on a connecting trail system for Orleans County in twelve towns for 15 years, and just added Derby, and has successfully controlled ATV use. ATVs must be registered with DMV, and towns are asked to require VASA access decals to show membership dues paid. These fees allow BRR to help towns if road repairs like graveling are needed. BRR works with landowners to sign approved routes and post "No ATVs beyond this point" where trails end. Enforcement is provided by Orleans Sheriff and VT Fish & Game in towns that have opened roads. Mr. Moskovites said he would not want to take action without public input, and Mr. Young said he'd like to see it put before voters at town meeting. Mr. Austin hopes the Selectboard will make the decision so they could close roads again if the trial goes badly. If the board decides to wait for town meeting, he is prepared to get petition signatures to call a special town vote in time for the 2020 season. If such a vote passed, a second special town vote would be required to close the roads to ATVs. Mr. Young said in his family's experience many ATV riders have not been respectful of town roads or landowners, and Mr. Moskovites said he was reluctant to approve a measure without a public information meeting. Mr. Moskovites and Mr. Austin agreed to place the matter on the agenda for the June 11th Selectboard

meeting and plan for a public comment/information hearing prior to this. The board will monitor gathering guidelines to determine how best to do this.

- In other new business, Mr. Austin favors exploring alternate heat sources for the town garage—something less labor intensive than a wood furnace. Towns have access to discounted propane, and he volunteered to meet with a vendor to see what type and size unit would work. Mr. Young asked him to get two opinions. Mr. Pepin said the furnace is noted on insurance inspections, and the town has had a workers' comp claim due to firewood handling. The town has purchased log length wood for the upcoming winter.
- Some town employees have heard about workers getting hazard pay for working during the pandemic. Mr. Austin explained that some employers who received Payroll Protection Plan funds used these funds to provide bonuses to employees, but such funds are not available to municipalities. He also said there is a state proposal to give \$1000 per month to workers for two months—this has not yet passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- A contract with Kingdom Gravel & Aggregate for crushing was reviewed. Mr. Pepin said the price has been \$4/CY for two years and is increasing to \$4.25 for 2020. He is happy with Kingdom's work and consistent material quality, and roads show improvement. Motion by Mr. Austin to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and unanimously approved.
- All invoices for senior/adult meals during April and May have been paid to the school. The total cost was \$4866.50, with \$1500 covered by foundation grants. The net cost of \$3,366.50 was not part of the 2020 budget and will be addressed during budget review.
- Ms. Kellogg provided board members with a list of actions from the town's federally-required Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2015). She is outlining progress made, and developing this for use in the next plan, which must be adopted in early 2021. She will continue to report to the board.
- Bly Farm Rd was tabled until executive session later in the meeting.

Four Selectboard and four Road orders, totaling \$27,774.99, were approved unanimously and signed by all board members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- GreenUp Day is May 30th. A town truck will be parked outside this weekend for bag drop-off.
- Charleston EOC will meet by phone June 5th at 9:00 am.

The Chair called for Executive Session at 7:02 pm to discuss attorney advice on Bly Farm Rd, and meeting recording was suspended. Executive Session ended at 7:19 pm with the following action: Selectboard will meet with VTrans technicians at 8:00 am on Wednesday June 3rd for a consultation on maintenance needed to keep Bly Farm Rd compliant with required drainage standards.

Seeing no other business, there was a motion by Mr. Austin to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moskovites, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:00 pm, with a format to be determined based on the latest gathering guidelines.

Approved this 11th day of June, 2020:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston