

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 6/11/2020

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Pat Austin, Larry Young and Peter Moskovites; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Resident Mike Bowen; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. Motion by Mr. Austin to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bowen said he has new neighbors moving in to the new mobile home right next to the Corner Store. They are good customers, but there has been a lot of noise from their ATV track, and he is not able to get to sleep when he needs to. Selectboard members reviewed the town Noise Ordinance but thought it might not apply to this situation. The Chair said the board would discuss the issue and see what is possible.

ROAD REPORT

Mr. Pepin said the crew is about halfway through chloride application. They are still doing maintenance on Bowen Hill Rd, but had to deal with a washout at the top of Bly Farm Rd. When they return to Bowen Hill Rd, the town will need to make arrangements with the Marsh's to install a driveway culvert. They asked for it to be removed in the past, but new standards require a culvert, and town policy holds property owners responsible for buying the culvert. Mr. Pepin said a 40' length would be needed. Mr. Young will contact the landowner to discuss it. Mr. Pepin also raised the matter of a stone wall being installed in the road ROW in front of the Rousell property on Hudson Rd, which was discussed at a previous meeting. Board members instructed Ms. Kellogg to send a certified letter requiring the property owner to move the wall back a foot so it's out of the right of way. If not, the town is not responsible for damage to the wall, and the property owner will be responsible for damage to town equipment during road maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS

- A report from the US Census shows that Charleston's response rate is currently 24.1%.,. The Selectboard can support the census by encouraging residents to complete theirs. Board members asked Ms. Kellogg to post a message on Charleston Coffee that the Selectboard encourages all residents to submit their census information.
- A draft of Equipment & Materials billing rates for road grants and projects was reviewed. The per CY rate for crushed gravel increased to \$10.25 due to higher crushing costs, and the hourly rate for the new Volvo L90 loader was set at \$75 in line with comparable FEMA rates. Motion by Mr. Austin to approve the revised rates, seconded by Mr. Young, and unanimously approved.
- In other new business, Mr. Austin has been informed that a manure pit on the Mead property on Hudson Rd appears to have been deliberately breached to drain manure toward the Clyde River. Board members agreed to authorize Ms. Kellogg to contact Vermont Agency of Natural Resources prior to the next Selectboard meeting so they

could investigate this possible environmental violation. There have also been reports that mobile homes are being installed on the property without adequate wastewater systems.

OLD BUSINESS

- The town's insurance carrier notified the town that replacing the garage wood furnace with a propane system would not affect the insurance premium. Since wood has already been purchased for the upcoming winter, researching alternative systems in on the backburner.
- Mr. Austin spoke with VLCT and a Zoom meeting is the best method for holding an informational meeting on the ATV proposal while pandemic restrictions are in place. He suggests that the meeting be for residents only and that names be taken as participants enter the meeting so that a list can be made and everyone given a chance to address the Selectboard one at a time. Mr. Austin made a motion to hold a public information meeting via Zoom at 6:00 pm on June 24, 2020 to gather public input on a proposal to open the following roads for limited ATV use: Fontaine Rd from 105 to the Derby town line; Route 105 from Scampy's to Dane Hill Rd; Dane Hill Rd; Chilafoux Rd from Dane Hill Rd to Gay Hill Rd; and Gay Hill Road to the Brownington town line. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved. The decision to open these roads will be on the agenda for the June 25th Selectboard meeting

Six Highway and Selectboard orders totaling \$25,069.84 were approved unanimously and signed by all board members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- The next Selectboard meeting will be held Thursday June 25, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Public participation will again be by telephone only to comply with state health and safety requirements.
- The Town Clerk's Office plans to open by appointment later this month, and will make a more specific announcement soon.

The Chair called for Executive Session at 7:34 pm to discuss attorney advice on the matter of Bly Farm Rd. At this time, meeting recording was suspended. Executive Session ended at 8:04 pm with no action taken.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 6:00 pm, with public participation by telephone.

Approved this 25th day of June, 2020:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston