

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 7/23/2020**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg. Town Clerk Teri Gray and Residents Sarah Jenness, Laura Kross and Laurel Robbins joined by telephone.

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 July 9, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Young and unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sarah Jenness learned the town currently has no dog catcher or animal control officer and expressed her interest in serving. She is in school for animal control and has worked with Pope Memorial. The Second Constable office was discussed.

Laura Kross thanked the board for responding in writing to her concerns about the ATV situation and diseased trees. She feels opening roads gives free reign to drivers who don't meet club requirements. With traffic at the Gay Hill Rd-Chilafoux Rd intersection now increased by ATVs, she asked the town to install a yield or stop sign for auto traffic as a safety measure. Since Mr. Austin is the lead on ATV travel, the Chair said he would have Mr. Austin contact her.

**ROAD REPORT**

The Road Foreman said he was finishing up on Dane and Wheeler Roads, the crew has finished firewood, and the town has heard that a grant for work on Bowen Hill will come through. A trial with a cheaper chloride vendor has not shown good results on roads, so he is trying to negotiate a better price with previous vendor Innovative. The Grader Operator was on vacation this week and will start back up Monday. In other road matters, Mr. Austin sent an email reporting a complaint about town Farm Rd.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A budget report was received from the Treasurer. Board members will review and discuss any budget questions/issues at the next meeting.
- A copy of the state Education Rates was received from the Treasurer. She is waiting for the Grand List to be finalized so that she can finalize the municipal rate and prepare tax bills, which she aims to do before the next board meeting. Mr. Moskovites said the board will call a meeting as needed to set the rate. It was noted that Education Rates are higher for 2020 (1.6167 Non-Homestead; 1.5294 Homestead) than 2019 (1.3968 Non-Homestead; 1.3379 Homestead).
- The Treasurer will need the board to decide about the late homestead filing penalty before tax bills can be prepared. Previously set by statute, town governments now have the authority to adjust or waive the penalty—up to 3%. The usual April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to file a homestead declaration was extended to July 15<sup>th</sup> for 2020. Motion by Mr. Young to waive the penalty for 2020, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and unanimously approved.

- A town information sheet to be included with tax bills was received. The board will review and submit any suggested changes to the Clerk's Office.
- A form used to gather community input for the Townwide Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2015 was reviewed. Since community input is needed for plan renewal, it will be included in the tax bill mailing, and comments will be collected by the Clerk's Office.
- The board would like to gather more information about Dogs/Animal Control, including another individual who had expressed interest, and discuss at the next meeting.
- Guidelines and 50% match information for the Building Communities state grants was reviewed. It does not fit with town projects at this time.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Ms. Kellogg provided draft spreadsheets to document labor, materials, and equipment costs for work on Class 4 Roads so far. Board members would like to review these further for discussion at the next meeting, and asked the Clerk to get copies to Mr. Austin.
- A copy of the ATV resolution as amended at the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was provided to board members.
- An updated town highway mileage certificate was received from the state, reflecting the reclassification of Batchelder Rd to a legal trail
- There was no update on a violation report to ANR. The matter was carried over to the next meeting.

Five Highway and Selectboard orders totaling \$74,005.93 were approved unanimously and signed by all board members.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 6:00 pm, with public participation by telephone.

Approved this 13 day of August, 2020:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston