

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 8/13/2020

MINUTES

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

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to approve the minutes of the July 23rd regular meeting and the August 6th special meeting as written, seconded by Larry Young and unanimously approved.

ROAD REPORT

Bernie Pepin said the crew will work on Bowen Hill Rd another week to finish a grant project. Winter sand is next, and then they'll finish stone ditches on Westmore/Hinton Hill Rd. Kingdom Gravel began crushing in the Barton pit, quality is good, and a noise complaint from a neighbor was resolved. Pat Austin confirmed that the crew is not violating regulations by pumping water from a brook next to Westmore Rd, and asked that further calls about it be directed to him. Board members agreed the crew should obtain water for chloride from the legal source nearest their work site to avoid higher costs. There was discussion of roadside mowing and how many cuts are needed. Mr. Pepin asked to set a maintenance project schedule each year before construction season. A crushed driveway culvert on Dane Hill Rd was purchased by the landowner, installed, and is all set. The Town has not heard from Mr. Vanesse about a filled culvert/ditch at his property on Town Farm Rd that is causing erosion. Regarding Class 4 Roads, there was discussion of gravel to Young Farm Rd, and Mr. Pepin noted that Town Farm, Crawford Hill, and Tripp Hills Roads were in need of some maintenance. There was discussion of what is needed to keep Town Farm Rd accessible. Mr. Pepin said that cleaning culverts, installing tailings or rip-rap, and maybe cutting back brush would take 2 or 3 three days. Motion by Mr. Austin to authorize the Road Foreman to do the work needed on Town Farm Rd to make it passable, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- A general letter to the community was received from Lt. Walt Smith, VSP. Board members will review and decide later if response is needed.
- Notice of Community Development Block Grants was received.
- Board members agreed to delay work on updating the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan until more is known about the grant to support this work.
- The annual Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Planning Report was signed and will be submitted to the state.
- In planning for future Selectboard meetings, the state still encourages remote meetings, and occupancy is still limited to 50%. Board members agreed that a telephone option is still needed. Members of the public who wish to attend in person will be able to, as long as the total number of attendees (including Selectboard and town staff) does not exceed ten people and 6-foot distance can be maintained. Those who wish to attend in person are encouraged to give the town office advance notice for planning purposes.

- Mr. Pepin suggests the town look at paving Center School Rd in 2021. He said it's possible that crushing funds will not be needed for crushing and could. Mr. Austin would support paving and possibly sidewalk or similar. The town should have a ballpark quote on file from last year. Ms. Kellogg will bring information to the next meeting.
- Mr. Pepin said roadside mowing came in under budget and asked for approval to get a price on cutting back brush on a key road or two. Town Farm Rd, Bly Farm Rd, and others were mentioned as possible sites. He advised the town do this on one or two roads each year. Mr. Austin underscored the importance of cutting back brush to keep from damaging town equipment. Board members agreed that Mr. Pepin should get a price.
- Grace Frizzell, who owns land surrounding Taylor Farm Rd, sent written request to the Selectboard to considering discontinuing Taylor Farm Rd. She is having problems with trespassing, theft, and dumping garbage. The Selectboard asked Ms. Kellogg to have details about the process required to consider reclassification for the next meeting.
- The Town Clerk was asked if hunting according to Fish & Game regulation was permitted on the Town Forest property. The Selectboard confirmed that it is permitted.
- Tena Gonyaw asked the board to consider installing a sharp corner sign on East Echo Lake Rd near Woodland Dr. The Selectboard will take it up at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Selectboard members agreed to invite Sarah Jenness to call/attend the next meeting to discuss her interest in serving as Second Constable/Animal Control Officer. Depending on the result, they will follow up with the non-resident who expressed interest.
- Costs associated with recent repairs to Bly Farm Rd were discussed. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to bill property owner Davis for one-third of the cost to repair the washout he caused, seconded by Mr. Young, and approved unanimously. Ms. Kellogg will prepare a draft invoice and letter for the next meeting.
- There was no action or discussion on the recent budget report.
- Mr. Austin spoke with Reg Smith, ANR Enforcement, and was told they are aware of several issues concerning the Mead property on Hudson Rd. They are working on it, and action is coming, but he doesn't know what.
- As a courtesy, board members wish to notify Bly Farm Rd residents that the road will not be plowed per town policy. Ms. Kellogg will draft a letter for review the next meeting.

Eight Highway and Selectboard orders totaling \$32,997.36 were approved unanimously and signed by all board members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Highway/Stormwater Mitigation Grant is a possible funding source for a salt/sand shed.
- Certificate of Insurance was received from Kingdom Games for their Echo Lake Swim.
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Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm, with public participation by telephone and limited in-person attendance.

Approved this 27th day of August, 2020:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston