

**Town of Charleston**  
**Selectboard Meeting 8/27/2020**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites, Larry Young and Patrick Austin; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; resident Sarah Jenness; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg. Resident Grace Frizzell joined by telephone.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to move the discussions of Taylor Farm Rd and Animal Control to before the Road Report to accommodate the residents in attendance, seconded by Pat Austin and approved unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Austin to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Young and unanimously approved.

#### ANIMAL CONTROL

Sarah Jenness learned that the town currently has no one in the role of animal control officer and volunteered to fill this role, serving as Second Constable if that makes the most sense for the town. She lives on Dane Hill and has dog experience, including working with the local shelter. She is a voter and eligible to hold office. She is ready to do the research needed to better understand the position, get training, and to keep the town's kennel at her home to hold dogs. Motion by Mr. Austin to appoint Sarah Jenness as Second Constable for the term ending at Town Meeting 2021, seconded by Mr. Young and approved unanimously. Ms. Jenness accepted and will come to the Town Clerk's Office Monday to complete paperwork.

#### TAYLOR FARM RD

Grace Frizzell has had trespassers dumping garbage, and entering/stealing from the buildings at her property on Taylor Farm Rd, a Class 3 road. She would like the road 'thrown up' so she can gate it and keep people out. Various options were discussed, from legal trail reclassification to discontinuance. Mr. Pepin said the town has not been able to plow the road in the last couple of years, and there has not been much maintenance. Motion by Ms. Moskovites to initiate the process to consider discontinuing Taylor Farm Rd, seconded by Mr. Young, and approved unanimously. The following schedule was set: The Selectboard will hold a site visit at 5:30 pm on Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>, to be immediately followed by a public hearing at the Town Office before the Selectboard Meeting. Ms. Kellogg will proceed with landowner and public notification.

#### ROAD REPORT

Bernie Pepin reports the Better Roads project on Bowen Hill Rd is complete, and grading and winter sand will begin next week, to be followed by work on Town Farm Rd. An estimate for brush cutting on Town Farm Rd came in at \$2400, and there is \$3400+ remaining after mowing and sweeping expenses. Mr. Austin moved to hire Patenaude Bush Hogging to cut brush on Town Farm Rd, not to exceed \$2400, seconded by Mr. Young and approved.

Based on current crushing, the town needs to a plan to assess remaining gravel resources; Kingdom Gravel recommends that someone perform test digging this fall. Mr. Pepin said there were test holes mapped before the town purchased the pit, but some of them are not bearing out as concentrated usable material. The town has at least two seasons of gravel already stockpiled, and there may be good material underneath the pile. There was agreement about hiring someone to conduct bore tests, and the discussion will be continued. There was also discussion of road draining, grading, and the state requirement to remove berms and ensure sheet flow of water.

#### OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- Continuing the discussion of paving needed on Center School Rd, 2019 quotes were in the \$32K to \$36K range. This will be revisited during 2021 budget planning and may be offered as a separate article for voters.
- Regarding a landowner request for a sharp curve sign on East Echo Lake Rd near the schoolhouse and Woodland Drive, Mr. Pepin recommends them in both directions. Motion by Mr. Austin to install two sharp curve signs with right-angle arrow at Echo Lake Rd at the locations determined by Mr. Pepin before the ground freezes, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved. Ms. Kellogg will order the signs.

#### OTHER OLD BUSINESS

- According to discussion at the last meeting, board members reviewed a letter and invoice to Mr. & Mrs. Davis for one-third the cost to repair a washout on Bly Farm Rd that was caused by the landowner's equipment. Motion by Mr. Austin to send the letter and invoice as written, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved unanimously.
- A courtesy notice to Bly Farm Rd landowners informing them the road will not be maintained in winter was reviewed. Motion by Mr. Young to send the letter as written, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved unanimously.

Seven Highway and Selectboard orders totaling \$24,267.97 were approved unanimously and signed by all board members.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- The Planning Commission plans a remote meeting at 5:30 on September 10<sup>th</sup>, to include discussion of the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan and a FEMA grant to update it.
- The Listers will discuss the 2021 Tax Maps with the vendor on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Selectboard is invited to attend.
- Cloth Masks from VT Emergency Management are outside the town office door for self-service pick-up.
- Tax payments can be dropped off in the secure box at the same location.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:18 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 10th day of September, 2020:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston