

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 9/10/2020

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites, Larry Young and Patrick Austin; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Candidate Jonathan Morin; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg. Joining by telephone, residents Mark & Linda Marsh, and Joseph Gresser of the Chronicle.

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. Austin to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2020 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Young and unanimously approved.

ROAD REPORT

The Road Foreman reports the Bowen Hill project is nearly complete. Per a site visit by the program coordinator, the crew will do more seed and mulch and install more stone at one culvert. Winter sand is 75% complete, and grading has resumed. Next up: Town Farm Rd and a punch list on Westmore/Hinton Hill Rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Marsh's on Bowen Hill Rd have concerns about the location of a new driveway culvert installed during road work, which causes problems with mailbox installation. They have been billed for the pipe per town policy, and if they must pay for it, they asked that it be installed further uphill. They said that a VTrans official told them a driveway culvert is not mandated by the state. Board members explained that the town is required by the state to meet new road drainage requirements, which means a driveway culvert in locations where ditches are required. Board members unfamiliar with the site suggested a site visit may be needed. Mrs. Marsh agreed to get more information from the individual at VTrans and have them contact the Selectboard.

Jonathan Morin is running for the Vermont senate seat from Orleans/Essex district to represent the NEK He is reaching out to Selectboards and welcomes them to contact him.

NEW BUSINESS

- Municipal Stormwater grants are available for things like salt/sand sheds, with applications due October 9th. Board members agreed to revisit the program at budget time and get ahead of it for the fall 2021 application period.
- Mr. Austin suggests that Ms. Kellogg look into prices for a conference speakerphone, since attendees are having difficulty hearing during meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Town has received a grant to support a consultant to update and renew the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). Planning Commission Chair John Kellogg has offered Planning Commission support to identify a consultant, oversee renewal, and provide work toward the town match. Mr. Austin made a motion to authorize the Planning Commission to gather consultant proposals to update the LHMP with a budget of

\$7612.50 in services and \$2537.50 in town match, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and approved unanimously. The match will likely be in-kind.

- In response to board inquiry, state stream engineer Pat Ross did not see any issues with floor excavation in the Barton pit but is willing to visit the site for more information. Board members agreed on the need to test pit locations 7-10 on the Jeffers' map, and make a plan in advance of next summer's crushing season. They also agreed to visit the site with Pat Ross to avoid any water issues. Mr. Pepin contacted a bore testing vendor, but he needs a detailed map before offering a price. Board members instructed Ms. Kellogg to ask Mr. Ross for possible dates/times for a site evaluation of the pit, and also to provide a copy of the pit map to SW Cole to get a bore testing quote.
- Mr. Young asked if the ATV club installs "no atv" signs on excluded roads. He's heard complaints about ATV-drivers coming from Brownington roads and travelling Hudson Rd, which is not open to ATVs. Mr. Austin explained that they post "no further" signs at intersections with excluded roads, but nothing more. If the town had a constable, the town could be proactive with enforcements. Mr. Austin has also heard support for opening all roads.

Six Highway and Selectboard orders totaling \$31,682.23 were approved unanimously and signed by all board members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- A hearing on a proposal to discontinue Taylor Farm Rd will be held October 8th
- Newport Ambulance will hold an open house at the new Morgan station September 19th.
- Vermont Futures solicits comments on their analysis of how to increase Vermont's tax base.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Ms. Kellogg will look into a permanent meeting ID to avoid future call-in difficulties.

Approved this 24th day of September, 2020:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston