

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 04/08/2021**

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites, Patrick Austin, and Larry Young; 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 6:04 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. Motion by Pat Austin to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and unanimously approved. There was no public comment.

Under Road Report, Bernie Pepin said the crew has been grading and is ahead on grading per the calendar. Also trying to keep culverts from undermining—same culverts every year, mostly around Echo Lake. They are ready to start summer work and are waiting for Harvest Equipment to fix an AC unit.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Pepin said Patenaude Bush Hoggin is ready to perform roadside mowing again. Board members discussed how to finalize pricing and dates. Mr. Pepin will touch base with Patenaude. A town draft of a contract for services was tabled until details can be firmed up with the vendor.
- Mr. Austin spoke with Mike Sykes about evaluating the roof. Mr. Sykes said he saw the problems as no plywood, no insulation, condensation amplified by a wood stove, strapping creating an issue where screws have failed, and the easiest/cheapest fix would be to install non-condensing tin. Mr. Austin said it sounds like the right fix would be proper vent, larger strapping or plywood roof, blown in insulation, and new tin. A decision on the RFP was tabled until the board members could take a detailed look at the roof together. Mr. Pepin said the leak increases when it rains.
- Board members and Mr. Pepin met with VTrans last week about a Center School Rd paving and upgrade project, and the consensus was to hold a mandatory pre-bid meeting at which the scope of work would be developed. Board members agreed to invite Gray's Paving, Hutchins, and Pike Industries to a meeting at 2:00 pm on Wednesday April 21<sup>st</sup> at Center School Rd. Mr. Austin shared a draft of the letter, which Ms. Kellogg will finalize and mail/email out on Monday. A copy will be sent to Jason Sevigny of VTrans so he can attend.
- An agreement to upgrade streetlights to LED was received from Efficiency Vermont, set up for Ms. Kellogg to sign it electronically. Mr. Moskovites moved to authorize Ms. Kellogg to sign the agreement on behalf of the Selectboard, seconded by Mr. Austin and approved unanimously.
- Mr. Moskovites moved to adopt the Charleston Town-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan as revised per state suggestions, seconded by Mr. Austin, and unanimously approved.
- Mr. Austin moved to adopt the 2021 Local Emergency Management Plan, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and unanimously approved.
- A public information document regarding the March 25<sup>th</sup> Selectboard decision to permit ATV travel on select town roads was reviewed. Mr. Moskovites suggested more might be done to make sure people understand that other roads are not open, and that town policy prevents motorized vehicles on legal trails, except adjoining landowners. Mr. Austin said the document clearly states that certain roads are open, so nothing more would be needed. Mr.

Young asked about the level of patrolling, and Mr. Austin said that the club hires the Orleans Sheriff department for this area.

- Ms. Kellogg said that Building Energy was replacing the failed solar inverter today under warranty, and the town is still waiting on an estimate to repair a broken panel. Mr. Austin asked if the array is performing as expected, and Ms. Kellogg replied that the array was at reduced capacity while the inverter was not functioning, but so far the array has lived up to its goal, which is to not increase town electricity costs.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Photographer Roy Mercon emailed the town asking for blessing to fly a drone around 3-5 spots—a project he is working on in all Vermont towns. Selectboard members did not see it as within their authority to do such a thing, so no response is needed.
- Charleston received an invitation to become a member of the NEK Community Broadband Communications Union District, which requires appointing a representative and alternate. Mr. Moskovites said that broadband access is a huge issue for the area and he would be willing to serve as representative to show support and get the process started. Peter moved to approve Charleston becoming a member of the NEKCU, seconded by Mr. Austin, and unanimously approved. Mr. Austin moved to appoint Mr. Moskovites as Charleston's representative, seconded by Mr. Young and approved. Mr. Moskovites will reach out to Brighton representative Mike Strait.
- Mr. Moskovites said that work done on Bly Farm Road is being destroyed, with erosion stone pushed all over and one area turning into a mud hole. He asked Mr. Pepin if the mudhole could be filled with tailings or something to prevent mud. Mr. Pepin agreed he would install stone—it will take about an hour.
- Mr. Austin looked into a complaint received this week about debris in the Crawford Hill Rd ROW. There were milk crates marking muddy areas, which were removed after he talked with the residents.

Six Highway and Selectboard orders totaling \$32,970.73 were approved unanimously and signed by both board members.

Under informational items, Doug Morton of NVDA will meet with Mr. Pepin and other town officials about Grants-in-Aid assistance for Center School Rd on April 14th at 10 am. Ms. Kellogg distributed road erosion inventory information about segments on Center School Rd that don't meet standards.

Seeing no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 22nd day of April, 2021:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston