

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 8/26/2021

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin, Property Owners Holly Bull and Peter Engels; Asst. Clerk & Treasurer Colleen Kellogg; and Matthew Wilson of the Barton 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. Mr. Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2021 meeting as written, seconded by Larry Young and unanimously approved. There was no public comment.

With the agreement of both board members, the Chair began with the first item of new business and asked Ms. Bull and Mr. Engels to present. Ms. Bull said that representatives of the Echo Lake Protective Association (ELPA) had previously presented to the Planning Commission to gain support for reclassifying, or correctly classifying, Echo Lake from the default B2 to a higher quality A1 lake. The lake already meets the excellent water quality criteria in categories of aesthetics and fishing, and A1 lakes have access to more state resources to maintain this high quality. The Planning Commission asked to see resident/landowner support for the effort. Of ELPA's 63 paid voting members, 41 voted Yes and 3 No, with an additional 36 signatures gathered on a petition in support of reclassification—including lake owners beyond the ELPA membership. Mr. Young asked if restrictions accompany the A1 classification. Ms. Bull and Mr. Engels said that restrictions are mainly about septic size; a system cannot discharge 1000 or more gallons per day, which is equivalent to a house with 14 bedrooms or a commercial system. Petition signers are aware of this, and if the reclassification proceeds, it will involve a public hearing process. A letter of support has been received from the Planning Commission, and the ELPA committee now requests formal support from the Selectboard in the form of a support letter to include with the application. They also welcome the town to be a co-petitioner for the reclassification request, if the Selectboard agrees. Mr. Moskovites said he was in favor of supporting the petition, but would like to table a vote until the following meeting so that all three board members can weigh in. Meanwhile, the board will draft language for a support letter and for a motion at the next meeting.

ROAD REPORT

Bernie Pepin reports that a Better Roads ditching and culvert project on Mad Brook Rd is coming along well and about half-done. All roads are in pretty good shape. Streeter and Gratton Hill Roads were sprayed with chloride to deal with dust and erosion control on steep parts, and Mr. Pepin recommends increasing the chloride budget next year to do this regularly. The roadside mowing vendor, Patenaude, has pulled out of Charleston, and the west end of town is unfinished. Mr. Pepin has a couple of backup vendors. He will request a final bill from Patenaude and get prices for what's left. Regarding the Barton gravel pit, work to bail out material from the floor will begin no later than the second week of September so it's complete before rainy weather. Crushing can happen in the fall. Mr. Pepin will have an update soon on his return to full-time work.

NEW BUSINESS

- ACO Sarah Jenness has learned that Humane Officer training will be required by law in order to respond to neglect/welfare complaints. She estimates that half of her calls are of this nature. Vermont Criminal Justice Council will offer the training this fall, and she is asking for board support to attend and continue responding to such complaints. Mr. Moskovites moved

to support her in taking the course and continuing to respond to these calls. Mr. Young expressed concerns, and the matter was tabled for full board review at the next meeting.

- Orleans/Essex VNA & Hospice Inc. requests to include an appropriation of \$3,000 on the 2022 Town Meeting Warning. As this organization received the same support in 2021, Mr. Moskovites moved to include the request on the 2022 Town Meeting Warning, seconded by Mr. Young and unanimously approved.
- Following a recommendation from the VLCT Human Resources Specialist that the town look into disability insurance from employees, a quote has been received from Madison National Life Insurance Company, who works with VLCT PACIF. Further discussion was tabled until all board members could receive and review the proposal.
- Mr. Pepin said that something must be done about the wood stove in the garage because the stovepipe appears to be deteriorating. The Chair asked that this be on the agenda for the next meeting, as Mr. Austin has ideas about improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

- Gray's Paving completed repaving of Center School Rd, and all agreed that the work looks good. Mr. Pepin said the town will need to shoulder a few areas. The invoice and load slips for material were reviewed by the Foreman and Selectboard. Mr. Moskovites moved to approve the work and the invoice for payment, seconded by Mr. Young, and unanimously approved. It is recommended that if any cracks develop, they should be filled THAT year. This will be raised during budget discussions. Ms. Kellogg said the town is receiving supplemental quarterly highway aid that will total \$5,054.50 in 2021 and make up for most of the expense beyond the allocated funds for the paving work.
- Discussion of the garage roof will be taken up at the next meeting with the stove pipe.
- The Town has received \$52,134.50 in ARPA funds; half of the town's allocation. These funds must be allocated by end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. The Clerk's Office will document the federal lost revenue calculation, which should allow the town to use these funds for provision of government services. In response to an earlier Selectboard inquiry, it is the Clerk's understanding that this lost revenue documentation would enable the town to fund a project like repairs to the highway garage.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$5,154.38 and Four Highway orders totaling \$18,109.47 were approved unanimously and signed by both members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- Town Fair trainings are available in September and October. More information is available for officials.
- The 2021 deadline to submit a Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grant application is October 1st. This is for large projects greater than \$250,000 and includes salt/sand sheds. Board members will review materials for the next meeting.

Seeing no other business, the Chair moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Young, with adjournment at 6:43 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 9th day of September 2021:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston