

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 9/9/2021

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin, Animal Control Officer Sarah Jenness, Echo Lake resident Tom Wagner; and Asst. Clerk & Treasurer Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair. As the first order of business, Mr. Moskovites resigned as Chair to be effective as soon as a new Chair is elected. He moved to elected Patrick Austin as Chair, seconded by Larry Young, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2021 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Young and unanimously approved.

With the agreement of board members, the Chair began with the first item of old business: At the last meeting, ELPA representatives asked the Selectboard for a letter to support their petition to ANR to reclassify Echo Lake from a B2 to A1 lake, and to consider being a co-petitioner to give more weight to the request. A draft letter was reviewed. Asked about benefits of reclassification, Tom Wagner said the state will make more funds available to maintain the quality of A1 lakes (than to clean up B2 lakes) which benefits fishing, boating, etc. Asked about any restrictions on A1 lakes, Mr. Wagner said the requirements are: no pathogenic discharge, no siting of solid waste treatment in the watershed / no indirect discharge or more than 1000 gallons per day (basically large commercial lodging, etc.), and must maintain 50 ft buffer next to a stream, which farms already comply with. Mr. Moskovites moved to approve the draft ELPA support letter, seconded by Mr. Young, and approved and signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kellogg took a complaint from resident Karen Vogel about large branches left in Allen Farm Rd by the mowing vendor. Mr. Moskovites has seen the same on other roads, and suggests reviewing the mowing process for the future. Mr. Austin suggested that residents be notified ahead of ‘third-cut’ brush cutting. Mr. Pepin said that brush cutting is needed due to years of deferred mowing. The crew has been focused on Mad Brook but will take a look when they can and clean-up as needed.

ROAD REPORT

Mr. Pepin said that work in the Barton Pit will begin soon. The Mad Brook Rd Better Roads project is coming along well, but there has been some extra work—like replacing a 36” culvert that turned out had failed in the middle, and possible another further down. Work much be finished before the 15th or hydroseed or erosion control mat is required, so he will hold off grading until the job is complete. Mr. Pepin said some residents have complained that ditching is affecting their driveway access. Per town policy, property owners must install the appropriate size driveway culvert or the town can ditch across to maintain drainage. He is trying to be accommodating but project funding depends on meeting state road drainage standards.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Moskovites made a motion that the Town be a co-petitioner for Echo Lake reclassification, seconded by Mr. Young and approved unanimously.
- ACO Sarah Jenness has been dealing all week with horses owned by the Plankey family on 105. They were loose on the highway, and there is evidence of neglect. Loose dogs are dealt with quickly and not a big problem, but she gets plenty of serious calls about livestock not properly cared for. An upcoming Level One Humane Officer training will give her authority to handle

decisions on her own, without involving the state police as much. County Humane Officer Renee Falconer continues to be a resource and will drive her to the training to save cost. Regarding the Plankey situation, Ms. Jenness provided them the statute regarding proper enclosures, and sent a certified letter allowing 10 days to fix fencing otherwise animals will be seized (seizure requires a search warrant from state police). As of tonight, one horse is dead, a colt is being bottle fed elsewhere, and the stallion is in a rigid cage. Mr. Moskovites moved to approve Humane Officer training for Ms. Jenness, seconded by Mr. Austin, and approved unanimously. Mr. Austin asked Ms. Jenness to find out the seizure process in case it's needed, and Mr. Moskovites stated that any food and supplies should be the town's cost and not Ms. Jenness'.

- In response to concerns about a deteriorating stovepipe in the highway garage, Mr. Austin obtained a price from Tardiff to install two 100,000 BTU propane heaters, which he recommends over fixing the stovepipe for reasons including efficiency, safety and cost. He asked for Selectboard support to pursue fixing the ridge cap, blowing in 12" of insulation, and replacing the stove with propane heaters. Mr. Austin will have an estimate for annual propane cost for the next meeting as well as insulation/ridge cap vendors. Mr. Austin moved to have Tardiff install the Hot Dawg units as soon as possible, seconded by Mr. Moskovites. He believes they can be in by mid-winter. Vote to move forward with propane heating: 2 yes and one abstention.
- Regarding a quote to offer short- and long-term disability insurance to employees, the Selectboard would like to arrange to have representative Barry Blixt call in to a board meeting to provide info and answer questions. Ms. Kellogg will try to arrange this.
- With Stormwater Mitigation Grant applications due October 1st, board members will skip this round and discuss this annual program at a February meeting in time to plan and gather costs. A sand shed is a possible project.
- The town has received \$148,865.16 in town and county ARPA funds so far, with an additional \$52,134.50 coming next spring. Funds must be allocated by December 2024 and spent by December 2026

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Pepin would like to budget funds to purchase a stockpile of sta-mat to use on steep road sections. It has worked well in places like Dane Hill Rd, saving grader time.
- For the next meeting, board members would like a statement of what it cost the town to repair the Bly Farm Rd ditch so they can discuss billing the property owner.

Three Selectboard orders totaling \$8,687.91 and Four Highway orders totaling \$71,824.54 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- There will be a Planning Commission meeting at 5:30 pm before the Sept 23rd meeting.
- Budget Planning and Staff Evaluations up ahead in October.
- Mr. Pepin asked about future Road Equipment Fund appropriations. This will be on the agenda for budget discussion.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Young moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Austin, with adjournment at 7:46 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 23th day of September 2021:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston