

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 03/24/2022

MINUTES

Attending: Selectpersons Patrick Austin, Peter Moskovites and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; UVM Students Kelsey Cahill and Nora Scully; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Patrick Austin, Chair. The following items were added to the agenda: Discussion of retail cannabis was moved to the next meeting when the interested resident can attend; and a letter received from resident Margaret Maxwell was added to the road discussion under New Business.

Peter Moskovites moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Austin and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

As a class project, UVM students Kelsey Cahill and Nora Scully are conducting a Community Needs Assessment for Charleston in the area of Dietetic and Food Systems Research. The Selectboard answered questions based on their personal experience concerning older populations in town and health education in the school.

A highway crew job application was received and will be kept on file in case of an opening.

ROAD REPORT

Bernie Pepin said the crew has been working on mud ruts and potholes. Ten Mile Square was among the worst. The grader will take care of most of it, but they have to wait for the weather to warm up and the roads to dry enough.

Mr. Austin said Kiki Margolla is not able to return to work, and the board decided to advertise the Graper Operator position in the newspapers now to have an operator in place for April grading. The ad will read: This is a full-time position April through October, with the possibility of year-round employment for the right candidate. Pay rate depends on experience. Benefits available. For information and job description, contact Town Clerk 802-895-2814 or Road Foreman 802-895-2932.

OLD BUSINESS

- Jesse Currie has been notified that his estimates for door work are approved. He will investigate roof leaks in the next rainstorm to provide an estimate on roof repair/reinstall.
- An Employee Incident Report Form was reviewed and edits discussed. Ms. Moskovites will edit the document for the next meeting.
- Mr. Moskovites said that at the annual meeting with VTrans, they discussed interest in an invitation bid to a smaller group of local contractors to keep the Ten Mile Square Rd culvert job moving, which might be more appropriate for this small job in the current contractor shortage. By agreement of all board members and the Road Foreman, the Engineer will be advised that the board wants to go ahead with the bid process, including local vendors JBL, Gosselin, and Sicard, with bids to be opened at an upcoming board meeting. Ms. Kellogg will inform Tyler Billingsley of East Engineering.
- There was no action on ARPA funds allocation, but Board members asked to discuss it as the first item of Old Business on the next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Austin moved to approve liquor license renewals for West Charleston Corner Store and Scampy's, seconded by Mr. Moskovites and unanimously approved.
- Information about Rocky Ledge reclassification activity was reviewed. State-initiated review of roads resulted in reclassification from Class 3 to Class 4 in 1984. Prompted by voter petition to review the classification, the Selectboard reclassified it from Class 4 to Legal Trail in 1996 with proper public/landowner notification—one year before Mrs. Schnopp purchased the property. Board members asked Ms. Kellogg to relay this information to Mrs. Schnopp and send her Vermont Orange Book info on road classification and the reclassification process.
- On the matter of Class 3 Roads that serve only one house, Mr. Moskovites shared articles and information about Selectboard decisions in other towns and legal challenges to the decisions that were upheld by courts. Board members will read materials to prepare for discussion at a later meeting. List of roads includes Bennett Farm Rd, Bingham Rd, Roy Farm Rd, Smith Farm Rd, and Pond View Rd.
- The Board reviewed Charleston's 2022 Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP), with contact updates the only changes from last year. Motion by Mr. Moskovites to adopt the LEMP renewal, seconded by Mr. Young and unanimously approved.
- Board members discussed tree cutting on Bly Farm Rd and the importance of landowners checking with the town before doing work in the road maintenance right-of-way. Mr. Moskovites suggests drafting a letter at the next meeting—to be placed on the agenda.
- Mr. Moskovites spoke with West Charleston Village landowner Michael Rice about items in the state highway right-of-way and the junk vehicle ordinance. Mr. Moskovites will follow-up and report back to Selectboard and VTrans as needed.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$8,008.69 and four Road orders totaling \$11,270.16 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- Orleans-Essex Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) will meet Monday March 28th at 1 pm at Newport Fire Station, with Zoom participation available. The Clerk's office will monitor the meeting via Zoom.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Moskovites moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Young, and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 14th day of April 2022:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston