

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 5/23/2024

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Peter Moskovites, Chair.

Attending: Selectpersons Peter Moskovites (PM) and Terry Rollins (TR); Road Foreman Wendell Hastings; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

CK asked to add the following to the agenda: VEC meeting and Hudson Rd repairs under Road Report. Under New Business, a request by VT Declaration of Inclusion Project to make a presentation to the Selectboard.

PM made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024 meeting as written, second by TR. The minutes were approved as written. There was no public comment.

ROAD REPORT

- WH reports that the crew pulled shoulders and graveled Echo Lake Rd from the pavement to the sugar house, and from the barn to the fishing access. Also pulled shoulders and graveled Westmore Rd; a Grants-in-Aid project is nearly complete. Shoulders were pulled and most sections graveled from Mad Brook Rd to the top of the mountain on Hinton Hill Rd. Property owner S. Scelza helped by moving vehicles from the ROW to make room for drainage work.
- Simpson DirtWorx should finish crushing 10,000 CY gravel in Barton by the end of next week. WH would like to get him back in the fall. First, WH needs Selectboard members to look at the pit and bless the next harvest location. He will let them know a good time to do this. WH reports there is enough gravel to get through summer and into next spring.
- John Gobeil with Roger Gosselin plans to put power underground across Morgan-Charleston Rd to tap into power at the Hryckiewicz property and provide power to several Charleston homes. A site meeting is set for May 29th at 10:30 pm. TR agreed to attend. TR and WH will find out their plan and report back to the board for approval and specs for depth and installation. (WH mentioned that Scott Scelza might also want to bury power under Hinton Hill Rd.)
- Regarding July 2023 flood repairs, JBL has completed slope repairs on Durgin Rd and replaced a large culvert on Fontaine Rd. During the next rainy stretch, WH will try to put stammat on Dane Hill Rd. WH still needs to address pavement holes on Durgin Rd but has not yet planned that work.
- WH reports that Hudson Rd between Center School and Mt. Bess Roads is too wide. The grader cannot get to the edges with three passes, so problems develop sooner and require more frequent grading. CK said this would be eligible for Class 2 Roadway funds, but this would reduce paving funds. Board members agreed that narrowing this road could not be a high priority for now; the town needs Class 2 funds for repaving.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Mack truck and Tenco body have been ordered and agreements signed. Total price is \$274,300, and it should be ready in eight months from August.
- PM has heard nothing from Brownington regarding his requests for more information. He will submit the questions in writing for clarity. TR suggested that external requests for town financial support should go before voters at Town Meeting.

- To develop a structure for addressing road policy violations, PM suggests contacting attorneys that might work with the town going forward. He will ask around.
- PM spoke to property owner L. Lacroix regarding ROW obstructions on Westmore Rd. On June 4th, she gets legal authority to move items. At some point from the middle of June on, the Foreman can take action on anything that obstructs the work area.
- Regarding removal of Historical Society safes from the highway garage, board members are comfortable with the crew transporting them to the museum but bringing them into the building would be the Society's responsibility. PM will talk with Society officers to find out which safe is wanted and if one can be disposed of.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Declaration of Inclusion Project asked in an email to make a presentation to the Selectboard. Board members agree that any action in the matter should be driven by townspeople. The Project can consider circulating a petition among Charleston voters.
- New highway crew member Travis Betit started Monday, and WH reports that the crew is going great. Board members agreed to review new-hire performance after 90 days—at the August 9th meeting.

Two Selectboard orders totaling \$3,551.93 and two Road orders totaling \$10,758.58 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

Seeing no other business, PM made a motion to adjourn, seconded by TR and the meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 13th day of June 2024:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston