

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 9/26/2024

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), Tim Jenness (TJ), and Terry Rollins (TR); Road Foreman Wendell Hastings (WH); Resident Tom Wagner; Property Owner Beth LeCours; and board clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

PM made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2024 meeting as written, second by TJ, and the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beth LeCours' property on West Echo Lake Rd includes shoreland known as "Duck Rock." She enjoys the lake and doesn't mind sharing it but is concerned that using the spot for boat access may bring invasives. She is also concerned about a make-shift parking turnout that has widened, destroying vegetation and increasing erosion. She'd like to clarify the road edge for a buffer planting that won't interfere with maintenance and pursue a "no mow zone" to prevent roadside mowers from chopping vegetation. She sees the road widening and wonders who plows the turnout in winter; WH confirmed it is not the town. He said that the town right-of-way is 25 ft from the center of the road, so a 50 ft area total. Town excavated road shoulders were excavated to remove berms that impeded drainage, and a roadside mowing vendor was instructed to chop branches to keep from damaging truck mirrors in winter. PM said that parking in the ROW is prohibited. Tom Wagner said the traveled portion there is 30' wide—compared to normal 22'—and the widest spot around the lake, and said Ms. LeCours is looking to bring the area in line with the rest of the road, and regain about 8 feet of shoreline. The area will likely be part of the LWAP project design for the road. PM suggested board members and the Foreman visit the area to better understand the issue and solution, and revisit the no mow request. WH asked the board to consider a No Parking Sign. Ms. LeCours thanked the board.

ROAD REPORT/ROAD BUSINESS

- WH said Simpson DirtWorx will dig test holes at the Barton pit next week for \$500-1000 to confirm that gravel can be harvested above ground. If all goes well, the vendor will be back there within two weeks to crush gravel.
- The crew has been making winter sand and has about 2000 CY on the ground.
- A few roads have been graded and Hudson, Echo, and Jordan are next—just waiting for the right weather. The bottom of Hinton Hill Rd is developing washboard.
- He reached out to vendors about paving Durgin Rd and Church Hill Rd next year and has so far spoken with Pike. PM will contact VTrans to get specifics about the process for bids and the grant. WH and board members are planning a paving project to improve drainage at the office and garage, so this can be estimated at the same time.
- Towns of Westmore and Brownington are each interested in buying 500 CY of winter sand. The Charleston crew must get the sand out of the way to get to the gravel, so there is no problem making sand starting next week when the town will have a full crew. WH calculated a price of \$5/CY. All board members agreed to sell 1,000 CY of sand at this price.
- WH and TJ met at Morgan-Charleston Rd where an electric line needs to cross the road twice to serve the Hogan property. At WH's instruction, the vendor agreed to bury at least 4 feet below the ditch line.

- Lawrence Deth who helps Christine Schuler, owner of a property at the top of Mt. Bess Rd, has requested a “Dead End” sign due to traffic on the road. Board members have several similar requests and will revisit town capacity to cover this cost.

OLD BUSINESS

- WH has received a recommendation from VTrans that a culvert near the Devaney home on Hudson Rd should be sized at 42-48 in. The current price for 48” x 80’ is about \$10,000. When FEMA begins working with the town on storm assistance, WH will find out if a replacement job would be eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance. Board members were in favor of exploring FEMA assistance and revisiting any other drainage needs in the area like driveway culverts before finalize a scope of work.
- WH looked at Allen Farm Rd in response to a homeowner complaint about the road being bumpy. He said the road was rough but not bad, and it is accessible. Running the grader there would dig up the lawn at a log cabin, and any excavation would never firm us before winter. Board members agreed that the road is up to Class 4 standards and they will revisit next year.
- WH and TR visited Bly Farm Rd to discuss two culverts. A discussion of needs is ongoing.
- Board members agreed to conduct a series of site visit with WH to sort out open road maintenance/culvert requests. They will meet on Monday at 4:00 pm to begin these and schedule more visits as needed to complete the list.

NEW BUSINESS

- Native Plant Trust requested Selectboard permission to conduct a survey of native autumn water-starwort at Charleston Pond. Board members had no objection. They asked the Clerk to convey their permission to conduct the survey and inform the organization that all shoreland is privately owned so access permission will need to come from landowners.
- A discussion of opening the Clerk’s Office as an Emergency site during such events as widespread power outages was tabled with no objection.
- NVDA confirmed that all data has been reported to VTrans for Charleston’s Road Erosion Inventory. An MRGP progress report was reviewed, showing Charleston has more than met this year’s requirement to upgrade hydrologically connected road segments. PM commended WH and the road crew on this work. With the agreement of all members, the MRGP Amendment Form was signed by the Chair to be submitted with the required fee.

Four Selectboard Orders totaling \$48,117.10 and three Road Orders totaling \$25,789.37 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

- A year-to-date Revenue and Expenditure report was received from the Treasurer.
- A BCA meeting will be held October 7th at 4:00 pm.

The Chair called Executive Session at 7:01 pm to discuss a personnel matter. Session ended at 7:28 pm with no action taken.

Seeing no other business, PM asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by TJ, seconded by TR, and the meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 26th day of September 2024:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston