

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 4/24/2025

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Patrick Austin, Chair. Also attending: Selectpersons Tim Jenness (TJ) and Terry Rollins (TR); Road Foreman Wendell Hastings (WH); Property owner Jonathan Mills; Matthew Wilson of the Chronicle; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

Under additions to the agenda, CK asked the board to sign a contract with JBL Hauling & Excavating for a job awarded in March, and said she has a couple of new items under announcements.

A motion to approve the April 10th meeting minutes was made by TJ and seconded by TR. The minutes were approved as written with no discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jon Mills raised concerns about stormwater from a road culvert near his property at 2361 East Echo Lake Rd, which was replaced as part of 2023 Better Roads project, and asked the board to consider performing work described in an email from Chad McGann of the MRGP program to realign the ditch. PA looked at the site and said McGann's suggestion would mean cutting quite a few trees and consolidating water into to a brook, raising erosion concerns, and he noted the driveway lacks a ditch. Mr. Mills said there was a ditch, and the driveway was fine for many years, but it filled in recent storms. Mills said the original project plan set the culvert further along the road where it would have headed toward the ditch and not his driveway. WH said the 18" culvert replaced a buried 12" at the same location. PA is concerned that further work might cause damage, and TR agreed this could lead to further town liability. Mills suggested he be compensated for providing a service to the town if his driveway must handle water from the town ditch. PA does not consider handling ditch run-off a service to the town—many property owners must deal with road runoff in storms. PA said run-off into the lake is another issue at this location, and he expects a new driveway here would require water management per state lakeshore regulation. PA said the town was required to upgrade this road per the MRGP, and he is confident the work has kept the road in better shape during storms. WH said the road took the stormwater for years, but via the 2023 project, the town put the water where it is supposed to be—off the road. With agreement from other board members, PA said the town would consider the matter closed. Mr. Mills expressed disappointment but appreciated the board's time in considering the matter.

ROAD REPORT

- WH said he is having trouble with businesses running overweight vehicles on posted roads—Beans Homes and Isaac Jensen on Crawford Hill Rd just last night. Two culverts there have cracks across the full width of the road, and plastic culverts can be damaged by heavy equipment. The roads are soft underneath, and the town is not even running trucks right now. WH said R. Fortin and Dupuis were on Echo Lake today, and PA said an excavator had been hauling dirt on Dane Hill for a couple of weeks. PA said roads are posted for everyone, and others are waiting to do this kind of work. WH recommends the

board send letters to companies violating postings. With agreement from TJ and TR, PA asked CK to draft letters to Beans, Jensen, and Dupuis for the board to approve by email.

- WH said the concrete pad for town chloride tanks is almost done, and he thinks the slab will be poured tomorrow. The job will cost an extra \$1000 because the wall was raised 16" to make sure no one backs into it.
- The crew will probably gravel Echo next week because a manure-spreader is working the road.
- WH said Tyler Fortin made a second access to his property on Church Hill Rd with a 12" culvert. The minimum size is 15", and he did not contact the Road Foreman before working, which is the town policy. TJ said the culvert is in the road, and one end is buried. With agreement from TJ and TR, the Chair asked CK to write in a letter informing the property owners that the culvert needs to be removed within two weeks, or the town will remove it.

OLD BUSINESS

- TJ made a motion to adopt the town's 2025 Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). The motion was seconded by PA and approved.
- Board members discussed Class 4 Road maintenance priorities. WH prioritizes relocating three culverts on Crowe Hill Rd due to their location, which could take out the road in a heavy rainstorm. He has salvaged culverts that could be used to save cost on one or two. A culvert at the end of Crawford Hill Rd in the middle of the flat is also a problem; there is nowhere for the water to go. PA said Town Farm Rd has been neglected and suggested the possibility of putting a project before voters because keeping up that road maintains logging and other access to the town forest and reduces costs in the long run. WH built out some of the road last year with ditch dirt and put in a grass ditch, but major repair would require a lot of resources and tree cutting. A squashed 36" culvert at the top of the first hill was suggested. PA asked board members to look at these Class 4 roads to discuss where resources should go over the next few years. It will be on the agenda for the May 22 meeting.
- A contract with JBL to install a 48" culvert on Hudson Rd was signed by all members.

NEW BUSINESS

- A letter of intent to participate in the FY26 Grants-in-Aid program was signed by all members.
- PA moved to reappoint Peggy Stevens as Representative to the NEKCV (formerly NEK Broadband) and John Kellogg as alternate. The motion was seconded by TJ and approved.
- TR discussed news that the FEMA BRIC program will not be funded. CK the town had been waiting on these funds to help renew Townwide Hazard Mitigation Plan but will try to handle the renewal in house if needed.

Two Selectboard Orders totaling \$4,532.20 and two Road Orders totaling \$14,659.50 were approved unanimously and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The town's annual meeting with VTrans is April 29th at the Town Office.
- GreenUp Day is Saturday, May 3rd. The Town Office has bags available outside, and a town truck will be parked outside all weekend for bag drop-off. Tires are NOT accepted.

- The Road Department will replace a culvert on Church Hill Rd the week of May 5-9th, and the town has advertised a one-day closure, to be determined by weather.
- WH said the crew will attend MSHA training all-day on April 29th.

Seeing no other business, PA made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by TJ, and the meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 8th day of May 2025:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston