

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 7/10/2025**

**MINUTES**

*THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.*

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Patrick Austin, Chair. Also attending: Selectpersons Terry Rollins (TR) and Tim Jenness; Road Foreman Wendell Hastings (WH); Resident Ben Applegate; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

The Chair added the following items to the agenda: a caution sign request and 90-day employee review under New Business; and notice of an animal control ordinance discussion at the next meeting under Announcements.

A motion to approve the June 26th meeting minutes was made by TR and seconded by PA. The minutes were approved as written with no discussion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ben Applegate, Charleston resident and candidate in the UVM Field Naturalist Program is working with Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA) to discover community interest in National Wild and Scenic River Designation for undammed sections of rivers in the watershed, including the Clyde, Barton and Black Rivers. He discussed noteworthy characteristics of the Clyde River, which is valuable for fishing and comprised of an uncommon number of lakes that allow it to sink phosphorous. He shared benefits of the federal program, including funding to help with road projects and river access points. To pursue designation, a committee of interested individuals is needed to guide the process and eventually manage funds, and letters of support will be needed from stakeholders—individuals and town boards. He is seeking recommendations on who to talk to and will report back to the board as the project moves forward.

**ROAD REPORT**

WH said the roads are decent. The crew put 87 loads of sta-mat on Hinton Hill Rd last week as part of FEMA mitigation work, and a Better Roads grant ditching and culvert project at the Brighton end of Ten Mile Square Rd is nearly complete. He received a trade-in value for the grader of \$62,000. Board members agreed they could not proceed with the diesel emissions reduction grant if the grant award remains far below trade-in. CK will inquire about the possibility of additional funds. WH said Dig Safe marked out cable locations at the Dane Hill Rd ditching project area today. It's buried 9-10 feet from center of the road in some areas and exposed in the ditch in others. PA brought up the complication of severing cable and interrupting service if ditching is done before replacement cable is installed.

**OLD BUSINES**

- WH said Simpson has crushed 3000 CY of gravel in the Barton Pit—still from the bank. Board members reviewed a map of the pit. The Chair said he would like the town to understand more about the pit for future planning. WH said he believes there are at least 5 more years of gravel. He would like to visit the pit with the board on Monday to show them what he is finding and get their opinion about how to proceed. He suggests mixing in tailings to increase the amount of usable gravel. Board members discussed interest in having the parcel surveyed to establish exact boundaries. The Clerk's Office will reach out to surveyors. Board members agreed to meet at the pit at 2:00 pm Monday.

- PA spoke with Bill Richardson of Consolidated. The options for rerouting cable on Dane Hill Rd are: 1) Bury underground and cross the road twice, which no one wants to do; 2) Bury outside the ROW in Kennedy's field, which there is no approval for; and 3) Bury deeper underneath the roadside ditch. WH and Board members supported option 3, but they must plan the town ditching project with the utilities to avoid interrupting residents' service. Consolidated has cable on one side of the road, Comcast is on the other, and the highway crew will be ditching both sides. PA asked CK to send him contact information for both companies, and he will set up a site meeting.
- The 200th anniversary of the town's renaming comes in November: Board members would consider supporting a celebration if someone in town is willing to lead it. Anyone with suggestions is welcome to contact the Selectboard or Clerk's Office. CK suggested acknowledging the anniversary in the 2025 Town Report.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A draft Community Outreach Form to gather input for the Town's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was reviewed, approved by all board members, and will be mailed with Tax Bills.
- WH said Blair Moulton asked for four loads of gravel on Tripp Hill Rd—to cover the road up to the first house. Moulton will spread it with his tractor. WH said he has not put gravel on the road since he took over as Foreman. PA asked board members to try to look at Tripp Hill Rd before the next meeting.
- WH said Sherm Allen would like the town's mowing contractor to mow his driveway—an extension of Allen Farm Rd—and Mr. Allen would reimburse the town for the cost. Board members agreed Allen should work directly with the mowing contractor and not involve the town. WH will pass along contact information.
- Regarding an email request from Elisabeth Moore—property owner off Ten Mile Square Rd—to install caution signs so her children can safely ride horses on the Ten, all board members agreed that the highway department would order and install a sign for each end of the road in town. CK will notify the property owner.
- Terry Rollins moved to enter Executive Session to conduct a 90-day review for highway employee Mark Fauteux. The motion was seconded by PA, and executive session began at 7:09pm. Session ended at 7:18 pm. After discussion, TJ made a motion to give Fauteux a one-dollar raise, with second by TR. The motion was approved, and the increase will take effect on Monday. The Chair asked WH to thank Fauteux for his good work.

Two Selectboard Orders totaling \$9,253,99 and two Road Orders totaling \$37,050.58 were approved and signed by all members.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Animal Control Officer Sarah Jenness will attend the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss changes to the town animal control ordinance.

Seeing no other business, TJ made a motion to adjourn, with a seconded by TR, and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Approved this 24th day of July 2025:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston