

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 1/22/2026

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Patrick Austin (PA). Also present were Selectpersons Tim Jenness (TJ) and Terry Rollins (TR); Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray (TG); Ed Barber of Newport Daily Express; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

The Chair added the following items to the agenda: approve a 2027 Tax Map Update proposal (New Business) and discuss an NEKCV access permit off Dane Hill Rd (Old Business).

TJ moved to approve the January 20, 2026 Special Meeting minutes as written. TR seconded, and the motion was approved. There was no Public Comment.

ROAD REPORT

Discussion was minimal due to the Foreman's absence:

- CK reported that ads for the highway crew position were finishing in the Chronicle and Newport Daily Express and would soon be posted on Indeed.com. The Board agreed to table further discussion until the next meeting.
- CK is working with the Foreman on a grant application to replace damaged guardrail at seven locations in town. She requested authorization to submit the application electronically by February 2. PA moved to authorize submission; TJ seconded, and the motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Board Members signed the Certificate of Highway Mileage for the year ending February 10, 2026, certifying no changes.
- The Board reviewed a Tax Map Maintenance Proposal from CAI to update town tax maps with data through March 31, 2027. Recommended by the Listers, PA moved to approve the contract; TJ seconded, and the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- CK reported that landowners and mortgage holders have been notified of the proposed reclassification of the Class 3 portion of TH26, known as Bennett Farm Rd. Public notice of an inspection and hearing on February 11 has been posted around town and in the Chronicle as required. Copies of the notice were distributed to Board Members.
- CK reported that the Town continues work to finalize the next draft of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for review by the planning team. No additional comments have been received.
- Board members reviewed a proposed 2026 budget document, which had been updated since the last meeting to reflect recently announced commercial and worker's comp insurance premiums as well as highway line items changed at the special meeting on the 20th, including a reduced equipment loan payment due to refinancing and principal paydown. TJ moved to approve the 2026 budget as written, TR seconded, and it was approved unanimously.
- Board members reviewed a 2026 Town Meeting Warning. PA moved to approve the Warning, with second by TJ and approved.
- Regarding a project to remove shoulder berm on East Echo Lake Rd, PA recommended notifying all affected landowners to discuss specifics. Rather than simply cutting the berm, there may be options about where water sheds onto their property. If the Board agrees, he will ask the Foreman to perform a site visit, map affected properties on both sides of the road, and

prepare a scope of work. CK will prepare the SOW and notification letter for review at the next meeting.

- PA discussed NEKCV's request to install a 20-foot access culvert off Dane Hill Rd for an equipment pad on the Grenier property. PA sees no issues if the driveway is not higher than the road. The Board agreed, and PA will notify NEKCV of the conditions.
- Under Other Old Business, TJ reported that the state stream engineer approved use of an excavator in streams for bridge repairs on Hudson and Mad Brook Roads. Pumping to divert water is not required.

Two Selectboard Orders totaling \$20,490.70 and two Road Orders totaling \$16,700.82 were approved and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Vermont ANR will hold public meetings on January 27 and February 4 for public input on proposed changes to the Use of Public Waters Rules and Wakesports Regulations.
- The Charleston Board of Abatement will hold a hearing on February 12 from 5:30–5:45 pm regarding 16 Westmore Rd.

Seeing no other business, TJ moved to adjourn; TR seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on February 12, 2026. CK will distribute reminders about the February 11th site inspection and hearing and the February 12th Board of Abatement hearing.

Approved this 12th day of February 2026:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston