

**Town of Charleston
Selectboard Public Hearing**

Proposed Reclassification of Bennett Farm Rd (TH26)

6:00 pm Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Town Clerk's Office

MINUTES

The hearing was called to order at 6:00 pm by Selectboard Chair Pat Austin.

Attending: Patrick Austin (PA), Timothy Jenness (TJ), Terry Rollins (TR), property owner Peter Veloutsos (PV), and Colleen Kellogg (CK).

PA stated that the purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony regarding a proposal to reclassify a 0.04-mile section of Town Highway 26, known as Bennett Farm Road, in order to correct an error that recently came to light. The section under review is not currently being maintained by the Town and does not meet highway standards. Instead, the Town has mistakenly been maintaining a portion of a private driveway, which employees and board members believed to be the legal highway.

The Town is not permitted to maintain private driveways. Board members have also questioned whether bringing the legal town highway up to standard is feasible or in the public interest. As a result, the Board is considering downgrading this section to either a Class 4 road or a Legal Trail.

All landowners with a potential interest in the road were notified of the hearing. The Board received a letter from the Bennett Family requesting that the section remain classified as a Class 3 road. For clarification, PA explained that the section in question consists of approximately 200 feet at the end of a long legal trail. He then invited those present to offer comments on the proposal.

Peter Veloutsos stated that he purchased property on Willis Road that abuts the legal trail but had no testimony regarding the specific section under consideration.

PA noted that members of the Bennett family attended the 5:30 pm site inspection and informed the Board that they would not attend the hearing. CK reported that she had not been notified of any other residents or landowners planning to attend.

Seeing no further comments or testimony, TJ moved to adjourn the hearing. The motion was seconded by TR. The hearing adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The Selectboard will take up the matter at its regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 12, 2026, and will issue written findings and a decision within 60 days of the hearing.