

Town of Charleston
Selectboard Meeting 03/12/2026

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Chair Pat Austin. Present were Selectpersons Pat Austin (PA), Tim Jenness (TJ), and Terry Rollins (TR); and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg (CK).

Under Post-Town Meeting organizational business:

- TJ nominated Pat Austin for Selectboard Chair, with a second by TR, and Austin was elected for the year.
- TR nominated Tim Jenness for Selectboard Vice Chair, with a second by PA, and Jenness was elected for the year.
- The Board agreed to reappoint CK as Clerk to the Selectboard
- The Board agreed to continue using The Chronicle as newspaper of record and to maintain the current notice posting locations: Town Clerk's Office, East and West Charleston Post Offices, West Charleston Corner Store, and Charleston Elementary School. CK will check whether the new Route 105 Market & Deli intends to maintain a public posting board.

The Chair added the following items requiring Board signature to the agenda under New Business: under New Business: PACIF grant application for security cameras, a Thank-you letter to the Girl Scout Troop, and Documents for VTrans regarding reclassification of Bennett Farm Rd.

TJ moved to approve the February 26, 2026 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by TR and approved. There was no public comment.

ROAD REPORT

- Review of highway crew applications was tabled until the next meeting due to the Foreman's absence.
- PA and TJ reported on site visits with the Foreman to inspect culverts on Crawford Hill Rd and Dane Hill Rd, respectively. The crew was scheduled to repair the Dane Hill site the following day.
- CK shared an update from surveyor Rod Frandino (Circumspect Land Survey): the gravel pit survey is approximately 70% complete, with map drafting underway, and follow-up expected next week.
- PA reminded Board members of the possibility of applying surplus funds for additional crushing. The survey help define available areas. PA noted potential use of surplus funds for additional crushing once the survey defines available areas. Concerns remain about usable gravel above grade versus material in the pit floor; extraction costs and feasibility will require expert assessment after survey completion.
- All town roads are now posted for mud season weight restrictions: 2-axle trucks 15,000 lbs; 3-axle trucks 18,000 lbs; and tractor-trailers 20,000 lbs. PA advised residents planning projects to contact the Foreman regarding safe road access.

OLD BUSINESS

CK reported the draft of the LHMP update is under review by the planning team and posted on the town website for public comment. NVDA provided new state drought survey data to replace preliminary figures. The team is incorporating this as well as erosion mitigation recommendations from the Echo-Seymour Lakes Watershed Action Plan (LWAP). Next steps include finalizing the draft and distributing it to neighboring towns and Vermont Emergency Management for review. No additional

comments were received at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- TJ moved to approve the 2026 Town Meeting Minutes, with a second by TR, and the motion was approved. PA noted strong voter support and attendance of approximately 100 at Town Meeting.
- TJ moved to reappoint Justin Taft as Tree Warden. TR seconded. Motion approved.
- PA moved to reappoint Blair Moulton and Darald Moulton as Fence Viewers. TR seconded. Motion approved.
- TJ moved to reappoint Mike Currie as Inspector of Wood. TR seconded. Motion approved.
- TJ moved to reappoint Pat Austin as Charleston's NEKWMD Supervisor. TR seconded, and the motion was approved. PA noted Charleston pays the same assessment as towns with transfer stations but receives fewer benefits without one. He suggested the town may eventually benefit more from exiting NEKWMD and joining a Solid Waste Improvement Plan (SWIP) group. He also highlighted the recent shift from town-voter to NEKWMD Board approval of the district budget.
- CK reported the town office is using VLCT templates to develop a multi-year Capital Budget planning document.
- The Board reviewed and the Chair signed a VLCT PACIF application for security cameras.
- The Board reviewed and signed a thank-you letter to the Charleston Girl Scout Troop for their service at Town Meeting. The Chair offered future Selectboard support for troop projects or programs if needed.
- The Board reviewed Bennett Farm Rd reclassification documents for VTrans (decision copy, annotated highway map, revised mileage totals) and the Chair signed them. PA will contact VTrans District 9 regarding signage best practices, as the single 911 address on the road will remain unchanged.

Two Selectboard Orders totaling \$12,738.05 and two Road Orders totaling \$11,525.46 were approved and signed by all members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annual meeting with VTrans: 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 31, 2026
- VLCT March trainings and events list was shared.
- PA and TJ have received inquiries from three East Echo Lake Rd landowners regarding the planned project. PA recommended a spring site visit. CK will track contacts and provide a reminder.

Seeing no further business, TJ made a motion to adjourn, with a second by TR, and the meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm. PA noted that he will be unable to attend. TR noted a Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm that day.

Approved this 26th day of March 2026:

Selectboard, Town of Charleston