

**All Board Meeting Minutes from Thursday, September 14, 2017  
Hawlemont Regional School Cafeteria, 7:00 P.M.**

**In attendance:** Select Board members Beth Bandy, Sarah Reynolds, Marguerite Willis, Fire Chief: Doug Annear, Town Clerk Kathy Reynolds, Emergency Management Director (EMD) Michael Walsh, Capital Planning Committee members Tracy Hall and Tony Walker, Flag Committee member and Park and Recreation Chair Jerry Dupree, Planning Board member and Earth Removal Committee member Gisela Walker, Conservation Commission and Board of Health Co-Chair Doug Telling, Broadband Committee member and Town Website Administrator Cheryl Handsaker,

1. The Select Board Chair Sarah Reynolds opened the meeting at 7:04 pm. The newest Select Board member Marguerite Willis read her “observations as a newcomer.” Marguerite read a prepared speech, highlighting that she’ll try to focus on getting a Small Town exemptions bill approved at the State level, and emphasized that right now we cannot afford any additional big plans.
2. The Select Board gave an update on the Select Board priorities. Beth reported on the Town’s Special Legislation for a Recreation Tax. As of Town Meeting, the House unanimously passed our legislation. There was some objection from the Department of Revenue (DOR). Paul Mark reintroduced the bill in January, and from January to June tried to get a meeting to address their objections. We finally met with Adam Hinds and DOR. Since then, Adam Hinds has put together a number of meetings. It passed unanimously in the House and went to the Senate. The DOR is looking at whether the Town can collect this tax. Senate Counsel is working on the enforcement piece. It looks promising. Beth was at a meeting in Buckland about zip code issues in Buckland today, where the same people from DOR were again present. The State has systems issues with its collections and revenue systems that are affecting many aspects of Town Government. Asked how much the recreation tax could generate, it is unclear. Speaking to whether companies support local collection, the Select Board believe they would be fine.
3. Sarah gave an update on bridges. They are working on the two 8A bridges now, not to be shut down totally during repairs except for a few hours one afternoon, and otherwise will remain open. The Maxwell bridges’ designs are just about done. East Oxbow bridge, currently restricted, has been added to the State’s Transportation Improvement Program grant list for future repair in 2020 or 2021. The State’s been working with the Town if we can be patient about their schedule. Massachusetts Department of Transportation is considering the 3-sided culvert. We’ve brought it to them a few times. Sarah mentions it in every conversation about small bridges. Can the Town affect legislation to allow the Town to use these when appropriate? Asked about Traffic Calming, we believe they are still on schedule to go ahead with the Main Street project next year, last we were told.
4. The Board asked Cheryl to provide an update on Broadband. Cheryl spoke about the work happening related to the pole survey. It seems to be going well. The Committee is now trying to find a hut location. It is being viewed as a piece of critical infrastructure.
5. A comment about where the floodplain is exactly was brought up, which the EMD said would be addressed in the Silver Jackets proposal to which Marguerite commented that there was an extensive flood study done by the Trans Canada/ Great River Hydro Company. She thinks the plan was better than the SilverJackets draft plan and recommends the EMD refer to it. Great River Hydro’s Matthew Cole should be able to provide it to the Town.

6. Sarah gave an update on shared services. Hawley and Charlemont were successful sharing Highway equipment. Heath and Charlemont Police are working together to look at what they can change/improve. Next, the Town wants to have the Fire Departments discuss whether there is any way to share equipment and training. We can learn to work together. If we can share resources, we can relieve the burden. If anyone has suggestions, please attend the meetings, or share with the Select Board. Heath does not have a Fire Chief. Fire Chief Doug Annear announced he is retiring. This town is not prepared to be the recreational capital. Find someone with a wide background to run the Ambulance and Fire departments, and oversee. The Select Board has been looking into whether we can also share an Animal Control Officer with Heath.
7. The Fire Chief stated that this Town has a lot of rules and regulations that are not being addressed right now. It should hire a full-time Ambulance/Fire Chief Director. There is a level of service that the Town is expected to have that it doesn't have right now. Housing is needed. Internet is needed. Doug has it set up so that if Charlemont can't get a crew, there are two other fire departments that will respond through mutual aid. The Town needs to be proactive. Regarding funding internet, though we have the \$1.7 out there, there is going to be a need for more funds. They can have Town money for the Emergency Services. These moving pieces all fit together. The Capital Planning Committee was put in place because too much was postponed. We're missing out on hundreds of thousands of dollars, not enforcing the rules and regulations of the Town, will cause the Town to be liable.
8. For the person to be on the Fire Department they need to be a first-responder, Fire Fighter 1 and 2. This was a yearlong training the last time the Fire Department went through it. The amount of continuing education training is too much if they're a volunteer. The first-responder bill had little support from western MA. Part of the problem is that there is little experience lobbying on this side of the State and neighboring towns that didn't understand that this bill would apply to all of the State. The Town needs to come up with next steps to make an impact on voting to approve the legislation.
9. Gisela gave an update for the Planning Board on unbuildable roads. There were 75 lots on Cherry Pearson, a private drive, which is little more than a goat path, that were subdivided. These properties were bought with the understanding that they could build, but they can't. What the Town will say is "yes you bought those lots, mistakenly assuming that they are buildable, because the road frontage is not up to minimum standards." To be approved as a potential ANR single building lot, you will need to build the road up to the minimum subdivision standards and then can apply for a permit." If the Town wanted to see more building going on, the Town could build the road, which can then be collected in the form of betterments. The Planning Board is working with the Assessors to see if when you buy a piece of land and are taxed for a building lot, but the lot is not buildable, is there anything that can be done. Potter Hill Extension is not in such bad shape and would take less money to build up the road. Mountain View Dr. was the first subdivision.
10. Gisela discussed trailers and maybe changing regulations. The Planning Board may need closer cooperation with the Board of Health (BOH). There is an increase in the number of trailers in town. What happens to the Title 5 and the water to these trailers. There are mushy regulations and not enforced regulations coming around to affect the Town. BOH is looking at Heath regulations.

11. The Board of Health discussed housing. One of the priorities of the Town was abandoned and distressed properties two years ago. To apply for the CBDG housing rehab grant, it would need to go in on a regional grant with neighboring towns. The work for the Board of Health is on the front end trying to get the Town to apply. HRA can do the windshield study using the DLTA funds. If the Town is unable to apply for February 2018, hopefully, it could apply in February 2019. Commercial housing would be eligible for signage and ADA compliance through the grant.
12. Sarah let the Boards/ Committees/ Commissions know that they are welcome to update their own web page, that one person from their Committee could designate themselves. This will be rolled out. There was a reminder to provide agendas and minutes to Kathy. If anyone is having trouble and needs to use a computer, there is one in Town Hall.
13. The next All Boards Meeting will be Thursday 1/11.
14. Marguerite discussed having the Ad Hoc Committee focus on a microgrid. Initially, Marguerite thought that if we were creating an MLP, we could create a grid through a public vs private enterprise. Are there business opportunities? If anyone has suggestions please let Marguerite know. Marguerite will not form the Committee.
15. There was a request to look into getting Caller ID at Town Hall.
16. The Capital Planning Committee will meet at 9/25 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Dean 9/15/17

Approved by the Select Board

Draft Minutes until approved by Select Board.

Documents viewed:

Elected Official Emergency Preparedness published by the FRCOG

Town of Charlemont: Special Event Permit Application

Town of Charlemont Civic Engagement: A Volunteer Handbook