

CHARLEMONT SELECT BOARD MEETING – CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL  
*Draft Minutes until approved by the Select Board*

March 14, 2016

Members Present: Beth Bandy, Chair, Toby Gould, Sarah Reynolds

Invited Guest: Jon Schaefer

1. The Meeting was called to order at 10:02am
2. Jon Schaefer will be meeting w Sec Jay Ash Friday 3/18. Jon invites the Select Board to submit list of needs from Town prior to meeting. Can the Town get Jon the list of bridges and their costs to repair?
3. Bridges discussion – get him the big picture. DOT has an obligation to point out that there's a problem, but Towns don't have money to repair or replace.
4. Discussed Economic development issues established by the Economic Development Roundtable - first hire a Town Administrator, the remains internet, water issues. Jon pointed out the new cell service improvements. Verizon shared with Berkshire East that all phones will be using the VOIP service in the next 2-3 years.
5. There was a discussion about Broadband and whether funds are available through the State, whether a repeater can be used. The question of whether a repeater would reach all residents was discussed.
6. Ambulance – Jon highlighted that we live in a phenomenal recreation area. The residents are a self-depreciating area, however the recreational community's reach is much further than it's ever been before, bringing in second home owners, and increasing the tax base over the next five years. In the meantime, hanging on by our shirttails. Recreation based economy will carry the Town forward. To help the Ambulance along, Jon suggests small fund raising ideas. He is willing to ask customers to donate to Emergency Services. He also encourages the Town to consider asking residents for optional insurance.
7. Jon would like to rent the Fairgrounds for a campground. Wouldn't want to compete with neighboring camps except when they're busiest. Last year Riverfest was given permission to have camping at the Fairgrounds, and they'll be doing it again this year. Permit requires square footage that the fairgrounds meet. 20% to the Town for all spots. Facility would be open to anyone. Berkshire East offering to run it, to coordinate reservations, and clean garbage. Take profit and responsibility. Benefits to using the Fairgrounds: water, sewer available. Select Board concerned about buy -in of other campgrounds, abutters, including access to the rest of the bike trail, sewer. What kind of infrastructure would be needed to support this.
8. Jon is looking at a future opportunity to establish a mountain bike trail network, see "mountain bikers fuel northeast kingdom" on the web. He would like to see Charlemont Hawley Trail System. The model would partner the Town with New England Mountain Bike Association and DCR, to become a nonprofit funded by day passes. The funds would cover the cost of the Emergency Services needed to respond to this increased recreation. Would need letter from the Town to DCR showing letters of support. It would ideally have a Select Board member designated to the management team. Paying to be part of the club, to use the trail. New England Mountain Bike Association holds all the insurance. Jon would need letter from the Town to DCR showing letters of support. It would ideally have a Select Board member designated to the management team. Paying to be part of the club, to use the trail. New England Mountain Bike

Association holds all the insurance. Jon mentioned that the Master Plan supports recreation.

9. The Select Board discussed how to bring this to the Town. They invited Jon to participate in an All Boards Meeting to introduce the idea. Reschedule All Boards Meeting for Tues the 29<sup>th</sup>. The next step would be to pull the structure together for the trail network.

Adjourned 11:24

Respectfully submitted by Peg Dean 3-15-16