

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Town of Charlemont

October 15, 2012
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The meeting was convened at 6:00 P.M. by Chairman Jean Brisson at the Shun Pike Rest Area. David Cunningham and Vaughn Tower also attended the meeting.

1. David Sherman and District 1 Director Peter Niles from MassDOT attended the meeting to discuss the condition of the rest area.
2. The Selectmen explained that during the summer months the rest area is full of litter left by river users, so much so that residents and their children spend time picking up trash left by visitors/users of the rest area. The condition of the rest area is an eye sore and reflects badly upon the Town.
3. Director Niles explained that 2 State employees, located at the State yard in the Town of Buckland are assigned the maintenance and care of State property from the Town of Florida to the City of Greenfield. The employees maintain the Shun Pike rest area on Mondays with mowing scheduled every 2 to 3 weeks.
4. The Selectmen expressed a need for trash barrels and porta potties within the rest area.
5. Director Niles stated that the State is willing to put out trash barrels and porta potties if the Town is willing to accept the responsibility of maintaining and emptying both.
6. Director Niles stated that some solutions to the trash problems are: police ticketing for litter, adopt-a-site by the Town or other organization, the State closing down the rest area as it is not a key site for the State, the Town take possession of the property.
7. Director Niles also stated that no one is allowed to generate revenue on State owned property.
8. Mr. Tower expressed his desire for two large pine trees located near the cemetery that are a hazard to the cemetery and should be removed.
9. Director Niles provided a map of the rest area boundary which showed the State owning only within the curb.
10. The Selectmen thanked both Director Niles and Mr. Sherman for coming out to discuss potential options.
11. The meeting was temporarily recessed in order for the Selectmen to travel to the Town Hall to continue their meeting.
12. At 7:00 P.M. the Board convened a pole hearing upon the request of National Grid, Plan # 12114417 to install a pole mid span along Heath Road (Route 8A North) in Charlemont. Bonnie Brown, Representative of National Grid, explained that a pole must be installed between a span to accommodate the heavier lines of MBI. As no abutters were in attendance to give testimony, the Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to grant the request.
13. The vendor and payroll warrants were signed.
14. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to approve and sign the Special Town Meeting Warrants.
15. The Board deferred approval of the September 24th minutes so they may be reviewed.
16. The Board received an MOU from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District to provide Transfer Station inspection service to the Town. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to approve and sign the MOU.
17. The Board received and read the FY 2014 capital items request letter and spreadsheet from the Finance Committee.

18. Emily Boss from the Franklin Land Trust attended the meeting to present and discuss an APR for the farm lands owned by the Healy Trust. Winston Healy also attended the meeting.
19. Ms Boss gave a brief history of the land ownership and explained that the Land Trust is asking the Town to support the APR. The Land Trust is also asking the Town to assist with a local match in funds. Ms Boss explained that if the Town can not assist with the full amount, the Healy Trust will fulfill the remaining obligation.
20. Ms Brisson explained that historically the Town has supported local APRs. In the past, the Selectmen have voted 1/3 of the amount that is currently in the Open Space Account to support local APRs.
21. Mr. Tower stated that he is not in support of APRs as the Town can not grow if properties in Charlemont are restricted.
22. Eric Dean stated that he does not agree with the Town using funds to support the APRs. Tax payers funds are already used by the State to pay for the restriction and taxpayers should not be asked to fund the restriction twice.
23. Ms Boss and Winston Healy were thanked for presenting the restriction to the Board.
24. Hawlemont School Committee members Beth Bandy, Eric Dean, and Ivy Palmer attended the meeting to discuss how the Town can assist the Hawlemont School with any parking issues they may have or foresee for the winter months.
25. Ms Palmer explained that the School Committee is not sure how long the Hawlemont Faculty will be able to use the parking lot at the Charlemont Inn and that the Park and Recreation Commission are not ready to allow parking on the tennis courts. Ms Palmer suggested removing the shrubbery on the outside of the tennis court woven fence might give the School additional parking.
26. Ms Bandy will bring this issue up at the next Hawlemont School Committee meeting and bring the Committee's ideas/concerns back to the Board.
27. A joint meeting with the Hawlemont School Committee, Park and Recreation Commission, and the Highway Superintendent is scheduled for Monday, October 29th at 8:00 P.M.
28. Ms Bandy informed the Board that teacher contract negotiations will be starting and the Selectmen will be given the opportunity to send a representative to the contract meetings.
29. Ms Palmer requested an update regarding the sex offender bylaw that was voted at the last Town Meeting.
30. It was explained that the AG's opinion of the bylaw was just received and a copy was given to Ms Palmer. The Board is currently waiting for Counsel's opinion before proceeding with the final approval step of posting the bylaw.
31. Ms Palmer suggested the Town notify all residents living within the 1250 feet of the Hawlemont School and the Academy at Charlemont of the bylaw.
32. Ms Palmer also suggested the Town have Counsel draft a sample rental application with the bylaw included to send to all rental property owners.
33. Ms Palmer asked for the status of the Town of Charlemont sign that used to stand at the entrance of the village. The Board explained that the sign deteriorated to the point of toppling over and another sign will need to be created. Suggested ways of creating another sign were discussed.
34. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to place Town Sign under old business of the agenda.
35. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to invite the Agricultural Commission to a meeting to discuss the status of the Commission.

36. Mr. Tower explained that the Fire Department received one quote for the repair of the fire truck and that quote is from a vendor that is out of State. Mr. Tower explained there are several, more local, vendors that are capable of repairing the fire truck that he feels the Fire Department should contact for a quote.
37. Ms Brisson and Mr. Tower held a lengthy conversation regarding the role of departmental liaisons with each Board member expressing differing opinions.
38. The Executive Secretary reported that the EMD has ordered the emergency radios that were voted at Town Meeting.
39. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to defer creating the All Board Meeting agenda until future meeting.
40. The Board unanimously voted, Ms Brisson – yes, Mr. Cunningham – yes, Mr. Tower – yes, to defer discussion of the transfer station poll until a future meeting.
41. The Board received a request from the Fire Department for another fax/telephone line at the Fire Station. Mr. Cunningham suggested the Fire Department use the free e-fax application for their faxing needs.
42. Mr. Tower reported that the first bridge on Maxwell Road has a safety issue and a barrier is needed. Mr. Cunningham will contact the Highway Department regarding this issue.
43. Mr. Cunningham reported that Irene repairs have been completed on South River Road.
44. Ms Brisson reported that the Transfer Station will be changing the direction of the traffic flow in the near future. This change will hopefully help with traffic congestion at the recycling stations and used items store.
45. The Board discussed the possibility of using the old compactor to compact the recyclables to reduce the number of times need for hauling, thus reducing the hauling costs.
46. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Approved by:
Charlemont Board of Selectmen

Kathy A. Reynolds
Executive Secretary

List of documents reviewed by the Board

Shun Pike map
Pole Hearing forms
Warrants
Special Town Meeting Warrants.
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District inspection MOU
FY 2014 capital items request letter and spreadsheet
Healy Trust APR
Attorney General's opinion regarding the sex offender bylaw
Additional telephone and fax request from the Fire Department