

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 7th, 2025, 6:00 pm

in person and via conference call, Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Charlemont MA

Members in attendance: Kim Blakeslee, Jared Bellows, Wilder Sparks

Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Ashley Sparks, Anne Kaplan, Bob Handsaker, Cheryl Handsaker, Star Atkeson

Jared Bellows called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Appointments:**

6PM – Hawlemont School Committee RE: appoint Ashley Sparks to vacant seat

The Board spoke to Ashley Sparks and Anne Kaplan about Ashley's interest in joining the school committee. She has been involved, having done 2 terms with the LEC; she has a child at the school, and has training in early childhood education. The Committee is very happy that she came forward. Wilder will abstain from the vote as he is married to Ashley Sparks.

**Jared Bellows made a motion to appoint Ashley Sparks to vacancy in the school committee. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. Kim Blakeslee—yes, Jared Bellows—yes**

**Administrators Report:**

1) Report from panel participation on Rural School Funding Bill June 25<sup>th</sup>

Sarah talked about her participation on a panel in Boston regarding rural school funding. She went over the points of the Natalie Blais' proposed bill ( H.517 – An Act to provide a sustainable future for rural schools) All in all it was a positive experience. People asked good questions. There will be an opportunity to write letters in support of the Act later.

2) Cybersecurity Grant Next Steps -set up a tabletop exercise, Multi Factor Authentication progress

The consultants will have town staff and board members use a multi factor authentication system to get into the email program They will do tabletop exercises on how to spot phishing and spam. There are a few methods for the Multi factor authentication system including a usb device, an app, or use of personal cell phone.

3) Report on Vocational Education Advisory Committee Meeting- Number of Charlemont Students needing transportation update

There are 4 more students this year, 13 in all. 12 will go to Franklin Tech, and 1 to Smith. 11 students will use the bus.

**Liaison Reports:**

**\*\* 1) Report from Planning Board Hearing about the Oxbow Motel**

Travis DeCere had a special permit hearing. Kim had previously been involved, during a BOH meeting and let him know the bind he put the Town with his "cart before the horse" sequencing in the Oxbow property renovation. She felt good to show up there as the SB representative. He got the Special Permit to change the classification of two back buildings from R-1 transient to R-2 non-transient.

**Agenda items:**

1) Memorandum of Understanding for FY 26 Services with the Franklin County Solid Waste District  
The Board talked about the transfer station. It saves money when Thorne schedules tandem hauling.

Three MOUs are to be signed annually:

- hauling of recyclables and disposal of solid waste; bulky wastes; scrap metal and appliances (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026;)
- regional household hazardous waste collection event with conditions (September 20, 2025)
- and regarding third-party inspection of transfer station

**Jared Bellows made a motion to approve all of the Franklin County Solid Waste District Memorandums of Understanding. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**

2) Special Event Application for the Eastern States Cup Mountain Bike Race August 9th and 10th 2025. This is an FYI and does not need Selectboard approval, parks and Rec saw it and emergency services saw it. They aren't using Warfield Road this year

3) Day Liquor License for Stars and Stripe Car show on July12, 2025, rain date of July 13, 2025.  
**Jared Bellows made a motion to issue the day liquor license for Stars and Stripe Car show on July12, 2025, rain date of July 13, 2025. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**

4) Issue Liquor License for Hinata Retreat LLC, 133 Warfield Road Charlemont MA

The ABCC approved the license for issue. (The hearing was in April)

**Jared Bellows made a motion to issue the liquor license for Hinata LLC. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.**

5) \*\* Review and Approve updates to the Broadband Drop policy

Cheryl and Bob gave the Board the updated drop policy draft. The subsidy for first time installation has been increased from \$500.to \$700.

**Jared Bellows made a motion to approve the updated Broadband Drop policy. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.**

**Approve and Sign:**

1) Minutes of June 23,2025.

**Kim Blakeslee motion to accept the Minutes of June 23,2025 as written. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.**

1) Payroll and Vendor Warrants

**Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the payroll and vendor warrants. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**

2) Dead River Contract for Town Hall Fuel Oil

**Jared Bellows made a motion to approve Dead River Contract for Town Hall Fuel Oil  
Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**

3) Legate Hill Bridge Contract and Signatory Form

**Jared Bellows made a motion to sign the Legate Hill Bridge Contract and Signatory Form. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor**

**Jared Bellows made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor**

Documents reviewed in meeting

- Agenda for July 7, 2025
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- Charlemont connect service connection and installation policy June 30, 2025, in progress draft
- A copy of H.517 – An Act to provide a sustainable future for rural schools, from Natalie Blais’ office
- Email from Thorne Palmer to Sarah Reynolds re: Ashley Sparks School Committee Appointment dated June 24, 2025
- Email from Sarah Reynolds to Dave Fierro re’’: End of year transfers dated July 1, 2025
- Contractor Authorized Signatory Forms
- Franklin County Solid Waste Management District memorandum of understanding, hauling of recyclables and disposal of solid waste; bulky wastes; scrap metal and appliances July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
- Franklin County Solid Waste Management District memorandum of understanding, regional household hazardous waste collection event with conditions September 20, 2025; Attachment A, hazardous waste collection budgets by town.
- Franklin County Solid Waste Management District memorandum of understanding—third party inspection of transfer station
- Special event permit application Eastern States Cup, Thule Showdown Series Race August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.