

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 2nd, 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, Jeff Nielsen, Lida Forbes, Star Atkeson

Jared Bellows called the meeting to order at PM.

Appointments:

6PM – Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.148, §13, notice is hereby given that the Charlemont Select Board will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday September 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 157 Main Street, Charlemont Massachusetts, on an application submitted by Hinata Retreat Realty, LLC to store 12,000 gallons of liquefied petroleum gas (propane) in aboveground storage tanks for use on land situated at 200 Warfield Road Charlemont MA 01339.

Jared read the hearing notice. This will be a yearly license. With the amount for residences, cabins and restaurant it is over the threshold, requiring a license. If the quantity is changed, they will have to come back. Sarah asked Jeff to bring a map with the location of the propane.

Every 3 cabins will have their own propane tank which will be on timers.

Jared Bellows made a motion to grant the license. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

Administrators Report:

- 1) Discussion on Recreation Earmark Money Project - Playground at Hawlemont School
Amber got 3 quotes and one in writing. \$68,000. was the lowest bid. The procurement piece was done correctly. They went over the different ways of funding again. The playground will stay on site and will be the property of the Town of Charlemont.

Jared Bellows made a motion to move forward with spending \$60,000 of recreation earmark for the Hawlemont School playground. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

**** 2) Recap of meeting with Rowe about Fire Chief Position, while waiting on Fire District Legislation, set up date for a joint meeting with the Rowe Selectboard about shared Fire Chief**

Neither town can afford a full-time fire chief. One town will need to be the lead town, to deal with benefits. Charlemont will meet with Rowe on Monday, October 6th at 6 PM.

Agenda items:

- 1) Community Solar Electrical aggregation program for Low Income Residents – Program details from Colonial Power, follow up on contract questions
Wilder and Sarah communicated with the community Solar aggregation program, and couldn't get answers to important questions. There were scenarios where the Town could be liable to pay the subsidy if the provider changed.
Jared Bellows made a motion to not enter into contract with Colonial Power. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 2) Deerfield River Wild and Scenic follow up, answers to questions asked at August 4th meeting
The Board is still waiting for answers. Sarah asked around with the bridge professionals she works with and with massDOT, and there is some concern. Sarah provided some information that she found while doing research, for the Board to read.

Wilder reiterated his misgivings about the omission of the federal oversight language. Kim would like to give Christopher Curtis a chance to come back with the answers he promised. Jared thinks it would be worth talking to Town Counsel.

- 3) Curb cut application Potters Road Extension lot number one
Highway and police are fine with the curb cut.

Wilder Sparks made a motion to sign off on the curb cut since the necessary departmental people signed off on it. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

**** 4) Hampshire Group Insurance Trust information from questions and answers asked by Franklin Regional Council of Governments about rate hikes and possible meetings about future health insurance alternatives**
There will be follow up meetings. There is a letter from Marguerite Willis about it. There is currently enough money in the budget if an employee picks up health insurance. Jared will help Sarah with it. There will be more discussion about other alternatives.

Approve and Sign:

- 1) Minutes of August 18, 2025. Minutes were not ready for this meeting
- 2) Payroll and Vendor Warrants **Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign payroll and vendor warrants. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**
- 3) KP Law Invoice 154701 **Jared Bellows made a motion to pay KP Law invoice 154701. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**

**** 4) Town Administrator vacation request Jared Bellows made a motion to grant vacation request. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.**

Documents reviewed in meeting

- Agenda of September 2, 2025
- Propane License for 13 Warfield Road
- Email from Rowe Administrator Brooke Shulda to Sarah Reynolds re: Joint Meeting Dates dated August 29, 2025
- Municipal Bridge Projects, MGL Chapter 85 Section 35 Review Process
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation and Infrastructure Projects
- NOAA Fisheries, Frequent Questions – Section 7 and the Cooperative Interagency Process in the greater Atlantic Region
- Section 7 Flowchart FERC hydro projects
- Questions, Answers and follow up questions between FRCOG and HGIT
- Letter to Selectboard and Town Administrator from Marguerite Willis re: Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust dated August 16, 2025
- Town Admin Vacation request
- Letter to Town of Charlemont from Henry Corroon, Sun Property Group re: Rte 8A Warner Hill Rd.