

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 12th, 2026, 6:00 pm

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

Members in attendance: Kim Blakeslee, Wilder Sparks

Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Thorne Palmer, Star Atkeson, Cheryl Handsaker, Bob Handsaker, Rich Filoramo, Madison Schofield

Kim Blakeslee, Chair of this meeting, called the January 12th Select Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Appointments:

6:00 pm- Town Clerk, Thorne Palmer Re: Election Seats for local election

Thorne will make papers available on January 27th due back on April 28th for anyone who wants to run for a seat. He had submitted a list of seats that are open for reelection. There will also be a list of names and seats of people who need to be reappointed by early February.

Bob suggested making the moderator position a 3-year term. Town Meeting could accept the act which changed the position to a 3 yr. term. Thorne will look into it and put it on the warrant

Administrators Report:

1) Unpaved Roads Grant Application Sarah worked with Scott and put in for one grant application for a mud spot on West Oxbow, and one to replace the loader, which will be due for replacement in another year. (Usually replaced every ten years.)

2) Capital Items Request, Bridges and Cemeteries Usually Sarah requests \$20,000 to cover town portion of bridge costs, this year it'll be a bit more for the temporary and permanent easement work. It's needed for two state bridges and the Legate Hill replacement.

There will also need to be money for maintaining the cemeteries. The people who volunteered to mow for free can't do it anymore. And it needs to be done more often, 2x a month from May until September, as well as a cleanup in the spring and fall, costing \$6,000.

Sarah will talk to Capital Planning and fill out the capital planning sheet.

3) Short Term Rental numbers currently have 24 non-owner-occupied operating. There is one available license left, assuming that all current STRs want to relicense.

4) District Local Technical Assistance Request Forms from Franklin Regional Council of Governments Two of the suggested funding activities are already being prioritized for Charlemont. Meetings have started for The West County EMS regionalization (page 5,) as well as the roadway speed study. (unless it is thickly settled, speed limit is 40 mph.) The Board can bring the list home and look over all the options.

Liaison Reports:

1) Resident interest in forming a committee to independently evaluate the work of the 2D8T steering committee, impacts of the proposals, and options around the idea of regionalization and school districting. Wilder had spoken to Jake Eberwein of 2D8T who had advised that Towns evaluate and look at for themselves what the impact of the 2D8T recommendations would be on various aspects of the

town. Some people that were on the committee were not confident about some of the projections, as the input may have been with incorrect data, and made it seem like it would be worth it to have a second look. An incomplete list, Wilder said, included: property values, lost social benefits, loss of MSBA grants, the value of the school structure versus the cost of retrofitting in the floodplain. Sarah suggested forming the committee to study it. They would like to have broad representation among a small group of people settling on around 5 people. Bob Handsaker likes the idea and suggests they not put a cap on the number of people on the committee, as long as there is structure around it.

Kim Blakeslee made a motion to move forward with creating a committee to independently evaluate the work of the 2D8T steering committee, impacts of the proposal and options around the idea of regionalization and school districting. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

**A resident asked Kim to update the Town website a bit with winter recreation photos. Sarah's daughter Kristen Martin is a talented photographer and has contributed many of the photos that are on the website. Sarah will ask her if she can take some winter pictures. The resident also thought some activities were inaccurately described. However, it is true that it is the Select Boards's responsibility to "give license for Sunday dances," still.

Agenda items (Discussion/Vote):

- 1) Work on Selectboard Budget for FY 27. Kim went over a few questions she had on the budget. The Town wide fuel can come down this year. Less police staff has meant less driving. She would like to raise the Town Hall building maintenance line. She mentioned the plan for the elevator. Wilder doesn't see the connection between the town maintenance line and the elevator project which will cost more than 1 million. Sarah is still working on stacking grants towards that project. Kim thinks it could be worthwhile to present what they want to accomplish in so many years, the elevator project and the bathroom renovations, for example.
- 2) Cannabis Community Host Agreements and policies. Sarah gave the Board a copy of a simple Equity policy, they can review it and vote next time. Wilder gave some background on what the State wants to accomplish with this. They can vote to approve the bare minimum to satisfy the State.
- 3) Change order for Tri-Town landfill monitoring for years 2026,2027, and 2028 **Kim Blakelee made a motion to accept and sign the change order for the Tri-Town landfill monitoring for years 2026,2027, and 2028 as read by Sarah Reynolds, Town Administrator. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**
- 4) Comstar 2026 Rate Change Form for ambulance billing service
The prices have gone up.. **Kim Blakelee made a motion to accept the rate change as read. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**
- 5) Third Party Inspection Report for the Transfer Station. A letter of inspection came from Jan Ameen. A third-party inspection was done at the Transfer Station. They met the signage requirements. There had been a washout. **Kim Blakeslee made a motion to sign the Third-Party inspection report as read. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**
- **6) Transfer Station buy recycled policy change to buy sustainable policy to meet DEP grant requirement
This is something the Town does anyways, but now it will be called the "sustainable purchase policy." **Kim Blakelee made a motion to approve and sign the sustainable purchase policy. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**

Approve and Sign:

- 1) Minutes of December 29, 2025 Kim pointed out a change that should be made to the liaison reports section regarding the BOH hearing. **Wilder Sparks made a motion to approve the Minutes with the discussed changes made to the BoH hearing section of the December 29th Minutes. Kim Blakelee seconded the motion. All in favor.**

- 2) Payroll and Vendor Warrants **Kim Blakelee made a motion to approve and sign the payroll and Vendor warrants. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.**

Kim Blakelee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

Documents reviewed in meeting

- Agenda of January 12, 2026
- Minutes of December 29th, 2025
- Charlemont Town Offices Up for Election on June 2nd, 2026
- Town of Charlemont, Office of the Select Board, Sustainable Purchasing Policy, dated January 12, 2026
- Letter from Jan Ameen (Franklin County Solid Waste Management District) to Transfer Station Towns, dated December 9, 2025, re: 3rd Party Inspection report
- Mass DEP Bureau of Waste Prevention. Solid Waste Management third part inspection report page 1/14-5/14, 12/14-14/14, and transfer station facility page of pictures dated 10/15/2025
- Recycling Services Agreement dated 1/12/2026 between Town of Charlemont and Casella Recycling, 8 pages.
- Comstar Ambulance Billing Service, Town of Charlemont Ambulance 2026 Rate Change form dated effective on 1/12/26
- 2026 District Local Technical Assistance Request Form from Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- Town of Charlemont —Host Community Equity Plan
- Letter from CEC Civil and Environmental Consultants Inc to Heath, Charlemont and Hawley re: Change Order-MassDEP Post-Closure Monitoring Tri-Town landfill Three Years Monitoring and One Semi-Annual Insection for: Calendar Years 2026,2027, 2028 DSWM File # 6-130-001 CEC Project 172-022, 6 pages, dated January 5, 2026