

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 27th, 2026, 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, Star Atkeson, Liam Creegan, Johnny Depin, Andy Mathey, Dave O'Neil

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

Appointments:

6:00 pm – Liam Cregan RE: Conservation Restriction for 30 acres of land on South Road in Heath and South Heath Road in Charlemont.

Liam gave background on the property and the benefits of the program. It's mostly steep woodlands, three streams turn into Hartwell Brook. The Board believed there would be no detriment to the town by approving the conservation restriction. It has been presented to and signed off by the Conservation Commission.

Kim Blakeslee made a motion to approve the conservation restriction; Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

****6:30 pm – Dave O'Neil RE: West County Outdoor Recreation Development Plan, trail network**

- Local Mountain Bike enthusiasts Dave and Andy of West County Trail Association and West County Back Trail Alliance presented a PowerPoint to the Select Board about a proposal to connect bike trails together through the Hilltowns.
- They would like Charlemont to be a Trail hub, and emphasized the economic development aspect of their idea, thinking patrons of the trails would spend some time and money in Charlemont.
- They plan to meet with people from the State and FRCOG, and gauge support from municipalities, do landowner outreach and education.
- Kingdom Trails in Vermont is funded by 1.5 M a year of donations and grants. (and creates 10.3 mil a year of economic activity in the region)
- They talked about trail building standards that would be used.
- Wilder brought the issue up that 61A and B designation would reduce revenue for the town.
- The plan is to connect existing trails.
- They talked about preventing "Amenity traps"
- Possibly interested in some joint grant writing efforts to build an amenity, for example, with the town. There are grants that are available to Towns.
- The Select Board agreed that they are receptive to the idea.
- The pair will talk to Heath, Hawley, Colrain, Rowe, and Ashfield next.

Administrators Report:

- 1) Shunpike Porta Potties Quotes, does selectboard want to fund and how? Discuss and vote
Kim Blakeslee made a motion to fund the Shunpike porta potties (\$2,000) with the recreation grant. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 2) Does Selectboard want to do a pre town meeting information and candidates' night? Discuss Scheduling.
The Info session will be scheduled for Monday May 18th at 6:00 PM at the school.
- 3) Report on recreation meeting held Monday April 13 at Berkshire East

Sarah went to 413 Day at Berkshire East, where there was a presentation about economics, what's working and what is not. The office of recreation is 2 years old. They are still taking input, Sarah will forward the email- the river signs didn't work, towns can still send input about concerning things, like dam releases and river safety, i.e., life jacket requirements, etc.

Liaison Reports:

- 1) School assessment error next steps from April 16th meeting
Kim and Sarah went to the School committee meeting. Wilder has an appointment to talk about an earmark at John Gould's Buckland office tomorrow, he'll ask if he can get a meeting with Paul Mark as well. Mohawk supports this. And they will provide the accounting that Mohawk provided. **Did Bill Lataille accompany Wilder?**

Agenda items (Discussion/Vote):

- 1) Business Associate Agreement for Ambulance Billing Collections Company
This is a Standard 3-year agreement that allows ambulance billing service to do collections. Comstar uses them.
Jared Bellows made a motion to accept and sign the agreement. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 2) Modification of the April 13, 2026, National Grid Pole Location approval for North Heath Road, conditions of approval. National Grid pointed out, and Town Counsel agreed that the Select Board cannot put the stipulations on the motion. Wilder remembered it differently, that they were asking for a conversation around it.
Jared Bellows made a motion to approve the pole location on North Heath Road with no stipulations. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approve and Sign:

- 1) Minutes of March 23,2026 and April 13,2026, and April 16,2026
Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the minutes. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 2) Payroll and Vendor Warrants
Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the payroll and vendor. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 3) KPLaw Invoice
This was regarding a filing with the registry of deeds
Kim Blakeslee made a motion to approve the invoice. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

Jared Bellows made a motion to adjourn @ 7:35 PM. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

Documents reviewed in the meeting:

- Vermont bike association packet 4 pages
- email to Sarah Reynolds from Jessica Atwood dated April 21, 2026 regarding price quote; read: Shunpike rest area
- Email to Sarah Reynolds from Paul Jahnige dated April 14, 2026 regarding 413 Outdoor Recreation session
- Grant of conservation restriction Elizabeth Behl and Stephen Amter to Franklin Land Trust, Inc. 27 pages