

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 17th, 2026, 6:00 pm
in person and via conference call, Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Charlemont MA

Members in attendance: Wilder Sparks, Jared Bellows

Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Kyle Sweeney, Jim Galeas, Aalianna Marietta

On phone: Star Atkeson, Kim Blakeslee

Administrators Report:

1) Tennis Court Construction update

Sarah updated the board on the progress. The plantings will need to be watered after being planted.

Wilder volunteered to check with Amber and help design a simple irrigation system.

There was a choice about what to plant near the tables. Eastern redbud (a pink flowering tree) service berry or crabapple. They chose to exclude the crabapple because it would drop fruit, rot, and attract bees.

Agenda items (Discussion/Vote):

1) State Primary Warrant from Town Clerk, approve and sign

Jared Bellows made a motion to Approve and Sign the State Warrant. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor, Kim Blakeslee—Aye.

2) Body Worn Camera Policy for Police

- Kyle presented the proposed body-worn camera policy and welcomed feedback or amendments from the Select Board. He noted that the policy is based on state recommendations and is supported by all police officers.
- Kim noted some areas of redundancy and emphasized officer safety, documentation, and liability concerns. She also raised questions about privacy and when officers may turn cameras on or off.
- The Board discussed accountability provisions, including the requirement that cameras remain in standby mode while officers are actively on duty, with a 30-second pre-recording feature. Exceptions include bathroom breaks. Officers may stop recording in a private residence at an occupant's request, unless recording is required pursuant to a warrant. Requests to stop recording, including any denial, must be documented.
- The Board discussed retention and oversight of recordings. The Police Chief will maintain recordings using a system compliant with Massachusetts law. An evidence log will document recordings, including those subsequently deleted, and the logs will be subject to regular audits, including audits involving the Chief.
- Jim Galeas said that people will be informed when they are being recorded. The Board discussed the use of recordings for internal officer training. Kyle noted that recordings involving juveniles or other protected information would be appropriately flagged or redacted, and recordings related to active investigations would not be publicly released.
- Wilder asked whether the police department supported the policy. Kyle confirmed that the officers support it and said the policy follows state guidelines. He described body cameras as an important tool for protecting officers and members of the public, particularly during more serious incidents.

Jared Bellows recused himself from the vote.

Wilder Sparks made a motion to approve the Body Worn camera policy. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor, Kim Blakeslee—Aye.

- 3) Vote to give Assessors authorization to enter into contract and execute all portions of the contract, with Catalis for software voted at town meeting through the order form document Catalis sent to the Assessors.

The assessors had been given an order form to sign, not the actual contract. The Select Board is the authorizing body to sign contracts.

Jared Bellows made a motion to Vote to give Assessors authorization to enter into contract and execute all portions of the contract, with Catalis for software voted at town meeting through the order form document Catalis sent to the Assessors. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor, Kim Blakeslee—Aye.

- 1) Cannabis Material for Website Sarah got the policy, application and other documents needed for a cannabis community host agreement. It has been looked over by town council. They are templated forms from the CCC. **Wilder Sparks made a motion to authorize Sarah's request to put on website. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor, Kim Blakeslee—Aye.**

Approve and Sign:

- 1) Minutes of August 3, 2026
Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the Minutes of August 3rd. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor, Kim Blakeslee—Aye.
- 2) 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, Kim Blakeslee—Aye.

Jared Bellows made a motion to adjourn at 6:26 PM. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor. Kim Blakeslee—Aye.

Documents reviewed in the meeting:

- Agenda for August 17, 2026
- Minutes from August 3, 2026
- Email from Andy@greenspacecollaborative.org dated August 17th re planting plan questions
- Town of Charlemont Cannabis Host Community Agreement Application Procedures/ application scoring form/ host community agreement application/
- Letter to Select Board from Kyle Sweeney, Interim Chief of Police re: Charlemont police: Body Worn Cameras
- Body worn cameras Operation Standards R.1 - R.6.5 and definitions