

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 3rd, 2026, 6:00 pm
in person and via conference call, Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Charlemont MA

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

Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson, Rob Greene, Carla Lagrossa, Madison Schofield, Chris Goodhind

Jared Bellows opened the meeting at 6:00.

6pm – Pole Hearing In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166, of the Massachusetts General Laws, a public hearing will be held on Monday, August 3, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Charlemont Town Hall, 157 Main Street Charlemont Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public ways: Maxwell Rd - National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Maxwell Rd beginning at a point approximately 1,310 ft southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Davenport Rd and Tatro Rd. National Grid to install one SO 35ft Class 4 stub pole. Pole to be numbered 82-84 and for the purpose of support for P82 with the removal of one tree guy wire There may be attached to said poles such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

Jared Bellows opened the hearing and went over the rules.

Rob Greene of National Grid explained that the hearing is for one pole, to replace a dead tree that a tree guide wire was attached to. Carla Lagrossa, an abutter, sought confirmation that the work could be done from the road. The larger project includes the replacement of 5 poles. The Select Board wanted no discussion on anything other than the one pole in question. Rob confirmed it could be done from the road and confirmed that he would need to notify an abutter appropriately if there was no access to the pole.

Jared Bellows closed the hearing at 6:09.

Jared Bellows made a motion to grant National Grid the request to install 1 SO pole on Maxwell Road. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

Administrators Report:

- 1) State Owned Land Listening Session July 16 at Franklin Regional Council of Governments – Follow up
The State is asking for input, they know the formula is broken. Jared is happy to fill out the form to give input. Wilder has sent it around already and will send it around again.
Charlemont gets less than \$20 an acre. The Average is 114\$ an acre. County average is \$42.
- 2) EV Charger power at Tennis Court
This will be happening soon. The timing worked out well for this project as the tennis courts are being redone.
- 3) Update to our ADA transition plan and Grant work toward Elevator project at town hall
FRCOG will use the Technical Assistance funding to do an ADA plan for Town Hall (Sarah having done the elevator feasibility plan) and then Charlemont will be eligible for grant opportunities to move forward. Someone from the UMass Collins Center reached out about the possible grant.
- 4) Police Chief advertisement update, information to send to Municipal Resources
Shawn Kelly, the person working on the police chief hire, sent out an email asking what is important to Charlemont for the position, and for specific questions to ask the police chief candidates. There were comments; communication is key, as well as the ability to get along with all the other departments and emergency services.

Agenda items (Discussion/Vote):

- 1) Appoint Chris Goodhind Fire Chief - his paperwork is completed
The Fire Chief paperwork has been completed. The contract looks good. Rowe needs to check a few things.

Chris Goodhind invited the Selectboard to sit down and talk to them about their vision for The Fire Department and for Public Safety. Kim Suggested that they could speak at the 6-month point to see how its going.

There was clarification that having the Fire Chief be the Emergency Management Director was more effective than having two separate positions.

Jared Bellows made the motion to approve Chris Goodhind to be Charlemont's Fire Chief and to sign the contract. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

- 2) Trail project ideas from Andy Mathey, trails near Tea Street Extension and the Fairgrounds
Andy Mathey and WMass Backcountry Alliance are looking into starting a few trails: a Tea Street Extension Trail and a trail to the fairgrounds. Creating a trail to the fairgrounds was on the Open Space and Recreation plan. The Select board is supportive of their trail building efforts.
- 3) Franklin County Solid Waste District FY 27 memorandums of understanding for all district services.
This is the same agreement signed every year.
Jared Bellows made a motion to approve the FY27 solid waste Memorandum of Understanding. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 4) Regional Dog Shelter Agreement from Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Jared Bellows made a motion to approve the regional dog shelter annual agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 5) ** Unforeseen within the last 48 hours: DESE
Wilder and Amy Wales think it's important to more information from DESE to tie up loose ends with the 2023 assessment error. Wilder will talk to Bill Lataille so that they are acting in unison to help sort it out. Jared supports the information request.
- 6) ** Unforeseen within the last 48 hours: Carlene Hayden vacation request
Jared Bellows made a motion to approve Carlene Hayden's vacation request, and Sarah Reynolds day request. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approve and Sign:

- 1) Minutes of July 13,2026
Wilder Sparks made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 13, 2026. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 2) Payroll and Vendor Warrants
Jared Bellows made a motion to approve and sign the payroll and vendor warrants. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

** Unforeseen within the last 48 hours: The Assessor's contract needs to be signed by the Select Board Chair. Town Meeting approved it. Jared signed it.

Jared Bellows made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 PM. Wilder Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor.

Documents reviewed in the meeting:

- Agenda for August 3, 2026
- Minutes from July 13, 2026
- Email to Sarah Reynolds from Carlene Hayden dated July 31, 2026 re: vacation request
- Email to Sarah Reynolds from Andy Mathy dated July 20, 2026 re: info on a couple project ideas (trails)
- Key Data questions for DESE sheet
- PILOT 101 Brief July Listening session, 4 pages