

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
SELECTBOARD MEETINGS
OCTOBER 23, 2006**

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eleanor Russell, Chairperson; Jenny Cole, Charles Russell, Ed Stone. (Absent: Frank Thornton)

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Selectboard Assistant.

OTHERS: Ed Finkbeiner, Jack Stetson, Roberta Stetson, Wooksang Roh, Tom Mansfield, John Paul Bettencourt, Bonnie Heaslip, Barbara Anderson, Clem Baker, Deborah Sachs, Linda Hamilton, Larry Hamilton, Rachel Gill, Charlotte Citizen; John Hammer, Charlotte News; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Russell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Agenda items were added to the Selectboard Update: VELCO Hearing Update; Budget Schedule, Thorpe Barn Funding, Trash Burning Enforcement Officer.

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF 08/28/2006

MOTION by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Stone, to approve the minutes of 09/25/2006 as written, with the following corrections/additions:

Globally correct the spelling of the names "Finkbeiner" and "Marty Illick".
Page 4, 4th paragraph, Mr. Stone reiterated "...that he strongly recommended not to ask for an advisory vote by Australian ballot.", and delete the section reading "...as per the Town's Attorney's memo."; change a sentence by Ms. Russell to read "...as regards affordable housing"; change to read "Mr. Russell called the question."

VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 absent (Mr. Thornton); motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Stone, to approve the minutes of 10/04/2006 as written.

VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 absent (Mr. Thornton); motion carried.

5. INTERVIEW WOOKSANG ROH FOR RECREATION COMMISSION

Wooksang Roh appeared before the Board regarding an opening on the Recreation Commission. The Selectboard interviewed and reviewed the candidate's qualifications.

The Board thanked Mr. Roh for volunteering.

6. JOHN AND ROBERTA STETSON – REQUEST FOR CLOTHES WASHING MACHINE ON THOMPSON'S POINT

John Stetson, Thompson's Point camp owner, explained a request for a connection to the Charlotte Wastewater system for one washing machine. There was an existing capped road connection from 1995 that was grandfathered for a future use.

Mr. Stetson submitted a photograph of a capped connection and POD for the two Stetson lots and a copy of an Indirect Discharge permit, dated 06/20/2003. Mr. Stetson explained a sewage calculation for a hookup for a high efficiency 14 gallon per wash front loading machine. Total additional gallon use of the washer was calculated at 28 gallons per week. The previous total discharge used was 5,980 gallons, which was 18 percent of the camp's allotment.

Mr. Stetson read a definition of "domestic sanitary waste" and contended that included use of a clothes washing machine. Currently, washing clothes involved a 26-mile road round trip.

There was discussion regarding a definition of "domestic sanitary waste"; a search of Town ordinances for allowable uses, which did not include clothes washing machines for Thompson's Point; Board concerns related to increased flows to the Charlotte Wastewater System; an appendix to the ordinance related to extra connections (Mr. Stetson noted that the deed of the camp included two hookups and a state permit that included three hookups, which indicated that there was an error in the Town records); and a current combined usage of Thompson's Point that was at one-third of the maximum capacity of the system of 3,640,000 gallons.

Mr. Stone asked if two washes per week would impact the system. If common sense was applied then the issue was about gray water. Ms. Russell said the concern was the number of camps (112) on Thompson's Point and the impact to the waste water system. In order to allow clothes washing machines the ordinance would need to be amended.

Ms. Cole asked how many of the camps already had washers that the Town didn't know about.

Tom Mansfield, Zoning Administrator and Health Officer, explained that the wastewater system included three mounds. Only one mound could be used per day for 20,000 gallons per day, and then flows would alternate to a second mound, and so on. More research was required to know what capacity the system could handle, said Mr. Mansfield. Mr. Stetson pointed out that the state has said that the system has not reached 20,000 gallons per day. Mr. Mansfield replied that were certain times at the peak of the season, such as July 4th, where it was close to the 20,000 gallonage. The Zoning Board of Adjustment has denied a hookup for a clothes washer and if the state and Town approved the applicant's request then more requests would be expected. The Town would need to go to the state to amend an Indirect Discharge permit. The state has a written procedure, but there was no written procedure on the Town level. It was not as simple as an approval by the Selectboard. There would be 1,568 gallons per day if everyone on Thompson's Point used a washer on the same day.

There was further discussion on how use holders paid for water (via a water bill and a one time meter fee); and a suggestion that a usage inventory was needed at the Thompson's Point.

7. DISCUSSION OF SPEED LIMITS ON GREENBUSH ROAD AND MT PHILO ROAD

Ms. Russell reviewed requests received regarding control of vehicle speeds on Mt Philo Road and Greenbush Road. There have been previous discussions on setting speed limits of 40 mph on both roads, except where there was a 25 mph limit in the Village.

Bonnie Heaslip, a 14-year Mt Philo Road resident, spoke in favor of a 40-mph speed limit. Traffic has increased and vehicles were going faster. A son was a CVU student that has to walk on Mt Philo Road to Lime Kiln Road to catch the school bus in the dark both in the morning and evening. It was a very dangerous road.

Barbara Anderson, Mt Philo Road resident, stated that cars passed each other right in front of her house. She couldn't get the paper or mail because it was too dangerous crossing the road.

A man, a Mt Philo Road resident, spoke in favor of a lower speed limit. Going north at #1800 there were a number of driveways that entered onto Mt Philo Road. At the top of the hill at the Morgan horse farm people would speed up.

Ed Finkbeiner asked if there have been any fatalities. There was one motorcyclist that would speed at 100-80 mph. The police can't catch him, stated Mr. Finkbeiner.

Mr. Russell read procedures to amend ordinances from the Vermont League of Towns and Cities handbook for Selectboards.

Mr. Stone suggested that the Town post the road speed limit at 40 mph, then follow the process and adopt an amended ordinance.

8. ENERGY TASK FORCE AND 10% CHALLENGE

Deborah Sachs, 10% Challenge Project representative, explained programs to reduce emissions, increase energy efficiency programs, such as a Burlington residential and commercial project to increase lighting savings, a "Way to Go" Commuter Challenge, and a Farm Waste-capturing program. A Charlotte Town Hall energy efficiency survey was conducted recently. Towns could establish goals/objectives in sections of a Town Plan.

Mr. Stone said that the Town Plan was undergoing a review. It would be helpful to have suggestions in writing that the Planning Commission could review. Mr. Bloch pointed out that goals/objectives could be added to the Town Plan. Ms. Sachs said that regarding implementation, a Burlington Climate Action Plan looked at sustainability. Zoning and Subdivision bylaws could be amended. For example; to orient a building to the south for

solar gain, glazing, flooring, etc. Texas expected to zone construction of net-zero energy homes by 2015.

Larry Hamilton said that the 10% Challenge for Charlotte shouldn't include transient Route 7 traffic. More members were needed for the Charlotte Energy Task Force Committee. The committee was seeking Selectboard support.

Linda Hamilton reviewed an Energy Efficiency town building survey that included recommendations.

Ms. Russell pointed out that if the committee was an official Town committee then the committee must meet open meeting law requirements.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Russell, to formerly recognize the Charlotte Energy Task Force Committee, the 10% Challenge and Efficiency Vermont program and other programs, and to support the work of the committee.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Russell asked if the Task Force was already created. Ms. Hamilton replied that it was a standing committee of the Conservation Commission. The committee would be more careful of the open meeting law, and post the minutes of meetings on the Town website.

Mr. Hamilton said that reports were made to the Senior Center and Library boards. The Town could be helpful in getting those groups to take the recommendations more seriously.

VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 absent (Mr. Thornton); motion carried.

Ms. Cole asked what recommendations would be most helpful. Regarding light bulb replacement, was there a source for purchasing bulbs by the Town. Ms. Hamilton reviewed rebate categories via Efficiency Vermont. The Town could buy a larger number of light bulbs for residents/businesses.

Ms. Sachs handed a Charlotte Energy Resource File to the Selectboard.

9. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING & GRANTS – J.P. Bettencourt

J. P. Bettencourt reviewed an Emergency Management Plan. The current NEMS plans were out of date. National Emergency Management Enforcement personal needed to be certified. Mr. Bettencourt handed out copies of goals and an overview for Board review. A draft plan was needed by 01/01/2007. The Town was eligible to receive federal funds to pay for assistance in revising the plan, and should think of identifying matching funds for FEMA grants. The state might have language that would allow the Selectboard to authorize the expenditure of funds for disasters without a quorum.

Ms. Russell noted that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission recently did hazardous mitigation planning.

Mr. Bettencourt said that the Emergency Operations Plan needed to be revised. A community must declare a disaster to be eligible for FEMA funds, which is written into the plan. Town authority was needed to name successors. Three were recommended. A Selectboard appointment was for a Selectboard liaison to work with Emergency Management, public education should be started, and photo id equipment should be purchased for emergency responders.

Ms. Russell suggested that Mr. Bettencourt attend a budget planning work session.

Mr. Stone volunteered as a Selectboard liaison between Fire/Rescue departments and Mr. Bettencourt.

Next Steps:

- Appoint successor (for Board members)
- Appoint a liaison (Mr. Stone)
- NEMS courses for Board members (on-line courses are available)
- Contact information for Rapid Response Plan (pagers were recommended)
- A Town credit card, or Town rainy day fund

Ms. Cole asked for clarification of communication systems between the Fire/Rescue and Road Commissioner. Mr. Bettencourt said that the plan must be tested, and the state needs to come and evaluate it. Emergency shelters need to be certified as well.

10. SELECTBOARD UPDATE/CHAIR'S REPORT:

A) Ancient Highways – scheduling site visits and hearings

Ms. Russell reviewed a critical dates schedule for ancient highways, and a summary for road additions to the State Map. A question was where and when to start site visits.

The Board decided on the following:

1. Thornton's Trace
2. Meander Street – warn a meeting in November, needs a hearing before 12/21/2006.

B) Ferry Road Pedestrian Paths – discussion of process

Mr. Bloch said previous studies have been done. Mr. Russell suggested having neighborhood residents decide if, or where, they want pedestrian pathways. Mr. Russell would contact interested parties.

Ms. Russell suggested contacting the Charlotte Tree Warden regarding planting shade trees along Ferry Road.

C) Appointment to Task Force of Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to Define Thresholds of Development with "Sustainable Regional Impact"

Ms. Russell reported that CCRPC representative for the Sustainable Regional Impact Task Force was asking each town to define Sustainable Regional Impacts. Mr. Bloch pointed out that this section of the Regional Plan wasn't adopted due to concerns.

Ms. Russell would ask Marty Illick for recommendations/interest.

Ms. Russell read a CCRPC Regional Planning Survey list. A copy of the survey would be forwarded to each Board member for input.

Mr. Stone asked if Charlotte had seriously considered joining the Addison County RPC versus the CCRPC.

D) VELCO Hearing Update

Ms. Cole reported on a VELCO hearing held last week that included a discussion of pole heights, pole design, burial of distribution lines, a VELCO supported overhead line design at Ferry Road, an \$150,000 option signed by VELCO and the Waldorf School, and a Town proposal to shift the transmission line at the Thorpe Brook area. There would be further hearings in November. Neighbors have received easement documents.

Mr. Bloch explained decisions would come after briefs and counter-briefs, which were done in sections. There was an option for an appeal, but it was unlikely an appeal would be successful.

E) BUDGET SCHEDULE

Ms. Russell reviewed Work Session dates 12/18/2006. Additional dates to be scheduled if needed.

F) THORPE BARN FUNDING

Ms. Russell reported that Martha Perkins had contacted the Town regarding a request to spend \$800 to repair the Thorpe Barn doors. The repairs would allow the doors to be locked and improve safety. Ms. Russell would contact Ms. Perkins.

G) Trash Burning Enforcement Officer

Mr. Stone volunteered as Charlotte's Trash Burning Enforcement Officer.

H) VERMONT TREE STEWARD AWARD

The Selectboard nominated Larry Hamilton for a Vermont Tree Steward award.

11. BILLS AND WARRANTS

The Selectboard signed Bills and Warrants.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Stone, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary.

These minutes are subject to correction by the Charlotte Selectboard. Changes, if any, will be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board.