

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
SELECTBOARD MEETINGS
NOVEMBER 24, 2008**

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Russell, Chairperson; Jenny Cole, Winslow Ladue, Ed Stone, Frank Thornton.

OTHERS: Ellie Russell, Jim Donovan, Robbie Stanley, Denise Danyow, Beth Merritt, Theresa Hudziak, Walter Gates, Roberta Whitman, Robert Chutter, Jack Pilla, Gary Franklin, Josh Flore, Ruth Hill, Charlotte Citizen.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Russell called the Selectboard meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Added:

- Economic Stimulus Bill – Discussion

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None.

4. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve the minutes of 11/10/2008, as written with the following corrections:

Globally correct the name “Nancy Walch”;

Page 5, change to read, “Nancy Walch, Bridges Committee”.

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

5. MONUMENT COMMITTEE

- **Presentation for monument garden on Town green**
- **Presentation for proposal for WWI monument at intersection of Greenbush and Ferry roads.**

Presentation for monument garden on Town green

Jim Donovan, Beth Merritt, and Mary Lighthall, Monument Committee representatives, reviewed a conceptual proposal for a monument garden on the Town green, and Board suggestions that were incorporated into a revised plan. A model of the proposed garden and a color drawing were displayed for Board review. Mr. Donovan explained the location of the garden in relation to the Town Hall and orientation of the monument.

There was discussion of a proposed circular brick pathway (bricks could be sold to help pay for the materials); a suggestion to leave the back of the monument blank for future use (Korean and Vietnam wars were suggested); possibilities for adding other monuments on the east side; tying the brick path to a walkway system at some future point; a suggestion to add flag poles; and a Board request for an estimate of cost.

Mr. Russell suggested displaying the model and drawing at the March Town Meeting for public comment.

Ms. Cole suggested leveling and smoothing the green prior to installing the garden.

Mr. Ladue suggested using native limestone in place of granite for the sitting wall. Mr. Donovan suggested moving the two granite benches at the Town Hall to the garden. The hedges could be pushed back to create a courtyard.

Mr. Stone suggested using donated funds for a "in memory of" plaque for the garden instead of selling bricks.

Mr. Russell suggested re-orienting the monument so that the face could be seen from the sitting wall.

Mr. Ladue said that if bricks were used then names of interested parties could be taken at the Town Meeting.

Presentation for proposal for WWI monument at intersection of Greenbush and Ferry roads.

Ms. Cole noted that Engineering Construction Inc, made recommendations to create a tear-drop shape around the Village monument using granite curbing. An estimate of \$15,000 included digging, adding dirt, and moving two stop signs. A detailed plan and survey would cost \$2,500. If the monument needed to be shifted (6" +/-) it could be done on the same foundation.

Mr. Donovan recommended leaving the monument at its historic location.

It was the consensus of the Board to leave the monument where it was. Mr. Ladue asked for more time to review the information.

6. DONATIONS COMMITTEE – Appointment of Committee Members, Virginia Keyser, Gretchen Morse and Joan Braun.

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to appoint Virginia Keyser, Gretchen Morse and Joan Braun to the Donations Committee.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Cole reported that the committee would meet the first week of December and would present a suggested list of donations. A concern had been expressed related to potential conflicts of interest of the appointment of a member, but the member was selected because of their experience.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

7. BUDGET REVIEW: Senior Center, Library, Planning and Zoning; Trails Senior Center

Robert Chutter, Roberta Whitmore, and Walter Gates, Senior Center representatives, reviewed maintenance and energy line items. Mr. Gates explained issues with the

refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner, and dish washer/sanitizer. The Senior Center Committee was recommending a lower budget than the current year.

Mr. Ladue asked if it was an opportune time to explore/implement energy conservation.

Mr. Russell noted that there was \$3,500 remaining in the maintenance Town Line item that could be applied to the Senior Center. Mr. Stone asked that the Senior Center replace the broken door handles with new.

Library

Denise Danyow, Library representative, explained a 4.5 percent increase in the Library budget that increased the librarian salary with a cost of living adjustment.

Planning and Zoning

Mr. Bloch explained that the Planning and Zoning budget assumes flat salaries. Building permits are down, and subdivision applications were budgeted to go down.

Trails

Gary Franklin, Trails Committee representative, answered Board questions that included an update on the proposed Route 7 underpass. A point of access on the other side of Route 7 was needed, said Mr. Franklin. Mr. Russell asked if it was possible to get a path on the other side of the ditch and still be in the Town right-of-way.

There was discussion of alternate routes from the Berry Farm to Mt Philo; proceeding with the Route 7 project to demonstrate to the state that Charlotte was committed by budgeting \$15,000 for the project; potential to open Higbee Road as an alternate route; grant programs and possible Stimulus Economic funding to encourage bike/pedestrian paths; a gravel path that could serve as a foundation for a future paved path; and a question if property owners would provide easements for a link from the Town to Mt Philo and safety questions along State Park Road from vehicle traffic. There was a suggestion to present a path project plan as either a separate Town Meeting article versus as a part of the Town budget.

8. CHARLOTTE PARK AND WILDLIFE REFUGE – Discussion of Trespassing and Dog Issues

Mr. Russell read a section from the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Ordinance related to “The Selectboard shall authorize someone to enforce...”

Josh Flore, Charlotte Constable, suggested appointing two people to enforce the rules of the park. I could issue tickets as the Constable, for the record, and Jack Pella could monitor park use. Mr. Pella stated that he was not interested in enforcement. He could pass information onto the Constable if he witnessed a situation.

There was discussion regarding a change in the ordinance language that “the Selectboard shall authorize the Constable, or designee, to write a ticket...”; an issue with hunters with dogs operating in the park; if Mr. Pella should be authorized to post “no hunting” signage

at the park as the “Town of Charlotte”; if the park needs to be posted to clarify that there is an ordinance and hunting was a criminal trespass, or as an educational tool that says there is no hunting after dark (Mr. Pella would contact the Fish and Wildlife Department regarding posting and fines).

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to designate Josh Flore to enforce the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Ordinance.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT to amend the ordinance to read “Constable”, and to warn a public hearing in the future.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Ms. Russell suggested blocking out the “no trespassing” wording on the posting signs and say no trespassing after dark.

Following further discussion regarding proper posting of a property and what language to use the Board decided to post the park boundaries as per the ordinance, or as per the state rules for posting a property. There was a concern on where the park boundaries were.

Regarding the dog issue, Mr. Stone said that the management of the park was the responsibility of the Town. A question was do we allow dogs in the park. We could put an article on the Town Meeting warning for public discussion. Mr. Ladue noted that the restriction on pets was to protect wildlife. Mr. Pella pointed out that the pet restriction was in the MOU with the land donor.

Mr. Pella said that state law outlined penalties for using fire arms in a posted property and that legally would involve the Fish and Game departments.

MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Ms. Cole, to authorize the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee Chair to sign Fish and Wildlife “No Hunting” signs on behalf of the Town of Charlotte.

VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 nay (Mr. Stone); motion carried.

9. JOSH FLORE – Constable and Animal Control Officer Update

Constable Flore reviewed the number of “call for service” incidents in Charlotte (516 calls). The Fish and Game responded 26 times and there were a total of 16 calls for the constable. Mr. Flore asked for permission to expand his constable duties to include traffic enforcement, handling complains/calls for service versus calling the State Police. There are some operating expenses, such as radio equipment, dispatching fees with the Shelburne Dispatch, and radar equipment. Other supplies were not necessary at this time.

Mr. Ladue said that the Board would need an estimate of costs for consideration of a budget line item.

Mr. Stone reviewed that the current Animal Control Officer was not able to continue due to time constraints, and asked that Mr. Flore, as the Animal Control Officer, submit a

letter of resignation. It was understood that Mr. Flore would continue until a replacement was found.

10. THOMPSON'S POINT LOT 148; TERMINATE LEASE TO GLENN AND ELAINE FRENCH, AND APPROVE NEW LEASE TO GLENN FRENCH, RAY AND LINDA HOLMES, AND MIKE AND SALLY CAPELLA

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve a lease termination to Glenn and Elaine French for Lot 148, and approve a new lease to Glenn French, Ray and Linda Holmes, and Mike and Sally Catella for Lot 148, located on Thompson's Point.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

11. THOMPSON'S POINT LOT 204; APPROVE NEW LEASE TO ROY AND LINDA L'ESPERANCE

MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve a new lease to Roy and Linda L'Esperance for Lot 204, located on Thompson's Point.

DISCUSSION:

There was discussion regarding lease language that allows year round use of three houses on Thompson's Point with a condition that if a house changed hands then it becomes a seasonal house as per the Appendix; a Board question on the amount of the lease for a year round house versus a seasonal camp. Mr. Thornton recalled that a year round lease was set up for the three houses on Lane's Lane many years ago.

VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 abstention (Mr. Ladue); motion carried.

12. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND WARRANTS

The Board signed Bills and Warrants.

13. ADJOURNMENT and EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to adjourn the meeting and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Litigation and possible Real Estate Negotiation Matters, and to invite the Selectboard Clerk to attend.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned and the Board entered Executive Session at 9:32 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.