

**Charlotte Selectboard**  
January 25, 2010 Meeting Minutes  
*Approved on February 8, 2010*

**Selectboard Members Present:** Charles Russell, Ed Stone, Jenny Cole, Winslow Ladue, Frank Thornton

**Administration Present:** Dean Bloch

**Community Members Present:** Nancy Wood, Stephen Brooks, Walter Gates, Hugh Lewis Jr., Dorothy Pellett, Beth Merritt, Jack Pilla, Jessie Bradley, Larry Hamilton, Carrie Spear, Sue Horsford

- Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Charles Russell.
- No public comment.
- Ed Stone made motion to approve January 11, 2010 minutes with edits, Winslow Ladue seconded, all in favor (Frank Thornton abstained).
- **Certificate of Highway Mileage. *Action under consideration: approve certificate with a request that VTrans remove the western .16 miles of Cedar Beach Road (as a town highway) on the Town Highway Map***
  - Walter Gates: Access easement deeds for the two private residences that will be affected have been granted. This easement will cover the frontage across both properties. Mr. Gates submitted notarized documents to Dean Bloch.
  - Winslow made the motion to approve the certificate, Ed seconded, all in favor.
- **Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge. *Review revised budget – Jack Pilla, Jessie Bradley & Larry Hamilton were representing the Refuge***
  - \$10,400 has been allotted for the Park & Wildlife Refuge for at least the past two years. The Park & Wildlife Refuge would like more money this year, since they used to have help from the Demeter Fund which is no longer available to them. They need to keep up with rising prices as well as do some special projects.
  - The Park & Wildlife Refuge would like to look into getting their own person to take care of trail cutting – they think it will cut costs. They also would like to look into getting someone else to do the brush hogging. They are looking into a new method (“bull hogging”?) and will hopefully get a free demo done.
  - They would also like extra money to provide supplies to their volunteers, who are at this point bringing in their own equipment.
  - They are currently doing research to see if they can get some grants (they were turned down last year). They also want to become licensed to apply their own pesticides.
  - Gravel trail maintenance needs to be done. The estimate is at \$5,000. General maintenance also needs to be done on bridges, signs need to be kept up with (both posting and repair), and

- advertising needs to be budgeted for (a new lease is up for farm land).
- Ed wondered if it would make sense for the Refuge to ask for a larger sum of money this time around to make sure everything gets done that needs to get done. The Refuge is currently asking for an extra \$4,000 which is the (“bare bones”) start that they need.
  - The budget was determined as follows:
    - Remove general equipment/supplies line item
    - General maintenance \$1000
    - Trail maintenance \$6000
    - Invasive work \$1000
    - Trail work \$3000
    - Scenic overlook \$4000
    - Remove brush hogging line item
    - = For a total \$15,000 budget
  - **Wireless router in Town Hall with dedicated DSL line. *Action under consideration: approve expenditure of \$300 for purchase and monthly fees through remainder of fiscal year***
    - Overall cost is \$40/month + \$60 one-time for the router. The wireless router would not be connected to the Town Hall’s network at all.
    - Winslow wondered if there would need to be rules for inappropriate downloading – this should not be a concern since there wouldn’t be any Town computers hooked up to the wireless network; it’s just an internet connection that anyone in range could access with the appropriate device.
    - Ed is worried about security implications and thinks they should be looked into.
    - Winslow hasn’t heard anyone express any interest aside from Stephen Brooks (Nancy Wood said that she too thought it would be helpful). Jenny said that she has heard from the Town Clerk’s office that people have asked about it. Winslow said that he thought Town Hall was not necessarily the appropriate place for a wireless connection; the library is where people go for computer use and information gathering.
    - The issue was tabled.
  - **FY11 Town Budget. *Action under consideration: approve for Town Report***
    - Park maintenance budget was changed from \$10,400 to \$15,000, making for an overall \$19,400 increase in the land maintenance category.
    - It was mentioned that Fire & Rescue said they wanted to lower their revenue number on the town budget. The Selectboard opted to lower the number as recommended by Fire and Rescue to \$70k.
    - Overall, there is a \$72,000 increase in the budget and a \$27,000 decrease in revenue.

- Motion was made to approve the budget as amended by Jenny, Winslow seconded. Frank opposed; all else in favor.
- **Articles for Town Meeting, 2010. *Action under consideration: approve for Town Report***
  - Winslow made a motion to approve the Articles as shown on the handout (through Article 11), Jenny seconded, all in favor with Frank abstaining.
- **Flea Market Lease Agreement. *Action under consideration: approve one-year lease to Daniel Jones and Roy T. Jones for \$2,500, and authorize Chair to sign***
  - Ed expressed concern that the Joneses seem to violate what days they are allowed to be open. Jenny said that maybe they should come in so the Selectboard can voice these concerns to them.
- **Real estate negotiation.** The Selectboard went into Executive Session to discuss real estate negotiations. The Selectboard came out of Executive Session. No action was taken.
- **Converse Bay Road – creation of unauthorized farm access. *Discussion only – Susie Forster & Junior***
  - Farmer Ben Dykema cut across Susie Forster's land to access farmland. The ag cut was cut without permission and against Ms. Forster's wishes, and the equipment tore through the hedgerow and dug up the ditches that were there. The Selectboard needs to determine how this will be repaired and by whom.
  - Originally it was determined that the Dykemas will either fix the problem themselves (and at their own cost) or they will have it fixed under Junior's supervision. Ms. Forster brought up a concern that there will need to be an ag cut somewhere at some time so that they can access the farm land – perhaps it makes the most sense to leave the ag cut where it is and move forward with permitting? She is going to go ahead with getting a permit for this ag cut. In the meantime, the ditches will need to be fixed so that water drains properly.
- **Approval of bills and warrants**
  - Thompson Point Lease Lot #59 (Barbara B. Glade ) – Jenny motioned to renew, Ed seconded, all in favor. Other leases were tabled.

Frank motioned to adjourn at 9:43pm, Jenny seconded, all in favor.

Submitted by Meaghan Nooney