

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
October 26, 2009**

*Approved November 23, 2009*

**Members present:** Charles Russell, Frank Thornton, Winslow Ladue, Ed Stone

**Administration:** Dean Bloch

**Others:** Matt Buckley, Michael Dumaris, Patrice Machavern, C.E. Baldwin, Hans O'Hanian, Joan Allen, Clark Hinsdale III, Ellie Russell, Jonathan Atwood, David Miskell, Stephanie Choate, John Limanek, Robbie Stanley, Nancy Sabin, Larilee Suiter, Harvey Sharrow, Elaine Sharrow, Jim Donovan, Elizabeth Bassett, Emily Morrow, John Pane, Bob Mesaros, Kate Lampton, Mary Mead, Jennifer Adsit, Claudia Mucklow, Frances Foster, Marty Illick, Sharron Balaban, Stephen Brooks

**Call to order:** Charles Russell called the Selectboard to order at 7:02 PM

**Adjustments to Agenda:**

None

**Public Discussion:**

Michael Lazar came in to discuss the bond for the woodchip heating facility. He believes 1.6 million dollars is a steep price for the town. The return on the investment that the Town is about to make is very low. He believes the financial burden on the town is unnecessary and would like to see how the Selectboard feels about it. He plans to go to the school board Wednesday.

The general consensus was that this is a school board issue and it would not be appropriate for the Selectboard to rule on this.

**Matthew Buckley—UVM Cycling Race Weekend, April, 2010. Potential action: approve the request for the use of Charlotte roads for the race.**

The UVM cycling team has held a road race in Charlotte in the past. Matthew Buckley discussed the route of the race. Derek Harden said that police officers will be present to ensure safety. Large amounts of people will be concentrated by the school and in Mount Philo State Park. The race will last from approximately 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. They do not have a date for the race yet but it will be a Saturday in the spring. They will have a date after a meeting in November. The racers sign a waiver before racing. Michael Dumaris explained how the cyclers will deal with traffic on the road.

**MOTION** by Ed Stone to allow the UVM cycling club to hold their annual meeting in April or early May with the condition that they provide a certificate of liability insurance naming the Town as an additional insured and speak to the Recreation Commission.

**SECONDED** by Jenny Cole

**VOTE:** 4 ayes, 1 nay (Frank Thornton), Motion carried

**Reconfiguration of Vermont Land Trust conservation easements (“Berry Farm 1” & “Berry Farm 2”) on properties owned by Clark W. Hinsdale, III and Suzanne G. Hinsdale. Potential action: determine no impact on status of the conservation restrictions.**

Clark Hinsdale III came in to discuss the berry farms. He sold the first farm and has a contract to sell the second to Shelburne Vineyard. This proposal will keep the same conservation easement but will allow for selling the land in two parcels. This proposal does not change the use of the land. The Town of Charlotte is a partner in the conservation agreement and has been notified as a result. John Limanek asked if there are any easements for trails. On an adjacent parcel being subdivided there is an easement that will allow for a future trail. The Melissa and Trevor Mack trail easement will remain as is.

**MOTION** by Ed Stone that the Selectboard after reviewing the conservation easement (“Berry Farm 1” & Berry Farm2”) on properties owned by Clark W. Hinsdale III and Suzanne G. Hinsdale finds there is no impact on the status of the conservation easement.

**SECONDED** by Jenny Cole

**VOTE:** 5 ayes 0 nays, Motion carried

**Harvey and Elaine Sharrow—request for Highway Access Permits (HAP-09-05 & HAP-09-06) for two driveways on Mount Philo Road. *Potential action: approve applications.***

The northern driveway will be moved about 50ft to the North. The result is that the driveway will be moved toward Swift-McCargo. Mr. Russell asked whether neighbors will be notified of the move. Jenny Cole felt that they should get approval from the neighbors.

**MOTION** by Jenny Cole to approve highway access permits HAP-09-05 and HAP-09-06 for two driveways on Mt Philo Rd. with the change that the northernmost driveway be moved 50 feet to the north, and with the condition that McCargo & Swift be notified of the approval with the change.

**SECONDED** by Winslow Ladue

**VOTE:** 5 ayes 0 nays Motion carried

**Co-housing Trail—update on siting of trail; consideration of permit applications and additional study. *Potential action: authorize applications for permits and phase I archaeological study.***

Jim Donovan presented the project. He looked at an existing easement and determined whether it should be changed. Different options for a new path have been looked at in each section of the easement. He outlined the existing easement and the preferred alignment of the trail. Jonathan Atwood from the co-housing said the preferred alignment is alright with them. Mr. Donovan said there is no way to cut the cost substantially. One possibility would be to move the southeastern portion south. This would shorten the path but he is not sure by how much. If the surface is smooth and will not cause trouble for horses or bicycles. A width of 5ft rather than 8ft would cut the cost. The archaeological areas are around the wetlands. The board needs to find out the cost, the okay about the parking area for the berry farm, and VTRANS' request. Jonathan Atwood mentioned the long term vision of the trail to ultimately lead to the beach. They discussed improving the crossings on the wetlands and improving the trail through the forest.

The board will discuss this further at a future meeting.

**Charlotte Land Trust—revised request for funding from the Conservation Fund for Raven Ridge Preserve. *Potential action: approve revised request***

The Charlotte Land Trust has withdrawn the request for \$60,000. The request has been modified. Project expenses were discussed. The cost attributable to the Charlotte section of the project is \$35,700 and that is the new request. There is no acquisition cost because the land is donated. Joan Allen of The Nature Conservancy discussed the costs of the project. Recurring costs are those needed to manage the property in the future. They include insurance, property taxes. Mr. Stone asked about stewardship costs. The stewardship money is not a line item budget but an endowment. The stewardship payment is upfront not ongoing. Property taxes will be paid out of the stewardship payment.

There was a concern that only 18% of the land is in Charlotte but it appears the costs are weighted toward Charlotte. There is no subdivision required for the Monkton or Hinesburg land. Charlotte's property has certain needs that the rest of the land does not. The Land Trust is not asking for money for any land that is outside of Charlotte. Jenny Cole said that this request seems consistent with other projects involving other towns that have been approved in the past. Hinesburg is also considering a request. Sharon Balaban asked about federal restrictions regarding where people can go off the trail. There is nothing in the federal grant. John Limanek, speaking for the trails committee, said the committee approves the project and that it makes a lot of sense from a dollar and cents point of view. Jim Donovan asked if the board could waive the subdivision fees as they had done in the past.

**MOTION** by Ed Stone to take \$15,000 out of the conservation fund for the Raven Ridge Preserve for the Nature Conservancy, the Vermont Land Trust and the Charlotte Land Trust

**SECONDED** by Winslow Ladue

Jenny Cole stated that this project benefits the area generally and she believes the board could do better than \$15,000.

**VOTE:** 3 ayes (Ed Stone, Charles Russell, Winslow Ladue) 1 nay (Frank Thornton)  
1 abstained (Jenny Cole)

**Town Highway Bridge Program—review of county candidate list. *Discussion only.***

Two of the bridges; number 4 and 9 (Dorset St. and Carpenter Rd.) are on the candidate list. The one lane bridges may need to become two lane bridges. The board gets an annual report on the condition of the bridges and that would be the place to look.

**Minutes: September 28, October 12**

**MOTION** by Winslow Ladue to approve minutes as corrected from 9/28/09

**SECONDED** by Ed Stone

**VOTE:** 5 ayes 0 nays

**MOTION** by Winslow Ladue to approve minutes as corrected from 10/12/09

**SECONDED** by Ed Stone

**VOTE:** 5 ayes 0 nays

**Discussion of litigation (Executive Session is likely) (Grist, Plouffe Lane Trailhead, Eustis Cable)**

**MOTION** by Ed Stone to go into Executive session to discuss Grist, Plouffe Lane Trailhead, and Eustis Cable.

**SECONDED** by Winslow Ladue

**VOTE:** 5 ayes 0 nays

**MOTION** by Ed Stone to come out of Executive Session.

**SECONDED** by Winslow Ladue

**VOTE** 5 ayes 0 nays

No action was taken

**Approval of bills and warrants**

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Ed Stone to adjourn.

**SECONDED** by Winslow Ladue

**VOTE** 5 ayes 0 nays

Minutes submitted by  
Chris St. Martin