

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
SELECTBOARD MEETING
November 9, 2009**

Approved on November 23, 2009

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

Others: Art Ridge, Evan Langfeldt, Carl Herzog, Ellie Russell, Jennifer Adsit, Nancy Wood, Linda Beitz, Stephen Brookes, Walter Gates, Robbie Stanley, Andrew Thurber, Theresa Hudziak, Marty Illick, Garrett Mott, Beth Merritt, Denise Danyow, Josh Flore, John Limanek, Ben Pualwan, Glen Pierson

Call to order: Mr. Russell called the Selectboard to order at 7:05

Adjustments to Agenda:

None

Public Discussion:

Jennifer Adsit came in to comment on the rules regarding the Charlotte Conservation Fund. She expressed concern about the criteria for using the fund. Specifically; which part of the requested funding of the Raven Ridge project is not appropriate to be used? Would it be more helpful to discuss issues like this with the members of related committees? Mr. Russell explained that the rules passed by the town in 1996 were vague and were later made more specific in 1998. Mr. Ladue was the one who came up with the \$15,000 using amount given to similar projects. Mr. Stone said that he thinks the system needs an overhaul. The decision he made was based on phone calls he had received from citizens. He thinks the Selectboard should be better informed in the process. The Selectboard was not well informed about the Raven Ridge project. The reason the Selectboard said no to the project was because that was what the people wanted. Mr. Russell said the system needs to be changed. Mr. Ladue pointed out that this project was different compared to past projects.

Stephen Brookes asked about the Selectboard's plan regarding the Park Management Plan. They will look at it in parts in January and February. He also asked about a public water supply and whether the Selectboard has thought about pursuing the prospect of a public tap water supply. Mr. Russell said Mr. Brookes could bring that up at a later meeting. Brookes also asked about what the width of the road would be between the post office and the senior center. Mr. Russell said that the Selectboard did not decide where the paving would go because it was not brought to their attention. Ms. Cole said the extent of the discussion was to see if there was room for pedestrians on the road.

Cedar Beach Association—request to remove the west end of Cedar Beach Road from Town Highway Map. *Potential actions: approve, approve with conditions, or deny request*

The state map and the town tax map are different. The board would be removing 0.86 miles from the Town Highway Map, but 1.01 miles from the State Highway Map.

MOTION by Ed Stone that the town removes the western 0.15 miles of Cedar Beach Road from the town highway map.

SECONDED by Winslow Ladue

VOTE: 5 ayes 0 nays

Budget review: Senior Center. *Discussion only*

They believe more money should be added to the budget for painting. Maintenance expenses include water damage found in the building, pumping the septic and grease trap, and repairs. The building was painted in 2001. The entire interior would be painted. The custodial services have fallen behind, as was noted by the state. The custodian has been let go and Mr. Russell said they should see more than one bid when hiring a new one. So far they only have one quote and she had a good recommendation. It would be nice to get a competitive bid process.

Tavern Road—preliminary discussion about adding Class 4 road to Town Highway Map, review research to date and discuss next steps. *Discussion only.*

A surveyor found the approximate location of Tavern Road. There was a concern about trails going through private properties. Mr. Russell said the next step would be to either hold a hearing or let the issue die. Ms. Cole said the town has to look at whether the town wants to use these roads or if they go through private property. A member of the public commented that surveys do not necessarily match where the road is. Tavern Road will either be disposed of or be placed on the Town Highway Map.

Regional Plan update. *Discussion only.*

Garrett Mott from Buell's Gore and Marty Illick came in to discuss updating the regional plan. They are looking for input. Ccrpcvt.org is the website to find information about the plan. The plan needs to be updated by fall 2011 and they are working on the initial draft now. The sooner recommendations are heard the better chance they have of being added. Ms. Illick said getting input early is important. Mr. Mott said the Regional Planning Commission does not deal with transportation. Any issues dealing with highways such as the Route 7 underpass, needs to be brought up to the CCMPO. Mr. Ladue asked who implements the plan and who is obligated to follow it. The intention of the regional plan is to provide a bigger picture. No one is obligated to follow it.

Budget review *Discussion only*

• Library

There has been an increase in circulation and salaries. This is the first time the library has enough money to buy computers. They are happy with the current custodial service. Circulation has increased a lot.

• Planning & Zoning

The board discussed the budget for the Planning and Zoning Department. Stephen Brookes asked if there is enough office space. They feel that they have enough office space and storage space as long as they digitize. Ms. Cole asked about the draft final report for the East Charlotte Village Plan. The written report will be on an agenda and will be for anyone to look at. The report form is for review.

• Constable

The salary has been the same for a long time and he is looking for an increase in equipment and salary. A \$1,000 grant has come in from the state for a radar unit. The town of Shelburne does not budget them for 20 hours per week. The town gets 80% from the state for tickets. The town stands to make total ticket revenue of \$21,360. He does not believe he needs a helper at the moment but possibly in the future.

• Trails

John Limanek from the trails committee came in to discuss the budget for the trails committee. They need to hire professionals. Mr. Russell said a reserve fund may be the best way to ask the voters. Mr. Ladue said there should be a line item of each trail the town stewards. Pease Mountain and Plouffe Lane would be the only one. Mr. Stone said it would be nice to put an item on the ballot asking voters what they feel about paying to keep a trails system. Ms. Cole said that UVM has helped with trails in the past. Mr. Stone said the trails committee should come back with a plan. Mr. Ladue said all the town's easements should be on the map. Mr. Limanek said that as a volunteer board that would be very difficult. The rec. path is their main focus. Stephen Brookes raised the idea that the trails committee could be expanded to cover town lands. They will have another talk in December.

Burns Property—waive fees for the Town's subdivision, wastewater, highway access and building permit applications for three units of affordable housing. *Potential actions: waive all fees, waive some fees, do not waive fees.*

MOTION by Jenny Cole to waive the following fees for the Burns property three units of affordable housing: subdivision; \$3,000, wastewater; \$1,000, highway access; \$200, building permits; \$3,000 sketch plan; \$50

SECONDED by Ed Stone

VOTE: 4 ayes 1 nay (Frank Thornton)

VLCT survey—municipalities three biggest priorities for the coming year. *Potential actions: complete survey.*

The board discussed priorities for the coming year. Some of the biggest priorities for the Town are; village water supply and waste water issues, trails planning, maintenance of town buildings, access to Lake Champlain by boat owners.

Litigation: Eustis Cable installation on North Shore Road; Plouffe Lane Trailhead. *Executive Session likely.*

MOTION by Ed Stone to go into executive session to discuss the Eustis cable installation on North Shore Road and the Plouffe Land trailhead at 9:50.

Minutes taken by Chris St. Martin