

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
SELECTBOARD MEETINGS
May 11, 2009**

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Russell, Chairperson; Jenny Cole, Winslow Ladue, Ed Stone, Frank Thornton (arrived 7:20 p.m.).

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Selectboard Assistant.

OTHERS: Linda Hamilton, Larry Hamilton, Sylvia Knight, Mary Meade, Martha Perkins, Jim Donovan, Andrew Thurber, Marty Illick, Moe Harvey, Jeff McDonald, Trafton Crandall, Gary Pittman, Walter Gates, Sue Smith, Mary Chenny, Bob Hyams, Robbie Stanley, Ellie Russell, Suzy Hodgson, Hugh Lewis Jr, and others.

(Note: The warned agenda was heard out of order, but appears in the published order for continuity.)

1. CEREMONY FOR LINDA HAMILTON

The assemblage thanked Linda Hamilton for 14 years service to the Town.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Russell called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

3. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

None.

4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Walter Gates, Ferry Road resident, spoke in support of continuing to allow residents to hire smaller rubbish carriers versus one "Wal-Mart" large regional carrier strategy as recently discussed. Bigger isn't always cheaper, or smarter, said Mr. Gates.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 03/09/2009, 03/30/2009, 04/09/2009, 04/13/2009, 04/27/2009

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the minutes of 03/09/2009 as written, with corrections.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve the minutes of 04/09/2009 as written.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue to approve the minutes of 04/13/2009 as written, with corrections.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve the minutes of 04/27/2009 as written, with corrections/additions.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

6. HEARING FOR MODIFICATION OF SCENIC ROADS; TO DETERMINE IF RECONSTRUCTION OF MONKTON ROAD (TH 36), LEWIS CREEK ROAD (TH 37), AND ROSCOE ROAD (TH 39), WHICH ARE ALL DESIGNATED SCENIC ROADS UNDER 19 VSA 2502, WILL HAVE IMPACT ON THEIR SCENIC CHARACTER

Hugh Lewis, Jr., Charlotte Road Commissioner, described a proposed project to remove existing gravel by sections, placement of 6" of shale as a road base, replacing the gravel on the top of the shale, cleaning out ditches, and seeding and mulching road shoulders. The roads would not be widened in order to retain the Scenic Road designation, but the roadways would be 6" +/- higher. Roadways already done include Bean Road, Lime Kiln Road, and other through roads. Orchard Road needs to be done. Cedar Beach would be done by the fishing access.

In response to audience questions, Mr. Lewis said that the shale pit lease would run out in 2010. No federal funds have been used to upgrade the town roads. When the project is completed the town would need to re-grade the road less and would be able to carry truck loads better. The shale base would drain better and last longer.

There was discussion regarding the access to the covered bridge and drainage (Mr. Lewis explained that the grade at the bridge entrance would remain the same and the shoulders under the guard rails would be cleaned out to allow the water to shed better); Lewis Creek Road traffic control during the project (the road would be closed to through traffic from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and speeds would be lowered); proposed ditching up to Scott Orr's driveway; and road work and ditching by the barn and other structures within the road right-of-way.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve the proposed plans for reconstruction of scenic roads as presented, and to maintain scenic attributes as per the memo by Marty Illick, dated 05/11/2009.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Lewis explained that the town crew cuts out the road bed from grass to grass normally. The plan is to bring the ditch to the edge of the shale base. There are places where the roadway is 20' +/- wide, but the shale base will only be 14' wide. There are several narrow areas. The bridge is 13' wide and outside the bridge is 15' wide. At the barn the roadway is 14' wide.

Ms. Illick pointed out that not all of Monkton Road is designated as scenic.

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

7. DISCUSSION OF PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF ANCIENT ROADS AMONG THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

- 1. CONSIDER PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 2. SCHEDULE HEARING FOR BLANKET DISCONTINUANCE**
- 3. DO NOTHING (Roads will eventually be automatically discontinued)**

Mr. Russell reviewed that the discussion was not about individual roads. The Board was moving forward with three choices as noted in the agenda.

Mr. Stone suggested that the Board adopt choice #3 and do nothing.

Ms. Cole and Mr. Ladue spoke in support of continuing the process, review the Planning Commission's recommendations, and to look at the roads.

Mr. Thornton spoke in support of evaluating each road for future Town value.

Mr. Russell opened the floor to the public.

Andrea Grayson, resident, asked what the process was if choice #1 was adopted. Mr. Russell explained that the Planning Commission recommended removing Meander Street from consideration for retention. The Planning Commission report is posted on the Planning page on the Town website.

Robert Boucher, resident, stated that the process is flawed. It appears that it is a way for the Town to identify new trails. We are talking about land that has been sold, or subdivided many times. Accepting ancient roads as potential trails exposes a very material impact to someone's land, said Mr. Boucher. Mr. Russell replied that the process allows people to decide if they want trails, or not. This is the opportunity to identify an ancient road.

Mary Chenny, resident, said she was a member of a subcommittee that reviewed Town ancient roads and created a list of potential town values for sometime in the future. There is opportunity for landowners to participate in the process.

Steve MacKillop explained that the Planning Commission unanimously looked at ancient roads in terms of "future" trails, not as roads. State statutes require individual notice to abutters. The Town could start the notification process now to allow for participation now.

Mr. Russell said the Board envisioned narrowing the road list down and would want to hear from neighbors.

Mr. Stone said he would like to hear from land owners that were in favor of retaining an ancient road on their property.

Ms. Russell said that the Planning Commission recommended that the Selectboard do site visits of the ancient roads.

Andrew Thurber, resident, spoke in favor of a blanket discontinuance of all ancient roads to end the issue once and for all. There are 2 or 3 landowners with ancient roads on their

land represented at this meeting. People still don't understand the process. We need to let everyone know what is happening early in the process. The Planning Commission didn't take any testimony during the creation of their report, said Mr. Thurber.

Marty Illick said that if the Selectboard did site visits then notifying abutting land owners is a "must do". The Board might consider scheduling site visits for late fall.

Mr. Russell said that choice #1 has the most Board support. Discussion would continue at the next Board meeting to flesh out what roads to start with.

Ms. Chenny said that at one time the ancient roads did exist. The Board couldn't identify the Meander Street location, but most of the roads can be found with research. Ms. Chenny encouraged landowners to come to the Town Hall and conduct research using Town records. Mr. Thornton had created a map that shows where ancient road might be, said Ms. Chenny.

The next meeting of the Selectboard was scheduled for March 18, 2009.

**8. INTERVIEW JOHN STANLEY FOR RECREATION COMMISSION
MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to appoint John Stanley for the Recreation Commission for a three-year term.**

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

**9. INTERVIEW ROBERT MACK FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to appoint Robert Mack to the Conservation Commission for a four-year term.**

DISCUSSION:

Bob Hyams said that Robert Mack should attend a Conservation Commission meeting first before appointment.

Mr. Stone said that there should be a balance of member view points on the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Thornton pointed out that Robert Mack was one of the few Charlotte farmers left and is a past Selectboard member. Mr. Mack almost always attends Selectboard meetings.

Ms. Cole said that appointees should be interviewed at Selectboard meetings. Conservation Commission members should be involved as well.

Mr. Stone called the question.

VOTE on the call the question: 5 ayes; motion to call the question carried.

VOTE on the motion: 4 ayes, 1 abstention (Ms. Cole); motion carried.

10. RE-PAVING OF FERRY ROAD – Discussion of Options for Pedestrian Lane

Mr. Lewis, Charlotte Road Commissioner, said that Ferry Road would be re-paved, but the Monument project should be done first. There was no time line set for the re-paving project.

Mr. Russell said that there was a suggestion to re-pave an extra wide portion along Ferry Road for a pedestrian path from the Old Brick Store to the Senior Center. Mr. Lewis replied that property owners would have a concern. In addition there was water runoff from the Old Brick Store area and along curbing to the Senior Center catch basin.

Mr. Stone pointed out that safety was the biggest concern. Water drainage issues would be left up to the Road Commissioner. Mr. Lewis reiterated that the first step would be to contact the land owners.

12. RE-APPOINTMENT: PAUL LANDLER TO PLANNING COMMISSION FOR 4 YEAR TERM

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to re-appoint Paul Landler to the Planning Commission for a four-year term.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

13. UPDATES: CURBING AROUND MOUNUMENT; SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Mr. Russell reviewed that an 18" high granite curbing was proposed at the monument at the intersection of Ferry/Greenbush roads.

Ms. Cole said that messages have been left at Civil Engineering to discuss the project, but no reply has been received.

Mr. Russell reported that Shelburne Police Chief Jim Warden was consulted regarding curbing heights.

Mr. Stone spoke in support of moving the monument closer to the Old Brick Store to prevent 18-wheelers from running over the monument curbing.

Alexandria Lehmann said that Karrie said she would give up some parking space at the Old Brick Store if the monument is moved. The monument is hit frequently when vehicles are turning from Ferry Road onto North Greenbush Road.

Mr. Russell said a concern was reducing the parking space at the store.

Ms. Cole reported that the Monument Committee researched the issue and the monument could be moved 6" over on the foundation.

Mr. Ladue said that there is wisdom to increasing the curbing height to 18" – 21" on the west and southern sides and to round the corners to appear closer to the monument.

Ms. Lehmann said she was seeking a quick resolution to the issue.

Mr. Lewis expressed concern that someone would get hit in the intersection area. Sometimes vehicle drivers cut through the Old Brick Store parking area to avoid the stop sign.

There was further discussion regarding an ADA compliant ramp at the Old Brick Store, and a suggestion for the Board to craft a letter to send to Horsfords and area horse farms on preferred routes in town to use to avoid the Ferry/Greenbush roads intersection.

There was brief discussion regarding a cost to re-finish the Town Hall conference table. It was the consensus of the Board that a cost of \$800 to refinish the table should not be considered at this time.

14. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND WARRANTS

The Selectboard signed bills and warrants as presented.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 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.