

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE  
SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2008**

**APPROVED**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles Russell, Jenny Cole, Winslow Ladue, Ed Stone & Frank Thornton

**ADMINISTRATION:** Dean Bloch

**OTHERS:** Shirley Bean, Dorothy Pellett, Deb Loveitt, Norman Pellett, Stephen Brooks, Jane Tingley, Ray Murphy, Joseph Aube, Hugh Lewis, Jr., Bill Duchac, Tony Cairns, Kim Farnsworth, Deedle Kiley, Gary Farnsworth, Michael Drescher, Marty Illick, Darcy Spear

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved with the adjustment of moving up the discussion of the Harassment Policy, adding the compost proposal and the discussion of Bean Road upgrade.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Bean Road**

Deb Loveitt opened the discussion regarding the upgrade to Bean Road. She was concerned that notices had been left in the neighborhood with such short notice. Ms. Loveitt inquired why the work needed to be done in the summer, as she was concerned about the noise, dust and upheaval on the road. Dan Kehoe was also questioning the timing of the roadwork as August is the busiest month of the year for his business and that it will make it very difficult for his customers to find and access him.

There were several questions regarding the time frame, how the work would be done and how the traffic would get through. Junior Lewis, Road Commissioner, explained that there are two years left on the current contract for the shale that is needed for the base for the road(s) and that it had been agreed at Town Meeting that all of the roads would be rebuilt and graded, keeping the shale contract in mind. He noted that doing many roads in the summer is much less disruptive because there is less traffic and the school busses are not running. An additional issue regarding the summertime roadwork is that the road needs a certain amount of time to settle before the cold weather sets in. The process for re-building the roads is as follows: they take a short distance and scrape off the old, put in a new base and then put back the old gravel on top, re-grade and then proceed to the next section of road. Generally (depending on the road length) this would take approximately a week. The question was brought regarding potholes, and he noted that potholes will reappear, but much less severe because of the stronger base. There was brief additional discussion as to whether it would be prudent to put off doing Bean Road for a time, perhaps until next year, but the Board agreed that Junior had come up with a schedule for all the roads in town and that schedule should be adhered to.

**Composters**

Stephen Brooks, CSWD Board Member, was present to discuss the proposal of selling compost bins to Charlotte residents. He proposed that the town offer selling the compost bins to the community for \$50 each. The wholesale price is \$34, so therefore the town would make \$15 on each. These compost containers sell at a resale price of \$100 each so it is a great deal for the community also. The town can try this for one year and decide if they want to do it again. There would be no advance payment for the town and the town would have 90 days to pay for the compost bins. This will be promoted in the local papers and a pick up location will be determined. The Board was in agreement to the sale of the compost bins at \$50 each.

**HARRASSMENT POLICY:**

Proposed revisions to the Harassment Policy of 2003 was presented to the Board by Gloria Warden. Revisions as noted: Page 2, Bullet #4 omit date changed to socialize. Section "D" add "or to his or her supervisor". Under typical harassment investigation, bullet #5 add "the Town will inform the complaining person and the accused person of the results of the investigation and what" and "ensure that" and "will cease" and "that no retaliation will occur" and under Bullet #6 Section #3 Omit totally as it refers to state not municipal employees.

A motion was made by Ed Stone to approve the changes as presented; the motion was seconded by Winslow Ladue and passed by a vote of 4-1 (Frank Thornton).

**CALEB KILEY – HIGHWAY ACCESS PERMIT – 2033 Dorset Street**

Jane Tingley discussed the moving of the driveways and the issue of noise and traffic. Mr. Kiley noted that to move the drives where Ms. Tingley described was not possible due to the ledges and the lay of the land. The drainage in this area is a huge issue, and it needs to be dealt with in such a way that the drainage will not interfere with the properties on the road. Mr. Russell questioned if Mr. Kiley would be willing to have two drives, one to his home and one to his business garage and work area and Mr. Kiley noted this was not a proposal that he had considered. There was in depth discussion regarding the two cuts in the curb, planting trees to conceal the drive and the culvert situation and that only one can be installed. It was determined that Mr. Kiley should submit a written plan showing the curb cuts, where the trees will be planted, where a culvert should be installed, and the grades that will be done. Ed Stone proposed that Board Members should go to the site and inspect it visually prior to the next meeting. Mr. Kiley questioned whether there is a regulation regarding home businesses and driveways? It was noted that this would be checked out with the Planning Board. A motion was made by Ed Stone and seconded by Winslow Ladue to continue this discussion, with further documentation from Mr. Kiley at the August 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and was passed unanimously.

**RAY MURPHY – RED OAK LANE**

Ray Murphy presented photos of the drive to his property from Route 7 and the lack of visibility for drivers to see the drive. There are only two homes on the drive, which does not meet the minimum of three houses on a road to merit a road name. It was requested that the other homeowner on the road should submit a letter documenting that a road name change and address change is acceptable. The Fire Department and Post Office should be checked to make sure that the name change is not an issue and also the names of roads in town should be checked to make sure that there is not a name that is not too similar to the choice of Red Oak Lane. The issue will be continued pending the answer to the above questions.

**VERMONT TRANSCO – LLC (VELCO) PETITION**

There was a discussion regarding the license agreement, there will be no open cuts, travel will not be affected and the language has been changed to reflect that. There was a brief discussion regarding the construction to date. The Agreement was signed by Michael Dresher and John Stamatov and the Board approved the agreement unanimously.

**PETITION – TO AMEND THE CHARLOTTE LAND USE REGULATIONS/VILLAGE COMMERCIAL USE DISTRICT OF EAST SIDE OF US ROUTE 7**

There was an in depth discussion regarding the potential amendment, and which portion is owned by the land owner and which portion is state right-of-way, and how much congestion will this create? There was discussion regarding the change in the 2006 Land Use Regulations, which restricted retail use in this area. There was a question about potential size limits of 3,500 SF versus 10,000 SF and the lack of balance on the two sides of the road and mixed use and the various uses and square footage combinations. Larger footage versus more parking etc.

Mr. Ladue brought up the issue regarding F5 and safety of pedestrians, set back issues and parking also.

The discussion continued regarding the combined square footage amounts and which side of Route 7 should have which amount of square footage 3,500 and 10,000 and the retail space issue.

There was additional discussion regarding pedestrian safety and automobile safety and the appropriate way to get pedestrians across the road safely.

The discussion moved on to the gas pumps and what the set back should be – which 100 feet was noted, but perhaps several pumps should be in behind the building with only a couple in front of the building to get traffic in and out in a safe manner. It was also discussed that perhaps the main entrance should be encouraged from Church Hill Road as opposed to Route 7. The issue was raised about the importance of keeping the flow of traffic in the Route 7 Corridor.

It was requested to modify the draft proposal and a Hearing will be held on August 25, 2008 then the final hearing will be held in the meeting thereafter. There was no approval on holding a hearing on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, so it was determined that this issue will be on the agenda for August 11<sup>th</sup> once again.

**MARTY ILLICK RE-APPOINTMENT TO REPRESENTATIVE TO CCRPC**

Marty discussed the technical support that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission will give to the Town of Charlotte. Marty also reviewed with the board the issue of Forest Legacy dollars and how there are none of these funds currently being issued to Charlotte whatsoever. The smallest parcel of land would be 100 acres and that the application process will end September 22, 2008. Marty noted that these funds should be spread across the state. A motion was made by Frank Thornton to approve the re-appointment of Marty Illick to representative to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission; the motion was seconded by J. Cole and passed 4-1 (Ed Stone)

**WAIVE FEES – SUBDIVISION BY BURLEIGHS & THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**

No development is being proposed. One of the lots is to be purchased by The Nature Conservancy. Several organizations (including the Town) and several landowners (including the Burleighs) are contributing to this project. The fees would be approximately \$1,300 for all applications. A portion of the fee would be for a wastewater permit even if none were installed. A motion by Jenny Cole, second by Winslow Ladue to waive the fees and the motion passed 4-1 (Ed Stone)

**SCHNEIDER & DONAVAN REQUEST NAME FOR EAST WILLIAMS HILL DRIVE**

Frank Thornton said that the 911 Ordinance does not like names that have a direction (north, south, east or west) as a part of the name. A more distinctive name would have to be requested.

**AGREEMENT WITH TOWN OF SHELBURNE FOR POLICE SERVICES – 20 HOURS PER WEEK**

An agreement was presented regarding police services from the Town of Shelburne, there was a brief discussion regarding time frame, start date and the cost. A motion was made by Ed Stone to approve the contract for three months on a trial basis, seconded by Jenny Cole and passed 4-1 (Frank Thornton)

**PLOUFFE LANE TRAILHEAD**

A motion was made by Ed Stone to participate in mediation for the appeal as presented and limit participation to four hours; the motion was seconded by Jenny Cole and passed unanimously. It was determined that once the date has been set for the mediation the board will determine which members will attend.

**RESCHEDULE HEARING/SITE VISIT BALDWIN ROAD**

Motion by Ed Stone to reschedule the site visit and hearing for September 8, 2008, seconded by Jenny Cole and passed unanimously.

**SELECTBOARD WORKPLANS AND LIAISONS**

There was a discussion regarding work plans and liaisons from the May priority lists, which was a working document. There have been updates made and they have been placed on the web-site for the community to view. It was noted the board should look at core services and activities that would serve the community. The ancient roads issue needs to be discussed and the board needs to determine when this should happen. The Route 7 underpass needs to be on the agenda and what the state would require if this were to happen. Various committees need to be checked into; finance, donation, and donations by petitions. Liaisons do not necessarily need to attend meetings and committees should speak to the Selectboard to come up with priorities.

**CONTINUING WORK-SESSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Park and ride, Thompson's Point and the Road Commissioner should be on future agendas.

Staff reviews are upcoming and there will be special meetings to take the appropriate amount of time for all employees. There will be forms for input that will be handed out in advance of these special meetings to both the evaluators and the evaluatees. These meetings will take place in the next couple of months.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m. by Ed Stone; motion was seconded by Jenny Cole and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melodie Gingrow, Substitute Recorder