

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
SELECTBOARD
NOVEMBER 22, 2010**

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Russell, Jenny Cole, John Owen, Winslow Ladue, Ed Stone.

OTHERS: Nancy Sabin, Ellie Russell, Walter Pettigrew, Hugh Lewis Jr, Chris Davis, Seth Zimmerman, Suzy Zimmerman, Lee Mayo, Lisa Mayo, Stephen Brooks, Nancy Wood, Jesse Carleton, Mark Powers, Bill Franklin, Ian Pomerville, Ray Curtis, Josh Flores, Carly Krolich, Deb Stone, Stephanie Coate, Charlotte Citizen; and others.

Call to Order

Charles Russell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Adjustments to Agenda:

None.

Public Comments

Seth Zimmerman, resident, said that the Town had a lot of conserved land, but no one knows it's there. As things evolve the Conservation fund areas could be used for conservational training, archery, Boy Scout use, etc. Mr. Russell suggested taking up the topic at a future meeting, and thanked Mr. Zimmerman for his comments.

Minutes of October 25 and November 8, 2010

MOTION by Mr. Owen, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the minutes of October 25, 2010 as written with edits/corrections.

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

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve the minutes of November 8, 2010 as written, with edits/corrections.

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

Budget Review – discussion only

Road Commissioner

Hugh Lewis Jr appeared before the Selectboard and handed out copies of a proposed Charlotte Highway budget.

Fire and Rescue

Ray Curtis, Chris Davis, Ian Pomerville, and Josh Flores appeared before the Selectboard and presented proposed Rescue, Fire and EMT budgets. Following a lengthy discussion regarding District 3 (Chittenden County) paramedic requirements, benefit funding increases, EMT payroll issues, decreasing community volunteerism; mutual aid agreements, and levels of service, the Selectboard requested a budget with itemized actuals and call volumes added for comparison to the proposed budget, proposed budgets for “choices” (ala carte, jeep, or Cadillac service) and options to put before the voters at

Town Meeting, and the feasibility of executable shared services with surrounding communities. The Fire and Rescue departments would present the requested materials at the 12/13/2010 meeting.

Intramurals

Deb Stone appeared before the Selectboard and presented a proposed intramural budget. Following a discussion regarding a request for 2 additional work hours, Mr. Ladue asked for a breakdown of what that meant in terms of other costs associated with an increased work load. For example, an increase in benefits such as workmen's compensation costs, said Mr. Ladue. Ms. Stone would research the cost implications and report back to the Selectboard. Ms. Krolich spoke in support of a transition from a part time intramural sports position to a more inclusive Recreation Office in an effort to offer more of a whole package under one umbrella, and to partner with the Senior Center in use of center space.

Recreation

Deb Stone and Carly Krolich appeared before the Selectboard and presented a proposed Recreational budget. Following a discussion related to dock issues, proposed beach improvements, and concerns related to cars parked along the roadway (signage and boulders blocking access to the shoulder were suggested remedies), the Selectboard asked that the Recreation budget be level funded. Staff will distribute insurance schedules/lists to make sure that appropriate insurance coverage was done.

Municipal Planning Grant application to create specific criteria for reviewing prospective impacts on wildlife habitat during subdivision review process – action under consideration: approve Resolution

Mr. Russell briefly reviewed that the current Town wildlife habitat map was not included in the Town Plan. The Municipal Planning Grant would include an updated Wildlife Habitat map and standards, but not Scenic Views or Agricultural soils language updates. There was a November 30th deadline for the grant application submittal, said Mr. Russell.

MOTION by Mr. Owen, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve a Resolution for a Municipal Planning Grant application to create specific criteria for reviewing prospective impacts on wildlife habitat during the subdivision review process.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Ladue noted there was a local match of \$3,500 for a \$15,000 grant. What is the confidence level that the Town data is suitable to stand up to a "JAM Golf" defense. Does our data give a consultant the basis for establishing the standards, asked Mr. Ladue. Mr. Russell replied that the grant purpose is to create/develop criteria. The current Town standards are not adequate. The PC makes decisions based on the old map, said Mr. Russell.

Mr. Ladue said that the Endangered Species Act has criteria that should be taken into account. There is a concern that the level of data we have would not support a defense to take property rights, stated Mr. Ladue. Mr. Hyams said that there is a lot of data from the state for a new map.

There was further discussion regarding concerns related to a proposed description of tasks and time allotted for a consultant to develop standards, the removal of

scenic views and agricultural soil standards from the proposed grant scope of work, a grant requirement that standards/criteria developed must have value for other towns in the state to use as a model, and next steps.

Ms. Cole suggested that a citizen participation requirement (page 4 of the grant application) could be met via newspaper or website announcements.

Mr. Hyams said that a final product should be actual land use regulations.

Mr. Ladue asked if a legal review would be included as part of the process.

Mr. Stone called the question.

VOTE on call the question: 5 ayes; carried.

VOTE on the motion: 4 ayes, 1 nay (Mr. Ladue); motion carried.

Selectboard members signed the grant application.

Thompson's Point Lots 106 & 107 at 618 Flat Rock Road – action under consideration: terminate lease to Josephine Willis and approve lease to Sheila Mack MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Owen, to terminate the lease to Josephine Willis and to approve a lease to Sheila Mack for Thompson's Point Lot 106 and 107, 618 Flat Rock Road as presented.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Policy on ditching on private land in conjunction with town road culvert cleaning – action under consideration: approve policy

Mr. Lewis, Charlotte Road Commissioner, explained Town procedures for cleaning out culverts. Most drainage work was done within the Town right-of-way, but land owners were contacted for permission when it was necessary to dig a drainage ditch on private land, said Mr. Lewis. Mr. Stone suggested bringing the matter before the Board on a “per event” basis versus creating a Town policy.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Owen, to approve a policy on ditching on private land on a per event basis by the Selectboard.

VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 nay (Mr. Ladue); motion carried.

Response to Crime Spree – action under consideration: delegate Selectboard member to oversee response; authorize signs to be created and posted; initiate Neighborhood Watch program

Dana Carleton, Cedar Beach resident, expressed concern regarding break-ins in the Cedar Beach area. With the depressed economy it might be a good time to consider prevention contributions to heating emergency funds, food shelves, or job training, in support of our neighbors, said Ms. Carleton.

Mr. Owen reported that he had discussions with the Vermont State Police, Williston barracks, regarding signage at the Mt Philo State Park and break-ins on private property.

Both the State Police and Shelburne Police offer training programs for neighborhood watches. It is suggested to set up a town meeting for a Shelburne Police presentation. A Cedar Beach caretaker and resident reported on recent break-ins at the beach despite daily visits. There needs to be more police presence in Town.

Nancy Wood stated that no one had a complete record regarding the number of break-ins in Charlotte. Ms. Wood reviewed a list of 12 break-ins that she knew about. Addison County to the south was also having issues. There should be coordination of information between communities, but a question was how to do this, said Ms. Wood.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to delegate John Owen as a Selectboard member to oversee crime spree responses, authorize signs to be created and posted, and to initiate a Neighborhood Watch program.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Ladue said data was needed to support any options. Mr. Owen said he would pursue meetings with the State Police.

Mr. Brooks spoke in support of meeting with the State Police and implementing explicit disincentives to discourage behaviors we don't like. Mr. Brooks recommended purchasing and installing surveillance cameras, which were inexpensive and easy to operate, along roadways.

Mr. Powers, Cedar Beach caretaker, noted that the Town already contracts with the Shelburne Police Department. A once a week police presence at Cedar Beach would be helpful. A lock and chain, or gate at the beach entrance would cause a delay in fire department response, which was a concern, said the man. Mr. Russell replied that the Shelburne Police contract was for traffic control. There may be more capacity for more hours, said Mr. Russell.

Ms. Cole said she had put up signs at the State Park for people to hide valuables, and suggested that Mr. Owen contact the State of Vermont for signage at the park. VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Flea Market Lease – discussion only

Mr. Stone spoke in support of ceasing operation of a flea market. The property was in disarray and a mess. It is not a healthy environment for our town, stated Mr. Stone.

Ms. Cole noted that the operators had one month after the expiration of the lease on October 31st to clean up the area. It was not cleaned up last winter, and stuff has been left this year as well, said Ms. Cole.

Lee Mayo, Colchester resident and flea market vendor, explained he sold maple syrup and honey at the market. His family had a long history as flea market vendors in Charlotte. The two current operators should be asked to leave. New management and criteria for running the market were needed, stated Mr. Mayo.

Mr. Stone suggested hiring a townsperson to run the flea market with Selectboard oversight.

Ms. Wood asked if the market was not used for a year would it lose its grandfathered use.

Mr. Russell thanked Mr. Mayo for his input, and suggested adding the topic to a future Board agenda as an action item.

Selectboard Updates – discussion only

Ms. Cole reported on an update for a Selectboard party. The Selectboard suggested holding the party on Sunday, December 19th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Mr. Ladue reported that 84 West Charlotte Village Septic System surveys were sent out. When responses were received the results would be tallied for review.

Approval of Bills and Warrants

The Selectboard signed Bills and Warrants as presented.

Executive Session and Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Mr. Owen, to recess the regular meeting and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a potential real estate purchase.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The meeting was recessed and the Board entered Executive Session at 10:39 p.m.

Executive Session was adjourned and the Board reconvened the regular meeting at 10:44p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathlyn L. Furr, Recording Secretary