

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD  
TOWN HALL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
AUGUST 27, 2012**

**APPROVED**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles Russell, Chair; Ed Stone, Dennis Delaney (departed 8:29 p.m.), Winslow Ladue. **ABSENT:** John Owen.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Gloria Warden, Selectboard Assistant.

**OTHERS:** Heather Manning, Moe Harvey, Scott Burbank, Mel Huff, Jenny Cole, Stephen Brooks, Hugh Lewis Jr, Sue Smith, Jenny Cole, Ellie Russell, Bob Jimerson, Deb Stone, Joanna Cummings, John Hammer, Charlotte News; Carol Casey, Charlotte Citizen, and others.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Brooks asked for an update on a possible site visit to the Scenic Overlook. Mr. Russell said that a site visit might occur either September 10<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Delaney suggested contacting the Park Oversight Committee to alert the committee members regarding a site visit.

Mr. Brooks asked for an update on the Ferry Road and Thompson's Point Road railroad crossings. Mr. Russell suggested discussing possible solutions with the Charlotte Road Commissioner. Mr. Brooks said that if the Town wouldn't improve the crossings then a citizen petition could be done.

Mr. Brooks explained that trash and recyclables were combined at a Land Trust celebration in the East Charlotte Village last weekend. The recyclables should be separated from trash. The Town should appoint a Chittenden Solid Waste District representative to make sure this happens, suggested Mr. Brooks. Ms. Manning suggested that the Town could send an e-mail message to all Town committees to separate trash and recyclables as a friendly reminder.

Mr. Brooks asked for an update regarding a bridge project over a Ferry Road culvert. Mr. Russell replied that the pedestrian bridge was a Boy Scout project.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the sheep grazing in the cemeteries was working out, and commended the Cemetery Commission for an innovative solution to grass mowing. Mr. Brooks reported that using the sheep to mow grass was reducing the necessity to mowing the cemeteries, except for an occasional mowing to even out the grass.

Mr. Brooks briefly reviewed cemetery and volunteer projects for this year.

Mr. Lewis Jr, Charlotte Road Commissioner, reviewed a meeting with VTrans and Vermont Railway representatives at the Ferry Road and Thompson's Point Road rail crossings. The Town could make improvements at Ferry Road with the permission of the Vermont Railway. He didn't think that the Ferry Road crossing was worth fixing. He was told that the Thompson's Point Road crossing was a Town problem. The next time he paved Thompson's Point Road he would fill in the crossing on both sides of the tracks, said Mr. Lewis.

### **MINUTES: August 13**

Deferred.

### **ROSCOE ROAD AND LEWIS ROAD**

#### **Consider the comparative long-term stability and cost of moving the roadway within the existing right-of-way vs. installing rock wall along the stream bank**

Mr. Russell briefly reviewed options and introduced Scott Burbank, Vanasse Hanger Brustlin, Inc. representative.

Mr. Burbank explained a proposed permitting plan that would move the Roscoe Road bed 20' southerly, improvements to an existing culvert and stone fill, and tree plantings along a buffer between the stream bank and road. The road would be posted for a 30 mph speed, said Mr. Burbank.

Mr. Russell said that a Roscoe Road survey had been done and the center of the road was confirmed.

Ms. Huff asked for clarification regarding "live stakes" in the grubbing material along the stream bank. Mr. Burbank explained that the grubbing material included root masses that would grow and stabilize the sub-layers of stone and rock next summer. The stone material would come from a quarry. Top soil for the buffer would come from the new road bed excavation, said Mr. Burbank.

There was further discussion regarding proposed bioengineered solutions to stabilize the stream bank related to water velocity of Lewis Creek (should slow the flow somewhat); Army Corps of Engineer permitting required (work would be done in collaboration with Marty Illick); and costs associated with the improvements (plantings would be paid through the Road budget). Mr. Brooks suggested digging up and moving Rock Maples from the Scenic Overlook area. Mr. Hamilton explained that moving and re-planting the maples might not succeed.

Mr. Lewis said that the road would be open for one-way traffic for less than one week and may be closed for 1-2 days while construction was on-going.

### **Repair of Culvert**

**MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Mr. Dudley, to approve an application to the US Army Corps of Engineers for repair of the Roscoe Road culvert as presented.  
VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 absent (Mr. Owen); motion carried.**

**Hearing date to modify a scenic road on September 10, 2012 at 7:10 p.m.**

Mr. Russell said that a public hearing regarding Roscoe Road modifications would be held on September 10, 2012, at 7:10 p.m.

#### **TOWN BEACH – DOG POLICY**

Ms. Manning explained that the Town has a Nuisance Animal Policy in place and Town beach rules. Prohibiting dogs on the Town beach should be added to the policy. Signage at the beach should make it clear that dogs were not allowed. The Selectboard needed to decide if it should be a seasonal or year 'round policy, stated Ms. Manning.

Mr. Russell said that the Recreation Commission should review and approve the Beach rules. Then the Selectboard would adopt the rules and add a section regarding dogs to the Nuisance Animal Policy. Additional signage would be posted at the beach, said Mr. Russell.

There was brief discussion regarding verbiage for the signs, such as 'No Dogs Permitted'.

Mr. Ladue, Mr. Stone and Mr. Delaney spoke in favor of a year 'round policy.

Mr. Brooks suggested posting signage on neighbors' property that abutted the beach as well.

#### **JOANNA CUMMINGS – INTERVIEW FOR VACANCY ON THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Selectboard interviewed Joanna Cummings for an appointment to the Conservation Commission.

**MOTION by Mr. Delaney, seconded by Mr. Stone, to appoint Joanna Cummings to the Conservation Commission to fill a vacant seat with a four-year term ending in April, 2016.**

**VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 absent (Mr. Owen); motion carried.**

#### **SUE SMITH – NAMES FOR A TOWN HALL COMMITTEE FOR TOWN HALL REPAIRS, PLANTINGS, AND INVASIVE PLANTINGS IN THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE**

Mr. Russell reviewed names of people interested in serving on a Town Hall Committee.

Mr. Stone asked if all the people named were Town residents. Ms. Smith noted that one person was not a resident, but worked for the Town. That person was very interested in serving on the committee and could represent Town staff, suggested Ms. Smith.

Ms. Smith said that she would contact the state regarding replacement plants and would bring in books and photographs for Town review. Burning bushes were considered an invasive species and were listed on the state quarantine list, said Ms. Smith.

There was discussion regarding a proposal to move the WWII monument to the Town Green near the flag pole; removal of existing invasive plants from around the Town Hall and Library; a plan for replacement plantings (Ms. Smith said that Jim Donovan had prepared a landscaping plan in the past that could be used); a name change for the committee to "Town Green Landscaping and Monument Committee"; and a proposed two year term to allow the committee time to coordinate planning with the proposed Town Hall repair schedule.

Ms. Manning pointed out that some of the plantings between the Town Hall and the Quinlan School were planted in memory of people.

**MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to appoint Sue Smith, Jenny Cole, Kim Keyes, Happy Patrick and a professional landscaper to the Town Green Landscaping and Monument Committee for a term of two years, with a charge to: work on a project to remove invasive and sickly plants at the Town Hall and to work with a landscaper to replace them with appropriate native plants, and prepare a plan and to move the World War II monument from the Charlotte Central School to a prominent place on the Town Green.**

**DISCUSSION:**

**Mr. Ladue suggested that work could be done in two phases and for the committee to provide a cost for the projects to be presented at the 2013 March Town Meeting.**

**Mr. Russell asked the committee to return to the Selectboard with a cost breakdown, funding sources and plan designs.**

**VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 absent (Mr. Owen); motion carried.**

**GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB**

**MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Mr. Stone, to approve a request by the Green Mountain Bicycle Club to use South Greenbush Road for timed rides on September 13, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. as presented.**

**VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 absent (Mr. Owen); motion carried.**

**SELECTBOARD UPDATES**

Mr. Delaney reported that Thompson's Point stakeholders attended a Recreation Committee meeting at Whiskey Bay regarding a proposed parking area. It was a good meeting, said Mr. Delaney. Mr. Lewis said he would hold off replacing an existing culvert until the parking issue was resolved.

Mr. Delaney reported that dog owners were using the dog waste baskets at the Town access.

Mr. Ladue handed out copies of a revised site map/plan and proposed lease language for Deere Point for Selectboard review.

**APPROVE WARRANTS TO PAY BILLS**

The Selectboard members signed bills and warrants.

Mr. Delaney departed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to adjourn the meeting.**

**VOTE: 3 ayes, 2 absent (Mr. Owen, Mr. Delaney); motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary