

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD  
TOWN HALL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JULY 31, 2012**

**APPROVED**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles Russell, Chair; John Owen, Dennis Delaney, Winslow Ladue. **ABSENT:** Ed Stone.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Dean Bloch, Selectboard Assistant.

**OTHERS:** Chris Davis, Ed Sulva, David Stewart, Dick St George, John Snow, Patrice Machavern, Stephen Brooks, Moe Harvey, Bill Edson, Meg Modley, Kathy O'Brien, David Conard, Lorna Jimerson, Ken Coleburn, Carloyn Coleburn, Kate Lampton, Ruth DeForest, Bob Hyams, Janie Ahen, Mel Huff, Michelle Lussier, Mary Van Vleck, Stuart Bennett, Hugh Lewis Jr, Moe Harvey, Jenny Cole, Mary Mead, Nancy Wood, Charlotte News; Carol Casey, Charlotte Citizen, and others.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**WORK-SESSION WITH CHARLOTTE VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES RE: ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES**

Mr. Edson, Middlebury Rescue Executive Director, reviewed governance and financing of Middlebury Rescue, a private non-profit organization. A Strategic Plan Committee provides department support and planning related to needs and issues. Organizational issues are approved by the full Board. Committees and subcommittees conduct research, or leg work and report recommendations to the full Board. Fee-for-service billing was the major funding source with subscriptions and fund raising. Volunteers manned the heavy rescue side with about 60 calls per year, explained Mr. Edson.

Mr. Snow, resident, asked if the energy for a transition to a private department came from within the department, or externally. Mr. Edson replied that was from within the department. Not everyone was for the transition, said Mr. Edson.

Mr. Edson said that the full Board met the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and were open to the public. Interested parties were invited to attend, said Mr. Edson.

Next meeting: 08/13/2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Modley said that the Corporation Board was meeting Tuesday, 08/03/2012, and would bring a copy of a proposed draft Outline Agreement to the membership for review. Recommendations would be brought back to the Selectboard, said Ms. Modley.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

Remove: Fritz Tegatz request to locate a utility pole within Guinea Road right-of-way

Add: Jenny Cole – discussion VELCO

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Cole asked if Town surplus funds could be used for West Village road improvements on Ferry Road, for example, speed bumps to slow traffic.

Ms. Cole explained a proposed 250<sup>th</sup> Town Celebration event archeological walk on Thompsons Point. Andrew Dupree had conducted a study on the Town Poor Farm and has offered to present a talk on the Poor Farm either August 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dupree was interested in camping on Thompson's Point, said Ms. Cole. Ms. Cole asked if the Selectboard had any objections, or if approval was needed.

Mr. Harvey suggested contacting Erick Findley. Ms. Cole said she would contact him as a possible host. Mr. Dupree could camp behind the caretaker's house, suggested Ms. Cole.

Mr. Conard asked Ms. Cole to e-mail the information to him and he would contact Bob Hall regarding use of the Club House for a presentation.

Mr. Brooks, resident, asked for an update regarding the Ferry Road railroad crossing issue. Ed Stone was working on the issue. Dick Hoskins, VTrans District 9 manager, said that the state was not doing anything with that crossing, but the Town could make any improvements, said Mr. Brooks. Mr. Russell said that he would discuss the matter with the Charlotte Road Commissioner.

Ms. Wood suggested that a 40 MPH speed sign should be posted before the tracks to warn motorists of the dangerous crossing.

Mr. Brooks asked for an update on the clearing of the Route 7 view corridor. Mr. Russell reviewed that trees have been cut and more may be cut down. Another site visit may need to be scheduled, said Mr. Russell.

Ms. Cole asked if Mr. Brooks was looking for a clearing of the west view. Mr. Brooks replied that the effort to buy the lands was to keep the view open. Any land within should be clear cut to maintain an open view. The Town should buy the strip of land west of the Steve Moore parcel, said Mr. Brooks. Mr. Russell said the Selectboard would put the view corridor on a future agenda and consider a site visit.

**MINUTES: July 9, July 10**

Approval of minutes was deferred.

**VELCO CORRIDOR MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – discussion only**

Ms. Cole briefly reviewed a VELCO corridor maintenance agreement related to removal of invasive plants in the Charlotte easement. VELCO would start work in a couple of weeks, said Ms. Cole.

It was the consensus of the Selectboard to rely on Ms. Cole's expertise with VELCO and the agreement document that work could move forward.

**SET TAX RATE**

Mary Mead, Town Treasurer, and Patrice Machavern and Nancy Wood, Town Auditors, reviewed budget versus actuals, revenues versus expenses, and an approximate surplus amount of \$365,000-400,000.

**MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Mr. Owen, to set the Municipal FY2012-2013 Tax Rate at 0.1121.**

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

**KATHY O'BRIEN – REQUEST FOR A LICENSE AGREEMENT TO BORE UNDER SPEAR STREET**

Kathy O'Brien asked for Selectboard approval for a license agreement to bore under Spear Street to install a culvert.

**MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Mr. Owen, to approve a request by Kathy O'Brien for a License Agreement to bore under Spear Street.**

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

**IMPROVEMENT OF LAKE ACCESS AND PARKING AT THOMPSON'S POINT**

Mr. Fraser-Harris, Recreation Commission member, explained that the commission and the Conservation Committee would like to proceed with proposed improvements upon the Whiskey Bay and Lane's Lane water accesses for the general public. The committees would work with the residents on Thompson's Point, said Mr. Fraser-Harris.

There was discussion regarding the Whiskey Bay Town lot, and the Bennett lot that was abandoned and overgrown that could be used for parking spaces to the water access.

Mr. Conard, Thompson's Point camp owner, said he attended a site visit with the Recreation, Conservation and Selectboard. There was a serious issue with the Bennett lot driveway, which has a manhole. He talked with Bob Hall regarding location 3-4 parking spaces down lower on the lot. The existing gravel path could be blocked off to prevent cars from going down the path. Anything that the Town does should have regulations and controls. The Town owns one-half of the beach lot and there should be signs put up to protect the private lot owner, said Mr. Conard.

Ms. DeForest, Thompson's Point resident, said that she lives at the beach lot. There was a lot of activity at the beach lot all day long. Dog owners don't pick up their dog droppings and leave litter at the site. She picks up after dogs on her side of the beach and she doesn't own a dog, stated Ms. DeForest.

Mr. Fraser-Harris suggested that placing large rocks to delineate Ms. DeForest's side of the beach from the Town side would accentuate her privacy.

Ms. DeForest suggested placing parking at the Northshore Road parking area, which would be less noise and traffic versus the Bennett lot.

Ms. Coleburn, Thompson's Point resident, said that dogs barking all day was bothersome.

**MOTION by Mr. Delaney, seconded by Mr. Owen, to appoint Bill Fraser-Harris as a lead person to coordinate the improvement of lake access and parking at Thompson's Point.**

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

Mr. Russell said that the Selectboard would take up the Lane's Lane access issue at a future meeting.

#### **DOG WASTE PICK-UP ON THOMPSON'S POINT**

**MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Mr. Owen, to approve pick-up of two cans with dog waste on Deer Point Road and Whiskey Bay, two times per month from March to November for a cost of \$33 per month.**

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

#### **RAYMOND FORBES, PICTURE PARK – REQUEST TO CONDUCT PHOTO-SHOOT ON AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup> AT INTERSECTION OF MOUNT PHILO ROAD AND HINESBURG ROAD**

**MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Mr. Owen, to approve a request by Raymond Forbes, Picture Park, to conduct a photo-shoot on August 7, 2012, at the intersection of Mount Philo Road and Hinesburg Road as presented.**

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

#### **ROSCOE ROAD AND LEWIS CREEK – EROSION AND RELATED ISSUES**

**MOTION by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to warn a public hearing for modification of a scenic road for the following: shift the Roscoe Road roadway approximately 20 feet to the south, staying within the existing right-of-way, where erosion is undermining the shoulder.**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Russell asked if the proposed roadway change was staked off. Mr. Lewis Jr, Charlotte Road Commissioner, explained yes. He put in right-of-way stakes with a 5' buffer. The Jimerson's asked to have more of a buffer, and he told them that he wanted to maximize the distance from the river bank to get as far from Lewis Creek as possible. Currently there was an 8-10' buffer of grass between the road and fence. The road was a four-rod road, said Mr. Lewis.

**AMENDMENT to the motion by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to warn a public hearing for 08/27/2012.**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Huff, resident, said she could e-mail copies of a meeting with the Town hired engineer, Scott Burbank, to interested parties. Mr. Delaney asked for a copy.

**Mr. Harvey noted that he had suggested inviting Scott Burbank to the Selectboard meeting to answer any questions at an earlier meeting.**

**Mr. Ladue explained that the state Watershed Coordinator worked with the Watersheds and River's Program. Work was done on this stretch of Lewis Creek related to hazardous areas, which encompassed most of the Jimerson's field. The Town was moving the road so the bank stabilization may not be needed, said Mr. Ladue.**

**Mr. Russell said that if bank stabilization was required then that meant delays for permitting. He was more comfortable moving the road further to the south. The width of the road was known so some of the floodplain would be left, explained Mr. Russell.**

**Mr. Harvey expressed concern that he lived on the road, and reiterated that the engineer firm should approve what the Town proposed to do.**

**Mr. Russell suggested inviting Mr. Burbank come in either for the 08/13, or 08/27 Selectboard meeting.**

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

#### **CO-HOUSING TRAIL PARKING AREA**

**MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Mr. Owen, to approve a License Agreement for a four-car parking area at the Bloomfield Farm CSA pick-up area for the Co-Housing Trail parking.**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

**Mr. Bloch explained that the Bloomfield Farm CSA has an existing parking area. The Town's contractor would mow the parking area at no additional cost since he was mowing the trails. The Town would provide indemnity insurance against any damages, and "Dogs on Lease" signage would be installed at the parking area and trails.**

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

Mr. Bloch said that the Town Attorney wrote the agreement and the Co-housing committee would need to sign the agreement.

#### **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

**MOTION by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to reappoint Thomas Mansfield as the Charlotte Zoning Administrator for a three-year term as per 24 VSA 4448.**

**Mr. Delaney suggested that the Board discuss the Zoning Administrator position in Executive Session. Mr. Owen and Mr. Ladue withdrew the motion.**

**MOTION by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to enter Executive Session to discuss reappointment of the Charlotte Zoning Administrator matters, and to invite the Selectboard Clerk to attend.**

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

The Selectboard entered Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

**MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Mr. Owen, to adjourn Executive Session.**

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

Executive Session was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Mr. Russell reported that no action was taken.

**MOTION by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to reappoint Thomas Mansfield as the Charlotte Zoning Administrator for a three-year term as per 24 VSA 4448.**

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

#### **APPROVE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$684 TO BOB STONE FOR PARAMEDIC TRAINING**

**MOTION by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Delaney, to approve reimbursement of \$684 to Bob Stone for paramedic training.**

**DISCUSSION:**

**Mr. Russell briefly reviewed a verbal agreement between Ian Pomerville, Charlotte Rescue Chief, and Bob Stone. There was no written documentation of a reimbursement agreement. Bob Stone e-mailed his volunteer time based on paid time to the Town. Linda Foote had denied payment for the invoice, which was re-submitted to the Town Clerk, said Mr. Russell.**

**VOTE: 3 nays, 1 abstention (Mr. Ladue), 1 absent (Mr. Stone); motion failed.**

**SELECTBOARD UPDATES**

Mr. Ladue reported that a realtor had contacted him regarding potential Town interest in purchasing the Waldorf School property. There was septic capacity associated with the property, said Mr. Ladue.

Ms. Lussier, Energy Committee member, reported that the committee had asked Town staff to review a draft RFP proposal to study the potential for consolidation of the Town heating/cooling systems. The study would evaluate the Town buildings and make recommendations. There was \$5,000 in the Energy Committee budget to fund a study. The committee would report to the Selectboard prior to any commitment, said Ms. Lussier.

**APPROVE WARRANTS TO PAY BILLS**

Mr. Owen noted that he had a question regarding a warrant presented by the Cemetery Committee. There was brief discussion regarding what line item the funds should come from.

**MOTION by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve an expenditure of \$23.50 for a Cemetery Committee meeting at the Old Brick Store from non-public funds.**

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

The Selectboard members signed bills and warrants.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary