

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
TOWN HALL
March 11, 2019**

APPROVED

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS: Chair Matthew Krasnow, Carrie Spear, Fritz Tegatz, Frank Tenney, Louise McCarren

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Town Administrator

OTHERS: Scooter MacMillan, Bill Stuono, GA Bouchard, Sue Smith, Hugh Lewis, Jr., Laurie Thompson, Mark Dillenbeck, Clarke Hinsdale, Virginia Holden, Steve Shubart, Tom Baginski

AGENDA:

6:30 PM Adjustments to the agenda
6:31 PM Selectboard workplan
7:00 PM Public Comment
7:05 PM Selectboard updates
7:10 PM Request for Bids for Removal of Ash Trees in Town Highway Rights-of-Way (to prepare for Emerald Ash Borer)
7:25 PM Request for Permit to Conduct Spraying in Town Highway Rights-of-Way
7:35 PM Clark Hinsdale, III—proposed Open Space Agreement and Trail Easement on parcel north of Charlotte Solar installation, northwest of intersection of Hinesburg Road & Spear Street
8:00 PM Town Link Trail—State Park Road—Public Work-Session
8:15 PM Selectboard’s Rules of Procedure
8:30 PM Tenney Enterprises—renewal of 2nd Class License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages, May 1, 2019 –April 30, 2020 (to be acted on as Board of Liquor Control)
8:35 PM Spear’s Corner Store, Inc.—renewal of 2ndClass License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages, May 1, 2019 –April 30, 2020 (to be acted on as Board of Liquor Control)
8:40 PM Minutes: February 25, March 4, March 5, March 7
8:55 PM Approve warrants to pay bills
9:00 PM Adjournment

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matthew Krasnow called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Dean asked if they should discuss the bond bank and if that should that happen now, and be added to the agenda for discussion. It was agreed that should happen at 8:50PM.

Dean said that the 8:00 PM Town Link Trail—State Park Road—Public Work-Session should be moved to another agenda since Jim Donovan out of town.

SELECTBOARD WORK PLAN

Dean said there is a requirement to update the local emergency management plan. Chris Davis and Regional Planning have been working on it. They have started drafts that can be viewed on the April 8 agenda, Dean said. Fritz started a discussion on having a capital plan and putting that on a future agenda.

Dean said the recreation director has been working on things related to the beach and that there was a with session with Charlie Prout to work on the master plan. This year they intend to proceed with the playground and parking area. Dean asked if the Selectboard wanted to be involved in that. Matt said it would be a good idea and a site visit should be planned. Dean penciled in a site visit on a future agenda.

Matt said Shelburne hired a new police chief. Matt suggested they should meet. Louise agreed and said she wanted to know about how Charlotte was covered. Matt explained how the process works with the State Police, 911 calls to the dispatch center and the system the ambulance uses. Shelburne is usually the first one to be called for mutual aid. Hinesburg, Vergennes also serves in this capacity. Charlotte has an auxiliary contact with the State Police for additional hours, mostly for speed abatement, Matt said. And mostly in spring and summer but average at about 32 hours a month. Less in winter, he said. Residual income comes to the town if there are any tickets issued. Matt agreed to set up a meeting with Chief Noble and will email Louise as they both serve as liaisons for the Selectboard.

There was a public question about 911 calls. Fritz said it depends on how many people are calling. They go to Shelburne, he said, but if Shelburne is busy the call will go to the next available dispatch center, maybe a couple of hours away. Whoever gets the call makes a judgement call. If it is a big enough emergency it goes to State Police or if it can wait, it goes to local authorities. Matt said last year one call was picked up with a New York dispatch center. It bounces to other dispatchers and they call the State Police directly if it is a big issue, Fritz said. Otherwise they call the Shelburne Police.

The town is in a holding pattern for a grant they applied for regarding the State Park Road trail. They applied for a wetlands permit that is not complete until they get requested information around the Thorpe Brook area. They need to apply for an Act 250 amendment because some of the trails are change of use. It was mentioned that it is not a huge deal but it is another step.

Regarding accessory agricultural and commercial uses and the new development review regulations, Dean said that Aaron said he has been working on some drafts to bring to the Selectboard. Dean said they have met with other local towns about the issue. Among planners on list serve there has been a lot of information. This should be on the agenda on April 22.

Beach upgrades will be discussed at the April 8 site visit. Dean said right now there is not time on that agenda for discussion.

April 25 is the deadline for comment on the new road regulations and the road commissioner has a grant application and other issues to discuss. Matt suggested the site visit should be at 5PM.

Dean said a management plan for the burns property was completed and the easement is in place. He said some uses were proposed and they need to know how to manage the uses as to not infringe on the forest and other things. Conservation is in a bit of transition, he said. The chair is changing and new appointees are coming in. Linda Radmer is the new chair and both she and Amos are up for reappointment as well as a third.

Carrie said they were working on driveway standards last year and they haven't followed through with that. Dean said that was a good thing to put on the summer schedule. Fritz said private roads and driveways and road regulations and curb cut recommendations should be outlined together. Road standards should apply as current standards don't have anything about fabric, he said.

Fritz said the state has recommended the town paint the bridge beams. He said he will get a ballpark figure on what that will cost.

Carrie said the board should revisit the idea that budget presentations be conducted over a two meeting span of time. She asked if one would be better for everyone. Fritz said that should be decided committee by committee. Matt said according to the Burlington Free Press Charlotte had one of the lowest budget increase in the state and that he thought that may be because of this careful two meeting consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Stuono asked if Monday night would be better for Town Meeting as many people can't do it Tuesday mornings. Dean said it is an important point to add to the work plan. Matt said there are towns that have moved it to Saturday and that after three years he has seen both attendance at Town Meeting and voter turnout has been down. As well as the budget vote, he said. He said the town needs more people involved in this special democratic process. When he was a kid there was babysitting in the library, he said. The town has lost some institutional support now that school vacation has moved. It used to be a real community day in the building. Mechanically Dean said it would be an article and he was not sure if it needs a charter change. This would be for 2021. The town has one more Town Meeting with the current charter.

Bill Stuono asked about voter turn out. Matt estimated a little over 100 attended. Carrie said she saw only about 3 people under the age of 45 and said they need to do something about that. Fritz suggested offering free beer.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

The library is having a meeting Tuesday with the board and architect and Fritz said he is going to represent the Selectboard and come back and let them know how it went. The last emails indicate the architect thinks he is contracting with the library board, Fritz said.

Request for Bids for Removal of Ash Trees in Town Highway Rights-of-Way (to prepare for Emerald Ash Borer)

Mark Dillenbeck Tree Warden discussed preemptive ash cutting on Lake Road between Thompsons Point and Ferry Road. It's to be a good test case, he said. They requested contractors to bid two ways; all of ash trees; or how far can we get with \$10,000. Louise asked questions about infestation and being proactive about carriers in firewood. She asked if the tree warden would be chipping everything. Mark said just the tops and the that wood is going to the land owners by being piled up on the side of the road, out of the road. If homeowners don't want the wood it could be available as firewood to people of modest means, Mark said. They would have to ask the landowner. After time has passed maybe Junior could come and remove it Mark said, to be stored a the old flea market. This would need to be approved by the Selectboard.

Junior said stumps need to be cut 6 inches or under or as close to the ground as possible for mowing reasons.

Matt asked for a site visit. Mark said the sooner the better because they want to get the proposal out before spring.

Frank asked about alerting the homeowners to the fact they would need to remove the wood after the contractor placed them on the owners property and how many landowners will need to be informed. Mark said there are 20 or so parcels and hopefully a lot of landowners will use the wood. Frank asked if the letter specified when the wood would need to be moved. Mark said it did not. Junior said wood needs to be removed before mowing starts, the 15th of June.

Bill asked if treating the trees might be cheaper than cutting them down. Mark said the treatments have to happen every two years. Depending on the tree, it could be cheaper to treat them and he has identified 7 they would like to keep. These are located at the Senior Center, the beach, and at the park. Mark said they don't have too many trees but don't want to burden the town with ongoing perpetual treatments.

Motion to approve the Request for Bids for Removal of Ash Trees in Town Highway Rights-of-Way (to prepare for Emerald Ash Borer) as corrected by Fritz. Carrie seconded. Vote: 5-0; the motion passed.

Request for Permit to Conduct Spraying in Town Highway Rights-of-Way

Sue Smith, deputy tree warden, presented information about knotweed and other invasives. She requested a letter be sent to the state about common reed on Route 7 and Church Hill because the state won't allow her access. Sue asked that the Selectboard send a letter stating that it is threatening Charlotte's wetland behind Town Hall and it is going to spread and it is expensive.

Junior has been managing wild parsnip with mowing, Sue said.

Fritz asked if there was any concern about roundup. Sue said there is only a very small portion that needs to be sprayed and conditions need to be right before doing so. There needs to be dry weather and no wind. And the Nature Conservancy supports the town's use of it.

Motion to approve Request for Permit to Conduct Spraying in Town Highway Rights-of-Way by Matt with authorization for the chair to sign. Frank seconded. Vote: 5-0; the motion passed.

Clark Hinsdale, III—proposed Open Space Agreement and Trail Easement on parcel north of Charlotte Solar installation, northwest of intersection of Hinesburg Road & Spear Street

Clark owns two adjacent properties on Hinesburg Road where a trail easement is being sought. He has some ideas to appease the town's open space agreement. Clark has been in touch with the Trails Committee and they have come up with a plan they both are in agreement with. Frank asked if the Planning Commission has looked at their plan and Dean said he was unsure. Clark said it was an unusual situation and that he was not trying to go around the Planning Commission.

The town open space agreement would only be on lot 2a. The land trust has easements on the other two lots involved. The issue is that Clark cannot convey an easement to property he does not own but only has an easement to, Dean said.

Clark explained that the land around the solar array is involved in a settlement and elaborated on the history of the property. The solar array is not where Clark wanted it, but the Public Service Board decided it should be there, so as a result there is a U-shaped lot and a subdivision was turned down. They went to court where it was turned down again, Clark said. Dean handled the agreement in 2013-2014. This project bulked up a piece of woodland to 122 acres, Clark said. The Charlotte Land Trust has an easement on the old Bean farm, he said.

Clark said Daryl was relatively new at the time and Dean had several hundred hours in the process. As he worked on this project, he copied both of them in emails. Daryl was pushing that Dean would take care of things since he knew more about the project, Clark said. It was targeted as a resource of high public value and as a result the easement says it has to be maintained as a forest. Steve Shubart is here who wants to buy the Bean farm. Steve started his business Shoreham and is a VTC graduate. His mission is to support small scale beef farmers.

Clark said he and Shubart, as well as others have been working on what is going to replace dairy in the state. Steve can't clear the forested land, so it cannot be cleared for agriculture, Clark said. There was no effort to go around the Planning Commission since Daryl and Dean have been in the loop. Clark said he has been working with the Trails Committee and the Land Trust on trying to get a quality outcome for the community. They want to close before April 1.

Louise asked who would approve the managed forest plan. Clark said the town is one of the parties that gets to approve the plan. Louise said it calls for forest management. But it also references a plan. Clark said the extra level of review was put in place precisely to avoid it being turned into ag land. It is clay plain forest and as a water quality measure the land is low and flat. It is best practices for water quality to have that land forested instead of grazed, he said.

There was discussion about where the best view was. Laurie said they wanted to keep the east-west connection and from Spear Street views are seen all the way down to the intersection. The site lines are actually really good, she said. She said their preferred alignment would be Spear Street but Hinesburg Road is the safe second choice. Carrie said she thought that Hinesburg Road is the better option, that it was more practical.

It was mentioned that there is no easement on the south side of Hinesburg Road.

Tom Baginski said Hinesburg Road is safer with a better view. Bill Stuono agreed with Tom. He thinks Spear Street is dangerous. There is a huge drop off on both sides of the road, he said. Coming behind Grange Hall would be ideal, he said. Laurie said she would agree if there was an easement on the other side of the road.

Louise clarified non-motorized bikes are allowed. Dogs are allowed on a leash.

Motion to approve Clark Hinsdale, III—proposed Open Space Agreement and Trail Easement on parcel north of Charlotte Solar installation, northwest of intersection of Hinesburg Road & Spear Street as the Planning Commission approves it by Carrie. Fritz seconded. Vote: 5-0; the motion passed.

Town Link Trail—State Park Road—Public Work-Session

Moved to another agenda since Jim Donovan out of town.

Selectboard's Rules of Procedure

This was voted on and approved in last meeting minutes.

Motion to adjourn and reconvene as liquor control board by Matt. Seconded by Frank. Vote: 5-0; the motion passed.

Motion to approve Tenney Enterprises—renewal of 2ndClass License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages, May 1, 2019 –April 30, 2020 by Carrie. Seconded by Fritz. Vote: 4-0; the motion passed. Frank recused.

Motion to approve Spear's Corner Store, Inc.—renewal of 2ndClass License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages, May 1, 2019 –April 30, 2020 by Frank. Seconded by Fritz. Vote: 4-0; the motion passed. Carrie recused.

Motion to adjourn and reconvene as Selectboard by Matt. Seconded by Frank. Vote: 5-0; the motion passed.

Minutes: February 25, March 4, March 5, March 7

Minutes from Feb. 25 postponed due to no quorum. The question if Lane can vote needs to be answered.

Motion to approve March 7 minutes by Carrie as amended. Seconded by Frank. Vote: 5-0; the motion passed.

Motion to approve March 5 minutes by Carrie as amended. Seconded by Frank. Vote: 4-0; the motion passed. Louise recused.

Motion to approve March 4 minutes by Carrie as amended. Seconded by Frank. Vote: 4-0; the motion passed. Louise recused.

Approve warrants to pay bills

Dean asked about meeting with the bond bank for the library project. Matt said he recalled that they were going to reach the fundraising goal in 2020 before going to the bond bank. Dean said if there was a positive bond vote that there would be more community support. Carrie requested Mary be part of the discussion as the town treasurer. The Spring bond application is April and there is another in the fall. Louise said they should wait for the library director to be present as well. Fritz said this will be a work in progress because there are a lot of questions. Dean said he will add it to a future agenda.

Carrie said they need to look at the holiday personnel part of the policy. Not everyone is on the same page, she said. Town Hall, the library and the Senior Center do not coincide. The Town has more holidays listed than the Senior Center. Carrie said this should be uniform across the board. This is penciled in to be on the agenda for the May 13 meeting.

April 8 is the warning for the Town Meeting Informational Meeting. Matt said there is 45 minutes allotted for the local emergency management plan. Dean said it is going to be a busy night.

Motion to adjourn by Carrie at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Fritz. Vote: 5-0; the motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Lynn Monty, Recording Secretary.