

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
TOWN HALL  
May 13, 2019**

**APPROVED**

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:** Matthew Krasnow, Carrie Spear, Louise McCarren, Frank Tenney, (Fritz Tegatz absent)

**ADMINISTRATION:** Dean Bloch, Town Administrator

**OTHERS:** Marion Paris, Megan Price, Bill Frasier-Harris, Moe Harvey, Bruce Hasse, Julia Parker Dickerson, Juliann Phelps, Bonnie Heaslip, Hugh Lewis, Jr., Christina Booher, Rick Pete, Bill Stuono, Katherine Ranallo, Margaret Russell, Greg Ranallo, Jack Pilla, Mark Moser, Dorothy Waller, Patrice Machavern, Rachel Daley, Laura Cahners Ford, Robert Mack, Tom Cosinuke, Julian Kulski, Jason Barnard, Kevin Bessett, Jon Maguire, Nicole Conley

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

6:00 PM Adjustments to the agenda  
6:01 PM Selection of Contractor for Playground Reconstruction  
6:10 PM Butterfly Garden at Quinlan Covered Bridge  
6:15 PM Speeding concerns on Ferry Road and other roads  
6:45 PM Vermont State Police—Biannual Discussion Re: Contracted Hours  
7:00 PM Public Comment  
7:05 PM Bid Opening for Town Road Paving; Selection of Bid Proposal  
7:15 PM CVFRS 3rdQuarter (FY19) Financial Review  
7:30 PM Town Beach accessibility ramp  
7:45 PM Authorize Thompson’s Point lease holders to drill wells:  
Shaw Associates—Lot 104, 572 Flat Rock Road  
Richard Tonino—Lots 192 & 193, 1060 North Shore Road  
7:50 PM Green Mountain Bicycle Club—request to use south Greenbush Road for time trials on May 16th, June 20th and July 18<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 PM Chittenden Solid Waste District—request to site the Rover at the salt shed on Root Road for collection of hazardous waste on Saturday August 3, 2019  
8:05 PM Authorize Requests for Bids—Town Hall Cleaning; Town (Village) Wastewater System Maintenance  
8:15 PM Town Mowing and Land Maintenance Contract(s)—address tree mulching  
8:20 PM Minutes: April 22; May 1, 2019  
8:30 PM Selectboard Updates  
8:35 PM Discuss personnel issue (executive session likely)  
8:55 PM Approve Warrants to Pay Bills  
9:00 PM Adjournment

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Matthew Krasnow called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Adjustments to the agenda**

None

**Selection of Contractor for Playground Reconstruction**

There was one contractor with two designs. Nicole Conley discussed the different playground ideas and Selectboard (SB) notes she had previously received. She discussed some design changes since the donor was not fully approving of the originally submitted design. The issue was that the playground design needs to be accessible for all age groups and within the budget. This included surfacing and enough elements of interest for all age groups. Matt Krasnow offered that the SB approve the contractor but not any actual work at this point in the process.

Bill Frasier-Harris said the question was whether the SB could approve the contract and let the Recreation Department take it from there to expedite the process. He said he thought they could come up with an acceptable design in a few days.

Matt said he would like to see the design before approving the contract. He said there are several time-sensitive issues and suggested a special meeting. That meeting will be held Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m.

Robert Mack asked about the bidding process. Bill explained to him that the Recreation Department put out an RFP, advertised it and it was picked up by regional services like Works in Progress. Nicole sent the RFP out to playground companies. The package was available to a wide variety of different companies, Bill said.

**Butterfly Garden at Quinlan Covered Bridge**

Julia Parker Dickerson said she lives a quarter mile from Quinlan Bridge and noticed a lot of monarchs and wildlife in the area. She asked to have permission to install a small wildflower garden on the corner of Lewis Creek. It's about a 400 square foot triangle of grass right now. She has already purchased an American Meadow wildflower mix for pollinators. This will be no cost to the Town, she said.

Matt said the Charlotte Road Commissioner looked at it and the only concern Junior Lewis had was that the flowers should be less than 24 inches high for visibility.

**MOTION by Louise, seconded by Carrie, to give permission to Julia Parker Dickerson to install a wildflower garden at the intersection near the Quinlan Covered Bridge at no cost to the Town. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

**Speeding concerns on Ferry Road and other roads**

Matt spoke about the work the Town has done in researching the history of speeding in town. And he spoke about the role of the State Police and their contract with Charlotte.

Louise asked about Route 7 and the Town's responsibility for enforcing speed. She asked if Ferry Road was a Town road. It was noted that State Police are responsible for

enforcement on all of the roads all of the time since Charlotte does not have a local police department.

Megan Price said she lives on Ferry Road and a recent news article she read was discouraging. She said a state trooper was quoted as saying that the Town of Charlotte wasn't planning on reducing speed limits. She spoke of her 15 year history of enduring vehicles traveling at high speeds near her home. She offered a series of recommendations to reduce speeding in town. She requested a competitive bid process for law enforcement. She asked for reports on where the State Police are patrolling and when.

Matt said he appreciated her comments and recommendations. He suggested an agenda item to discuss action items. He said the State Police contract is public information and is available.

Sgt. Matt Daley said he gave the newspaper that quote after reading the Charlotte speed study report. He said he didn't think it was going to fulfill what was needed to make any changes in speed limits.

Margaret Russell said she was glad they were having the discussion. She suggested focusing on all roads in town not just the roads where people live who are most vocal at these meetings. She suggested funds go into infrastructure rather than policing. She spoke about the trails system and to prioritize that for people to have a place to hike and bike.

Matt asked Dean Bloch for maps. He showed the research that had been done regarding automobile accidents in town. It was noted that State Police patrol where the accidents are happening most and are not based on complaint-driven data.

Rachel Daley moved to Charlotte two years ago. She said it is discouraging that it is not possible to walk or bike on Ferry Road with her young family. She also noted that the easement on Knowles Farm is not ideal either. "You will sprain your ankle," she said. She said she was glad it is there but it's not great for a young family. She said with no pedestrian crossing on Route 7 it is impossible to ride bikes to the beach or walk. It's only three miles for her family but they are forced to drive everywhere in town for safety reasons. She said she would like an opportunity to have a discussion for Charlotte to be a walkable community. She said she does not approve of more police hours but would like a 35 mph speed limit and signs.

Bonnie Heaslip lives on Mt. Philo Road. She has lived in town 25 years, she said. She said most people drive 60 mph past her home and it is not safe to walk her dogs. She said she is surprised the Town is still having these conversations after all of these years. She told about how her son was hit by a truck going 50 mph, that he is ok, but it happened and roads in Charlotte are not safe.

Marion Paris said most people stop at the stop sign on Ferry and Lake and she advocates for a four-way stop. She said her daughter was hit there. She does not support reducing mileage to 35. She supports 45 mph.

Matt said the discussion will be picked up again next week and the SB will work on actionable items. Dean put up the last 5 years of data from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. Matt explained the Crash Maps.

Jack Pilla said he has issues with the speed limit on Ferry Road and that it has a lot of blind spots. He said 35 mph is more reasonable in certain sections near Greenbush Road. He said running is dangerous because the road is narrow and has no shoulder. He has had to jump off the road several times, he said. He said walking his dogs and walking with his granddaughter is dangerous.

Bill Stuono suggested reducing the speed limit to 35 mph on Spear Street. He spoke of dangerous intersections, blind intersections and thanked the troopers for their work.

There were comments about cyclists being unaware of their surroundings and suggestions to install fog lines for safety and signage that says to be aware of bicyclist and pedestrians.

Matt said he has seen improvements in the past five years and that this is a community issue, not a policing or structural issue alone. He said there are many actionable items that are not expensive and that the SB will push the ball forward.

#### **Vermont State Police—Biannual Discussion Re: Contracted Hours**

Trooper Bob Lucas spoke about the vibrancy of his police force and mechanisms in place for citizens to report issues. He said they monitor Front Porch Forum and did recently deploy a speed cart. Two weeks of data indicates an average speed of 33 mph in the 50 mph zone and the highest was 95. More than 5,000 vehicles were clocked.

Megan said the current speed cart on Ferry Road needs to be moved down farther.

Warnings and written tickets for the year were discussed. Statistics were read from the troopers report for the town. It was noted that the clocked speeds on tickets issued to motorists could be added to the monthly excel spreadsheet given to the Town. Sgt. Daley spoke about hours contracted and how it works. He said trooper report data drives responses.

Matt said over the past five years the whole process has improved. He said the troopers were doing a great job and at the lowest cost to the Town.

#### **Public Comment**

Megan Price asked about trooper hours and Matt referred to the scope of services.

#### **Bid Opening for Town Road Paving; Selection of Bid Proposal**

Matt read the four bids aloud. Matt spoke about the process and about the road commissioner's involvement. Junior answered questions about the type of materials used in Town paving. Frank asked about the recommended roads to be paved. Junior said Mt.

Philo Spear (sections of) and others. D & F Excavating was highly recommended by Junior. And their bid was considerably less than the other three.

**MOTION by Matt, seconded by Louise, to give the Town Road Paving Contract to D & F Excavating. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

**CVFRS 3rdQuarter (FY19) Financial Review**

Tom Cosinuke and Patrice Machavern explained the budgets and answered questions. They said they are three quarters through their fiscal year and their expenses are at 75 percent.

Dean asked about payroll and benefits and the differences in budgets year over year. Patrice said this due to a portion of the payroll that was paid out by the insurance company for a workman's compensation issue rather than through their salary budget. She said the salary line item is down a full time position with benefits.

Tom spoke about the income and billing service, intercept billing, program services income, hazardous material handling and income generated from covering special events like the Lake Champlain swim.

**Town Beach accessibility ramp**

Bill said the recreation department had been considering for a number of years, and have been approached a number of times, about a pedestrian ramp that can be wheelchair accessible. He said they approached the Army Core of Engineers and they are only concerned about anything below the 98-foot level which this is not.

Matt suggested a site visit May 20 at 5:30 PM.

Frank asked about conditional use review approval. Bill said he spoke to Zoning about it and that this was considered a landscaping project.

Robert Mack asked about the materials and Junior said "big rocks" and that the installation was pretty straight forward.

This will likely cost the Town about \$800 and is not in the beach budget, Bill said.

**Authorize Thompson's Point lease holders to drill wells:**

•**Shaw Associates—Lot 104, 572 Flat Rock Road**

•**Richard Tonino—Lots 192 & 193, 1060 North Shore Road**

Dick Tonino attended the meeting via a cell phone call with the help of Jason Barnard from Barnard and Jarvis. Dick would like his seasonal dwelling on Thompson's Point to be disconnected from community water system and to drill a well. He said there are about 70 wells out there. Louise asked about indemnification to the Town should there be damage. Dick said he would take responsibility if there was damage to the leased land. Steve Williams will oversee the projects for the Town.

**MOTION by Frank, seconded by Louise, to Authorize Thompson's Point lease holders on Lot 104, 572 Flat Rock Road, and Lots 192 & 193, 1060 North Shore Road, to drill wells, with authorization for the Chair to sign. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

**Green Mountain Bicycle Club—request to use south Greenbush Road for time trials on May 16th, June 20<sup>th</sup> and July 18<sup>th</sup>**

**MOTION by Louise, seconded by Carrie, to give permission to Green Mountain Bicycle Club to use south Greenbush Road for time trials on May 16th, June 20<sup>th</sup> and July 18<sup>th</sup>. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

**Chittenden Solid Waste District—request to site the Rover at the salt shed on Root Road for collection of hazardous waste on Saturday August 3, 2019**

**MOTION by Louise, seconded by Carrie, for the Chittenden Solid Waste District to site the Rover at the salt shed on Root Road for collection of hazardous waste on Saturday August 3, 2019. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

**Authorize Requests for Bids—Town Hall Cleaning;**

**MOTION by Frank, seconded by Louise, to Authorize Requests for Bids for Town Hall Cleaning. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

#### **Town (Village) Wastewater System Maintenance**

Dean discussed backups and filters and P&P Septic as well as the pump station alarm. He said a technician suggested regular system maintenance. There is money in the budget for this, he said.

#### **Town Mowing and Land Maintenance Contract(s)—address tree mulching**

A clarification was made that Chris Fortin will be mulching all of the trees.

**Minutes: April 22; May 1, 2019**

**MOTION by Frank, seconded by Louise, to approve the meeting minutes from April 22 as amended. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

**MOTION by Frank, seconded by Louise, to approve the meeting minutes from May 1 as amended. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

#### **Selectboard Updates**

Matt stated that a resident provided to him an agreement regarding the Town's property on Plouffe Lane, off of Carpenter Road, that has a stump dump and trails. The agreement indicates the Town is responsible for grading two times per year and residents who live on the road are responsible for paying for materials, such as replacing culverts and gravel.

Matt said the grading can be done when Junior is grading Carpenter Road, so it doesn't involve travel time. Junior stated that he does grade the road twice per year.

**MOTION by Louise, seconded by Carrie, to enter into Executive Session. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

**MOTION by Frank, seconded by Louise, to come out of Executive Session. VOTE: 4 ayes; 1 absent (Fritz Tegatz); motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Selectboard meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Lynn Monty, Recording Secretary.