

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 14, 2019**

APPROVED

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

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Town Administrator

OTHERS: Scooter MacMillan, Juliann Phelps, John Limanek, Laurie Thompson, Joshua Golek, Hugh Lewis, Jr., Bill Frasier Harris, David Garbose, Braxton Robbason, Julian Kulski, Vince Crockenberg, Chris Botka, Susan Ohanian, Linda Radimer, Kate Kelly, Erich Finley, Gerald Bouchard

AGENDA ITEM:

5:15 PM Site visit: State Park Road path—meet at Vineyard View Drive

5:45 PM Site visit: Hinesburg Road just east of Guinea Road—to view power routing options; use driveway at

6:00 PM Adjustments to the agenda

6:01 PM Construction of State Park Road Path

6:20 PM Recreation budgeting process

6:35 PM Announcement of agricultural lease for the Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge

6:45 PM Approval of \$600 repair to the Thorp Barn

6:50 PM Braxton Robbason—interview for appointment to the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee for a term of 3 years ending on April 30, 2022.

7:00 PM Public Comment

7:05 PM Budget review:

- Charlotte News 7:05 PM—7:10 PM
- Charlotte Little League 7:10 PM—7:20 PM
- Lewis Creek Association 7:20 PM—7:30 PM
- Conservation Commission 7:30 PM—7:40 PM
- Constable 7:40 PM—7:50 PM
- Canine Control Officer 7:50 PM—8:00 PM

8:00 PM Conversion of secondary power to primary power to serve parcel at the corner of Hinesburg Road and Guinea Road

8:15 PM Re-purposing of old playground equipment from the Town Beach

8:30 PM Appeal by Andrew Zins of denial of 2-lot subdivision: authorize the Town Attorney to enter an appearance; designate Selectboard liaison for mediation; authorize designee from the Planning Commission to participate in mediation

8:35 PM Authorization to drill well at Thompson's Point Lot 151, 228 North Shore Road

8:40 PM Contract with P&P Septic Service Inc. for maintenance of the Town wastewater disposal system @ \$1,250 for Tasks #1-5; and installation of filter in Fire Station septic tank

8:45 PM Discussion of zoning permit and attorney-client communication

8:50 PM Plan next site visit
8:55 PM Minutes: September 23, 2019
9:00 PM Selectboard updates
9:05 PM Approve warrants to pay bills
9:10 PM Adjournment

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matthew Krasnow called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

Adjustments to the agenda

No adjustments

Construction of State Park Road Path

Laurie Thomas reviewed the site visit. The trail on state park road has been determined by the wetlands permits and the easements. The trail design was discussed. The tree warden has walked the proposed trail to see which trees are to come down, Laurie said. The tree warden has set a meeting for Oct. 24 to discuss these trees. There are nine trees that could possibly come down. A trails survey was discussed. Out of 150 responses, 81% said it was favorable to have this trail installed. It was a Front Porch Forum survey. Comments on the survey about the trail were handed out. In general about 90% of the comments were positive, Laurie said. She asked the SB to approve up to \$30,000 of trails fund money to build this section of the trail. There is \$72,000 in the trails fund.

Josh Golek is a new land owner near this proposed trail. He purchased the property in June, 2019. He said he has not had time to properly review the information. He said he has active curb cuts for the property and he asked how this drive would be integrated with the trail. Farm equipment will be driven in and out of his property. That driveway is going in in the next couple of weeks, he said. He wanted clarification on the right-of-way and culvert situation. He said there is about 1,000 feet of the proposed trail adjacent to his property. He asked about material storage and how the construction would commence. Sloped shoulders and culvert extensions were also a concern. He said he plans to formally post the land. He would like to avoid people parking on and walking through his property. He asked about a fence or stakes. A meeting between Josh and the Trails Committee will be scheduled to address these questions, Dean said.

Jonathan Couture, also a landowner adjacent to the proposed trail, asked about how the money will be spent. He is concerned about trail maintenance, signage costs and liability issues for landowners.

Matt Krasnow asked about liability concerning volunteers. Dean said unless there is a waiver the town has not authorized volunteers to use power equipment. Laurie said volunteers use chainsaws and other equipment all of the time. Matt said the town does host chainsaw safety certification classes but with this trail project volunteers will need to have insurance. This will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

Josh asked for more than two weeks. Matt said there is no harm in keeping the discussion going. Frank and Fritz asked for more specifics on how the project will be managed and for a list of the volunteers. Matt said he would like to see a scope of the volunteer effort and their commitment.

Dave Garbose said the volunteers are a group of people who have volunteered on a particular day, Nov. 2. He said there is no guarantee these volunteers will be available in the spring. Laurie said November is not as busy time for these volunteers and it would be best to keep the Nov. 2 date. Dave said there is a considerable amount of money to be saved by going with these volunteers.

Jonathan said there are quite a few questions landowners have and would like to have answered quickly so they can keep the project moving forward.

Laurie said the budget piece in question is written down and available. Matt said the amount triggers an RFP and there are hurdles that he doesn't feel comfortable skipping. He said breaking ground on this in a rush is opening it up to a host of issues for the town. Dave said there is a large part of the trail that could be started on Nov. 2 on sections that are not near the homeowners or the trees in question. Fritz said it poses a liability for the town to go ahead without some of these questions answered.

Recreation budgeting process

This is a follow up on previous discussions. The recreation director is out of town. This issue will be discussed on the 28th. Bill Frasier Harris said the channels of communication have been a little muddled and that has been smoothed out now.

Announcement of agricultural lease for the Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge

Jenny Cole and Sue Smith spoke about the documents they handed out to the SB. The park lease expires this year and it is time for a new lease. The site visit in the park will be Nov. 6. There is a slight change in the lease regarding mowing. Louise mentioned certain sections need clarity as to where margins need to be mowed or brush hogged. Jenny said to add removal of hay bales to the language as well as off-site storage of the hay short term. Location of those bales was discussed. Jenny said the lease agreement for this will have specifics. Frank said bidders should know when the date is that the hay would need to be removed. Bids for this will be opened Nov. 15 at 4 p.m.

MOTION by Fritz, seconded by Carrie, to approve the five-year agricultural lease for the Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge with amendments as discussed. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

Approval of \$600 repair to the Thorp Barn

Boards came off of the barn earlier this year. Jenny said the costs and plan were sent to Dean.

MOTION by Carrie, seconded by Matt, to approve \$600 in repairs to the Thorp Barn. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

Braxton Robbason—interview for appointment to the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee for a term of 3 years ending on April 30, 2022.

MOTION by Frank, seconded by Louise, to appoint Braxton Robbason to the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee for a term of 3 years ending on April 30, 2022. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

Public Comment

Juliann Phelps asked about comments from FPF regarding coordination of rescue and police services, and about the Airbnb discussion progress. This will be on a future agenda. Susan Ohanian said the SB has approved cycling events and suggests establishing ordinances for safety. The town is exposing itself to liability, she said. She cited statistics and listed hazards. She said a document of the hazards has been given to the town office. Matt said state statute is applied in every town. Some of the hazards on the list are not addressed in town ordinances but are addressed in these state statutes. If there is an existing state statute towns do not have the right to override this. Matt said he will review the list and add it to a future agenda. Vince Crockenberg said he has done a lot of biking in town and motorists cause the hazards, not the bicyclists. Frank said there has to be education both ways. Heightening people's level of care needs to be addressed, Vince said. Junior confirmed the roads in town are not wide enough to add bike lanes.

Budget review:

•Charlotte News

The Charlotte News is requesting the usual \$500 in support.

•Charlotte Little League

Charlotte Little League is requesting level funding.

•Lewis Creek Association

Lewis Creek Association is requesting level funding.

•Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is requesting \$5,275 more for Smug-Mug memberships, Green Up Day, conservation outreach and more.

•Constable

Josh Flore is not requesting any funds.

•Canine Control Officer

Canine Control Officer is requesting level funding.

Conversion of secondary power to primary power to serve parcel at the corner of Hinesburg Road and Guinea Road

As part of property renovations, the house has been moved, and power lines are changing. The SB has jurisdiction over the roadways and would need to be informed if power lines were to go over the roadway. It is not a subdivision. No permits are needed. No trees are in the right-of-way. Dean described two options: (1) replace the existing secondary line over Hinesburg Road with a primary line, to be maintained by GMP, with a pole to be added on the south side; or (2) run the primary line underground from an existing pole on the south side of Hinesburg Road. Erich Finley, the contractor, indicated both options are acceptable, but they cannot bore under Hinesburg Road because of ledge, and they do not want to blast to install the line under Hinesburg Road because of potential disruption to wells in the vicinity. Selectboard members indicated they favor installing lines from the existing pole on the south side of Hinesburg Road, but there was no formal decision to make or action taken.

Re-purposing of old playground equipment from the Town Beach

A hold harmless agreement will be ready for the next meeting. A list of residents who are interested in the equipment will be presented. The town will reinstall the stainless steel slide at one point.

Minutes: September 23, 2019

MOTION by Louise, seconded by Carrie, to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes for Sept. 23, 2019 as amended. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

Authorization to drill well at Thompson's Point Lot 151, 228 North Shore Road

MOTION by Fritz, seconded by Frank, to authorize the drilling of a well at Thompson's Point Lot 151, 228 North Shore Road. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

Appeal by Andrew Zins of denial of 2-lot subdivision: authorize the Town Attorney to enter an appearance; designate Selectboard liaison for mediation; authorize designee from the Planning Commission to participate in mediation

MOTION by Fritz, seconded by Louise, to authorize the Town Attorney to enter an appearance for the Appeal by Andrew Zins of denial of 2-lot subdivision. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

MOTION by Louise, seconded by Matt, to designate Frank as Selectboard liaison for mediation for the Appeal by Andrew Zins of denial of 2-lot subdivision. VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 abstention (Frank); all in favor; motion carried.

MOTION by Fritz, seconded by Louise, to authorize the Planning Commission to select a representative to the mediation for the Appeal by Andrew Zins of denial of 2-lot subdivision. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

Contract with P&P Septic Service Inc. for maintenance of the Town wastewater disposal system @ \$1,250 for Tasks #1-5; and installation of filter in Fire Station septic tank

MOTION by Louise, seconded by Fritz, to Contract with P&P Septic Service Inc. for maintenance of the Town wastewater disposal system @ \$1,250 for Tasks #1-5; and installation of filter in Fire Station septic tank with authorization for the Chair to sign. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

MOTION by Frank, seconded by Louise, to enter into Executive Session. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

MOTION by Frank, seconded by Louise, to come out of Executive Session. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

The board came out of Executive session at 9:29 p.m. No action was taken

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Frank, seconded by Louise, to adjourn. VOTE: 5 ayes; all in favor; motion carried.

The Selectboard meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Lynn Monty, Recording Secretary.