

Meeting of the Charlemont SelectBoard

Tuesday February 20, 2024 5 PM

Town Hall

Present: Valentine Reid, Jared Bellows, Sarah Reynolds, and Representative Natalie Blais

The board discussed housing items that could lead to affordable housing ideas such as low medium density affordable homes, and cluster housing.

Representative Blais pointed out the Homes Act and talked about work being done to work with the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority to possibly tweak proposed bill for the rural housing needs, which would possibly allow for a set aside of funding for Housing Authorities in rural communities.

The PILOT formula was discussed for the state owned land, as well as Forest Management.

The recreation tax was discussed. It was reported favorably out of committee in the house, it has been discussed as a possibility on a statewide level, with the possibility of Charlemont being a pilot for how it could work. Will see what happens in Senate.

Increase to rooms and meals tax was mentioned Representative Blais pointed out that the Municipal Empowerment Bill allowed for an increase on rooms and a tax on excise bills if it passes.

Asked about School Transportation reimbursement. Was 90 % back to 60% in the current budget, Representative Blais will look into it.

Ideas for how to limit the number of houses tied up for B&B use and short-term rentals were discussed, want to be mindful of business but also allow for population growth for the schools and tax base.

Explained how the residential tax abatement does not function like it should help the residents who struggle, talked about asking DLS about the abatement.

Discussed emergency services and the possibility of working with neighboring communities.

Signed grant contract for an AED device in the amount of \$1,934.00 on a motion by Valentine Reid and second by Jared Bellows

On a motion by Valentine Reid and second by Jared Bellows Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.