

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 29, 2024, 6:30 pm
Via Conference call and in person, Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance: Kim Blakeslee, Jared Bellows

Members on phone: Valentine Reid

Others in Attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson, Erin Hoffman, Andrea Santos, Thorne Palmer

Jared Bellows called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Appointments:

6:30 -Thorne Palmer and Andrea Santos RE: Appoint Andrea to the Conservation Commission

Thorne Palmer recommended Andrea Santos for the Conservation Commission. The Board spoke with Andrea.

Jared Bellows motioned to Approve Andrea Santos to Conservation Commission. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye

Administrator reports:

1) Town Hall Telephone System

The Town voicemail message system for the boards and departments has been down. All calls go to Town Clerk's office, but the message system is not picking up and recording messages. Also, Boards and departments are unable to check messages. A new system is needed. Sarah is working with Val who has some knowledge of phone systems and getting quotes. Jared and Kim agree with the plan for Sarah to work with Val and get quotes for a new system. There is a banner on the website instructing people how to get in touch with Town Staff and Boards.

2) Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Grant Report

The Board read the quarterly progress report overview. Currently 6 Charlemont residents are using the loan program along with 11 Wendell residents. (Charlemont had applied jointly with Wendell)

3) Zoar Picnic Area Report from the weekend

The Zoar picnic area gets full on a regular basis. Sarah took pictures on July 21st during the Facebook tubing event. The signage that is usually near the cemetery wasn't there. There is no room for an emergency vehicle. Kim supports Sarah sending photos and talking to the **new rep** about the overcrowding situation at Zoar picnic area.

4) Vocational Bussing and Student Count

10 students from Charlemont are going to Franklin Tech. 2 students that are going to Smith Vocational don't need bussing. Sarah has contacted all but 2 of the families and will know more precisely by the end of the week. One student may be moving out of Charlemont.

5) Marijuana Host agreement changes /effects of new legislation

The Town attorney set out an eUpdate regarding changes to towns' requirements. Charlemont has 2 community host agreements. Neither business is active at the moment. Towns can no longer collect

blanket 3% impact fees. Towns had purchased vehicles etc. Charlemont has not collected fees as the businesses are not off the ground. Fees need to be specifically documented. The host community agreements will no longer be for 5 years, the CCC needs to review them annually. Sarah suggests reviewing the agreements now to have answers to questions ready.

The Planning Board is looking at any bylaw changes that need to be done.

Liaison reports and actions:

1) Fire District Meeting with Rowe

Jared, Sarah and Dennis Annear met with Rowe regarding creating a fire district. They are making slow and steady progress. Sarah pulled Shelburne's plans which had already been approved by the AG's office. They will work on the wording and get something together to bring to Town Meeting. Sarah will set up a meeting with other neighboring towns— Heath, Hawley and Monroe.

2) Unforeseen in last 48 hours: Kim Blakeslee, BoH liaison report.

Kim went to the Board of Health meeting and met two of the three health agents via Zoom. A stranger was let in to the zoom and disrupted the meeting. The meeting was shut down and restarted again.

Agenda items:

1) Transfer station Agreements for Hauling, Inspections and Hazardous Waste Event from the Franklin County Solid Waste District.

This is the same annual agreement with The Franklin County Solid Waste District.

The Hazardous waste day is Saturday September 21st at GCC.

Hauling is the majority of the expense which is why Val hopes to have a cardboard compactor in 2026.

Jared Bellows Motioned to sign the agreement for hauling inspections and hazardous waste event. Kim Blakeslee seconded the agreement.

Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye

3) Resignation from Board of Health Member

The Board received a letter of resignation from Mae Tanner. She resigned from the Board of Health effective July 1st. They thank her for serving on the BOH and wish to send her a thank you card.

Valentine Reid motioned to accept Mae's resignation from Board of Health. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye

3) Appoint Marguerite Willis to Registrar Position

The Board confirmed with Thorne Palmer that Marguerite was a registrar and that it is a reappointment.

Jared Bellows made a motion to re appoint Marguerite Willis to registrar. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye

4) Annual Appointments to Ambulance, Fire, Police

The Board will appoint Ambulance and Fire first.

Jared Bellows motioned to appoint all Fire EMTs and EMD, Fire Chief and Fire inspector and all the people on the Charlemont Ambulance list. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye

Jared Bellows will abstain from the police appointment. Valentine Reid asked the Board if there were any names to hold. Kim said she would not appoint John McDonough. A resignation letter from John McDonough was read.

Kim Blakeslee motioned to accept the letter of resignation from John McDonough. Valentine Reid seconded the motion with the amendment that they send him thank you card for his ten years of service. Kim Blakeslee accepted the amendment to the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye

Valentine Reid made a motion to accept and appoint the list of police personnel without John McDonough, who has resigned. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye

5) Ambulance Agreement with Berkshire East for calls relating to Berkshire East

The Board has a copy of the lengthy agreement, they will hold off until next meeting to discuss it. **Jared Bellows motioned to send the agreement to the attorney to proofread. Valentine Reid seconded the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye**

One way this agreement differs is with the proposal to use an onsite Berkshire East employee that could be trained and appointed to Ambulance. It would be great to have someone over there on ambulance. Val wondered if the ambulance would be parked at Berkshire East. It is hard to get a crew. There are not enough EMTs, it's a problem everywhere. Berkshire East has donated over the years in various ways to help staff the ambulance.

6) Letter from Conservation Commission about 180 RTE 8A North- Next steps

The Board reviewed the response from the Conservation Commission, that overall Dupree is in compliance, but fell short in June and was told to have 17 cars removed in July. They will wait until next month. Val asked Sarah to have a letter ready for next meeting to discuss the prior board's recommendation to the current Board to not renew the permit on the 2025 calendar. Val proposed they uphold the recommendation of the prior Board and provide the license holder with a letter informing them of that decision, and giving instructions on how to apply for a new license.

7) Town Hall Parking Lot, possibility to purchase

The apartment behind Town Hall owned by Jim Schaeffer will be up for sale soon. The land that goes with the building comprises most of the Town Hall parking lot. The apartment building cars have their own parking area. Sarah has reached out to see if they would be willing to sell the Town the parking lot. Jared is happy to talk to them about it. They would need to get a survey and have it assessed, there may be easements on it. They will consult with the Finance Committee. If the price is fair, they could convene a Special Town meeting to authorize the purchase

Approve/sign/approve and sign:

1) Payroll and Vendor warrants

Jared Bellows motioned to approve and sign the vendor warrants 2501, 2502 and payroll warrants 2501. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye

2) Minutes from July 15

Jared Bellows motioned to approve and sign the Minutes from July 15th. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye

3) One Day liquor license BBC for Reggae Fest August 17th. **Jared Bellows motioned to approve two one-day liquor licenses, one for August 16th and one for August 17th for BBC, Reggae Fest. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye**

Jared Bellows motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:48. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. Val Reid – Aye, Kim Blakeslee – Aye, Jared Bellows– Aye

Documents viewed at the meeting:

- Minutes of July 15, 2024
- Agenda for July 29, 2024
- Letter dated July 15, 2024, to SB Chair Valentine Reid from Sharon Pleasant, Franklin County Housing Redevelopment Authority re: info regarding CDF-G-2022/2023 Wendell (Lead) Charlemont activities for the quarter ending 6/30/24
- Application for special liquor license 7/25/2024 Charlemont reggae Festival 8/16, 8/17 and commercial general liability coverage part schedule
- Standard contract form between Town of Charlemont and Exec. Office of Energy and Env. Affairs dated 7/29/2024 re: Woodlands grant
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Contractor Authorized signatory listing
- Letter dated July 22, 2024, to Sarah Reynolds from Exec. Office of Energy and Environmental affairs re: Trail Head Infrastructure Project, Woodlands grant
- Attachment A – Scope of services and additional terms and conditions FY 2025 Expenditures
- Emergency Medical Services Staffing Agreement, Berkshire East and Town of Charlemont EMS Staffing Agreement
- KP Law eUpdate Marijuana reform: Part I and Part II along with Boston Globe article written by Dan Adams Nov. 10, 2022 “Boston to refund millions in marijuana ‘impact’ fees”
- Request to Charlemont Select Board for FY2025 appointments of sworn officers and Civilian Employees from Sergeant and OIC Benjamin Duga
- Request dated 6/28/2024 to Charlemont Select Board for FY2025 appointments of EMT’s and First responders from Dana Johnson, Ambulance Director
- Letter dated July 15, 2024, from Mae Tanner to Valentine Reid re: resignation from Charlemont Board of Health
- Memorandum of Understanding from Franklin County Solid Waste Management District dated July 29, 2024
- Email from John McDonough dated July 23 to Sergeant Ben Duga and Valentine Reid re: July 31, 2024, resignation from Charlemont Police Department.