

Town of Charlemont Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 19, 2013

Board members in attendance: Vaughn Tower, Beth Bandy. Absent: David Cunningham.

Also in attendance: Bambi Miller, Margaret Noga, Mary Boehmer, Ivy Palmer, Dana Johnson, Steven Reynolds.

Mr. Tower called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

The warrants were signed.

Mr. Tower made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, to approve the amended minutes from the July 30, 2013 Select Board meeting. Mr. Tower - yes, Ms. Bandy – yes.

No action was taken on the August 5, 2013 Board meeting minutes, as they were not available for review. Review and approval of those minutes will be included as an action item on the Board's September 9, 2013 meeting agenda.

Mr. Tower made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, to approve and sign a thank you letter from the Board of Selectmen to the Deerfield Watershed Association. Mr. Tower – yes, Ms. Bandy – yes.

Mr. Tower made a motion to approve and sign a thank you letter to Jerry Gosetti. Mr. Tower – yes, Ms. Bandy – yes.

Mr. Tower made a motion to approve and sign Molly Scott's Warner Hill Road curb cut application. Mr. Tower – yes, Ms. Bandy – yes.

He also made a motion to approve and sign Walter Mercer's Mountain Road curb cut application. This motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tower will contact Gordon Hathaway, Highway Superintendent, to notify him that these two curb cut applications have been approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Tower and Ms. Bandy reviewed an MOU for the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District's Household Hazardous Waste collection, which will take place on September 21, 2013. No action was taken.

The Board reviewed a notice from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) about a Building Inspection Program Advisory Board. Ms. Bandy will contact Phoebe at the FRCOG office to learn more about this group.

Mr. Tower made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, to accept and sign a letter to Peter Niles of the Massachusetts Highway Department, for the Hyytinen Hollow Route 2 tourist sign. Mr. Tower – yes, Ms. Bandy – yes.

At 7:15, the Board met with Bambi Miller, Margaret Noga, and Mary Boehmer regarding their interest in reviving the Town's Historic Commission. Mr. Tower made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, to appoint them as the new Historic Commission members. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bandy will check with Jacqueline Cashin, the Town Accountant, to see what funds are currently available for use by the Historic Commission.

The Board took no action on a gas card permission letter, as that document was not available for review at the meeting. This item is to be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting, which is scheduled for September 9, 2013.

The Board took no action regarding a Police Department cruiser. Mr. Tower will ask Jared Bellows, Officer in Charge, for an update. This issue is to be placed on the September 9, 2013 Board agenda as an action item.

At 7:30, Ivy Palmer, Chair of the Hawlemont School Committee, met with the Board regarding recent changes to the State's assessments to the towns for Hawlemont. Charlemont is now being assessed \$4,000 more than anticipated, while Hawley is being assessed \$4,000 less. The Board took this information under advisement. No action was taken.

Ms. Palmer also asked about stipends paid to Hawlemont School Committee members. She reported that her stipend payment has gone down, but she was never notified that this change was to take place. Ms. Bandy will investigate who authorized the pay rate change, for what reason, and when. This topic is to be placed on the September 9, 2013 Board agenda as an action item.

Ms. Palmer mentioned that she is interested in creating a bike path from Shelburne Falls to the center of Charlemont, which she believes would be good for the town both in terms of tourism and safety. She also is interested in a town garden. She stated that she will be back to discuss these projects with the Board in the future.

Finally, Ms. Palmer noted that the Town Tennis Courts, which are located in front of the Hawlemont building and currently being refurbished, look good. She will ask the Hawlemont School Committee to write a thank you letter to Parks & Rec.

At 7:45pm, Ambulance Director Dana Johnson met with the Board to discuss a proposal to use a Town ambulance at the upcoming Bone Frog Challenge. That event is scheduled to be held on September 14, 2013 at Berkshire East. Mr. Johnson reported that the organization putting on this event has "done its homework." They hope to hold similar events at Berkshire East two times each year (once in the spring, and again in the fall). The Berkshire East Ski Patrol will be on site. In addition, at least two military personnel members will be available to assist participants at each obstacle on the Bonefrog course. The Bonefrog organization has made arrangements to remove any injured people from the mountain. (Most injuries at these types of events are to the ankles and ribs, Mr. Johnson reported.) Four physicians will be on site at the mountain during the race. Bonefrog wants to have an ambulance on site at all times. To hire a private ambulance would cost approximately \$5,000. Mr. Johnson shared the Town's 2006 Private Detail Policy with the Board for reference.

Mr. Tower made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, to accept the Charlemont Ambulance Department's Proposal for Ambulance Use at Berkshire East on September 14, 2013 for the Bonefrog Challenge, waiving the \$150 administrative fee. Mr. Tower – yes, Ms. Bandy – yes.

Mr. Tower made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, to reappoint Kenneth Hall to be an active EMT member with the Charlemont Ambulance Department. They agreed to waive the standard "meet and greet" with Mr. Hall in advance of this appointment. Mr. Tower – yes, Ms. Bandy – yes.

An agenda item regarding the removal of a tree from Rice Brook was discussed briefly. Mr. Tower made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, to contact the Army Corps of Engineers regarding Rice Brook. Mr. Tower – yes, Ms. Bandy – yes. This item will be included under “Action” on the September 9, 2013 Select Board meeting agenda. At that meeting, Mr. Cunningham will report back on his conversation with Gordon Hathaway, Highway Superintendent, about the brook. Ms. Bandy will bring a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Form 3 to that meeting, as well.

Mr. Tower made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, for the Select Board to accept his letter of resignation from the Cemetery Committee. The motion passed unanimously. He stated that he does not need a follow-up letter from the Board regarding his service on the Committee.

Mr. Tower made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bandy, to appoint William Harker to the vacant seat on the Cemetery Committee. Mr. Tower – yes, Ms. Bandy – yes.

The Board tabled discussion of agenda item #16, “Audit needs update,” until the September 9, 2013 meeting.

The Board then discussed new business received after meeting posting.

Ms. Bandy said she would check to see if the FRCOG's upcoming municipal law meeting announcement was on the Town website.

Mr. Tower stated that a new Town of Charlemont sign is a priority. He would like a new sign in place before the Town's 250th anniversary. This topic is to be placed on the September 9, 2013 Board meeting agenda as an action item.

Steven Reynolds, Tree Warden, presented the Board with a letter stating that two abutters to the Town Cemetery have approached him with concerns about tree removal at the cemetery. He advised the abutters that four diseased trees will be cut. Mr. Reynolds will set up a meeting with Paul Hick and Lanoue Tree Service regarding the removal of the diseased trees. The cost of removing the trees will be paid for out of the Cemetery Committee's budget.

Mr. Reynolds reported the he will bill the State for work completed on Route 2, as that work is not in his jurisdiction. He currently is cleaning trees on Oxbow.

The Board received and reviewed a confidential letter from the Board of Health. Mr. Tower will contact Glen Ayers to follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Documents Reviewed

- Draft July 30, 2013 Select Board amended meeting minutes
- Thank you letter to the Deerfield Watershed Association
- Walter Mercer's Mountain Road curb cut application
- Molly Scott's Warner Hill Road curb cut application
- Franklin Regional Council of Governments Building Inspection Advisory Board announcement
- Letter to Peter Niles of the Massachusetts Highway Department, for the Hyytinen Hollow

- Route 2 tourist sign
- Charlemont Ambulance Department's Proposal for Ambulance Use at Berkshire East on September 14, 2013 for the Bonefrog Challenge
 - Cemetery Committee Letter of Resignation from Vaughn Tower
 - Letter from Steven Reynolds, Tree Warden
 - Confidential letter from the Board of Health

Respectfully submitted by Beth Bandy.