

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 7, 2024, 6:30 pm
in person, Hawlemont Elementary School

Members in attendance: Valentine Reid, Jared Bellows

Members Absent: Kim Blakeslee

Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson, Andrea Santos, Colleen Champ, Thorne Palmer, Ashley Sparks,

The School Sustainability Study participants: Martha Thurber, Ellie VanInderstine, Cheryl Handsaker, Bob Handsaker, Anne Kaplan, Evie Locke, Amber Tulloch, Sheryl Stanton, Hawley SelectBoard: Hussain Hamdan, Bob Maclean, Will Cosby

Valentine Reid called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Appointments:

6:30 PM – Tree Warden RE; issuing a permit for the removal of the public shade trees within or on the boundaries of the public portion of “Harris” Mountain Road as part of the road improvement project pursuant to a written order of the Select Board, made at a public meeting pursuant to G.L. c.87, s.5: for two trees marked on “Harris” Mountain Road that “obstruct, endanger, hinder and incommode” travelers on the way because their trimming or removal is required to allow completion of a road improvement project necessary to make the road safe for continued travel in that location.

This permit is an after-the-fact result of some road work resulting in trees to be removed. It was a mistake that will not happen again, as Andy Mueller and Scott Sullivan will coordinate in the future.

Valentine Reid motioned to allow the removal of two trees marked on Harris Mountain Road that obstruct, endanger, hinder and incommode travelers on the way because their trimming or removal is required to allow completion of a road improvement project necessary to make the road safe for continued travel in that location. Jared bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

6:45 PM – Ashley Sparks: RE: Appointment to Deerfield River Wild and Scenic Feasibility Study Committee

Ashley expressed her interest in the volunteer position and told the many ways that she is already in service of the health of the river through leading volunteer efforts to clean up the river and volunteering with other river non-profits.

Valentine Reid motioned to appoint Ashley Sparks to be the Deerfield Wild and Scenic representative from Charlemont. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

6:50PM – Andrea Santos RE: Appoint Colleen Champ to the Local Cultural Council

Colleen Champ spoke of her interest in the volunteer position. She would like to fill in as treasurer and help with the budget. She is an artist and has taken part in some of the projects organized by the Council.

Valentine Reid motioned to appoint Colleen Champ to the Local Cultural Council. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

7:00 PM- Selectboard will be attending presentation on School Sustainability Study in the Hawlemont Cafeteria.

The Board attended the presentation at 7 PM.

Administrator reports:

- 1) Town Hall Flooring Quotes - Hilltown Flooring quote came in at \$29,775. They will look at Booska's in Turner's. \$17,500 was allocated by Town Meeting for floors. At this point the vinyl flooring is the only affordable option.
- 2) Research on Berkshire East Gift Account Balance for 29 Main Street Request. The Gift account is currently empty, it was overspent in 2021 by \$35. At the time of the request for 29 Main Street the account had \$1,000 in it. It was first-come first-serve. In 2021 The SelectBoard said they would earmark \$2,000 for the 29 main Street repainting project, upon receipt of receipts. They will close the account; Sarah will draft a letter to Berkshire East informing them that the gifts were well received and also regarding the situation of one recipient left stranded, in the hopes that Berkshire East may want to continue the program or at least the one project. They will also notify 29 Main Street of the situation.

There are other gift accounts in the town budget that are floating. Val recommends to add them to the Main Budget Sheet and look at once a year.

Agenda items:

1) Discuss Changes to the tax title process sent by KP Law and effect on Charlemont's tax title process. The Board read about the new process. The process will be longer and more expensive with the required use of a real estate agent. They will have to draft a policy. They would like Lynn Hathaway to come in to talk about it with the Board.

3) EV Chargers at Hawlemont – update and paperwork for National Grid make ready application

The Board will wait for Kim Blakeslee to be present for this topic. They will also read the entire contract from the 3rd party company who cover the cost of the installation and equipment. The ask is only a "make ready" with National Grid and is not a commitment. The chargers will both be level 3.

4) Recreation Funding Request for Hawlemont Playground Equipment

The 480,000. grant that is available for recreation projects was meant to be used for the Fairgrounds, but also on the town land around Hawlemont. The playground project at Hawlemont is "shovel ready." Other projects are a sidewalk on School Street, as well as improved signage, with hours of parking availability outside of school hours. They won't vote on it at this meeting.

Approve/sign/approve and sign:

- 1 Payroll and vendor warrants. The Board will sign Payroll and Vendor at the next meeting.
- 2) Minutes from September 23,2024 **Valentine Reid Motioned to approve the September 23rd minutes as written. Jared Bellows seconded the motion, all in favor.**
- 3) KP Law Invoice 149722 and 149721 **Valentine Reid Motioned to approve and sign the KP Law Invoice 149722 and 149721. Jared Bellows seconded the motion, all in favor.**

After the School Sustainability Study presentation. **Valentine Reid motioned to close the meeting at 8:12, Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in Favor.**

Documents viewed at the meetings:

- Minutes of September 23rd, 2024
- Agenda for October 7, 2024
- Email correspondence dated Sept. 26, 2024, Ashley Sparks and Sarah Reynolds re: national Wild and Scenic River Study
- Email correspondence dated Nov 1, Oct 20, and Oct 21, 2021, Kathy Reynolds and Kristie Faufaw re: Berkshire East Beautification Gift Account (29 Main Street repainting)
- Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting August 8, 2011
- Berkshire east Gift account sheets of recipients of the account
- Berkshire east Gift account, sum of money gifted
- Ledger History – Detail with Payables – General Ledger, FY15-FY24 re: Berkshire East Gift – Main St Ext. Renovation
- Email to Sarah Reynolds dated Sept 25, 2024 with Hilltown Hardwood Flooring quote
- Email from Andy Mueller to SelectBoard dated October 6, 2024, re: Harris Mountain Road request to remove trees
- Email to Sarah Reynolds from Nick Valerie re: Process: Donation of Level 3 Charging stations to Charlemont
- KPLAW update on Tax title process
- KP Law Invoice dated September 24, 2024 Professional services through August 31 2024
- Packet of receipts from Kristie Faufaw, postdated Sept. 14, 2024
- 2Districts8Towns MTRSDD/HRSD Sustainability Project Progress update Ocyober 2024, Packet of slides presented at Hawlemont