

CHARLEMONT SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 18, 2024, 5:30 pm
in person, Hawlemont Elementary School,10 School Street, Charlemont Ma

Members in attendance: Jared Bellows, Kim Blakeslee, Valentine Reid

Others in attendance: Sarah Reynolds, Madison Schofield, Star Atkeson, Betty Barrett

For All Board Meeting: Bob Handsaker ,John Schatz, Doug Telling, Bob nelson, Andy Mueller, Lori Shulda-Merrigan, Jay Healy, Sonny Crawford, Kenneth Hall, Lora Fulton, Maureen Flaherty, Cheryl Handsaker, Thorne Palmer, Colleen Champ, Randy Prostack, Clare Pearson, Charlotte Dewey, Bambi Miller, Carlene Hayden (see attendance sheet)

Appointments:

5:30 pm - Betty Barrett Re: Appointment to vacant Hawlemont School Committee Seat

John Hoffman let the Board know he would be unable to stay. Thorne Palmer and Anne Kaplan recommended that Betty join the Board. Being on the Board is in line with Betty's current areas of interest in giving back (art, the environment and education) She believes that education is the key to a good society. **Valentine Reid motioned to appoint Betty Barrett to the Hawlemont School Committee vacant seat. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.**

Administrator Report:

1)Town Hall Heat Detector Inspection and follow up proposal from Fire Equipment Incorporated

The heat detectors at Town Hall are being recalled, there are more than ten that need to be replaced. It will cost \$955. to do them all. There is money in the contracted services account. There will be some reimbursement for the alarms themselves, but not for the installation cost.

Valentine Reid motioned to allow Sarah to spend up to \$955 for the heat detector installation. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

2) Fire hose couplers report from yearly hose testing completed week of November 4th

The fire department's 4" hoses failed inspection because they have couplers that don't lock. Between the hose on the trucks and the tanker, its \$18,955 worth of couplers. Sarah is going to talk to Dennis about how to proceed. She can clean up the warrant account and use his budget line to make it through the immediate future with the most frequently used vehicles. It will be an \$8,500 capital request for next year. It's possible that it can be funded through the MVP plan once complete, under preparedness activity.

3) Grant round open for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan update, Charlemont on list of communities that need to update, new process for the updates.

The MVP needs to be updated for Charlemont to qualify for FEMA and MEMA grants, because so many towns are understaffed, they are only requiring a list instead of the full plan, and they provide a vendor to do the plan and steps with you. Upon completion, they give you a \$50,000. for a seed project. Val knows that Rob Lingle would be interested in this work to update the disaster plan.

Valentine Reid motioned to support the application for the MVP update grant. Kim Blakeslee seconded the motion. All in favor.

Val will draft a letter.

Liaison Reports:

1) New Town Hall telephone System update

Val hasn't had a chance to do it, he's been away.

Agenda items:

1) Give Town Employee's November 29th as a paid day off?

Giving Town Employees The Friday after Thanksgiving off is done every year, employees plan on it. They will add it to the budget in the future, to be decided at Town meeting. **Valentine Reid motioned to give Town Employees Friday November 29th as a paid holiday. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.**

2) Removal of Trailer in Deerfield River, email from resident about its removal.

Ashley Sparks emailed the board about wanting to have a 20-foot trailer frame in the river at mile marker 31, on the South River train track side, removed. It's been there since hurricane Irene. Ashley wondered if Highway could help. There were suggestions of cutting it up and removing it piece by piece. Jared said they should contact Pan Am, or "CSX," for permission or help. They could get a police detail and close a lane. Best scenario would be the railroad company getting a crane on the tracks and pulling it out that way. Randy Prostak has an environmental contact at the railroad company that he can give to Sarah.

** *3) Language change to Fire Chief Bill sent 11/15/2024, review and approve.

Valentine Reid motioned to approve and sign the Fire Chief language change letter. Seconded by Jared Bellows, All in favor.

Approve and sign:

1) Payroll and vendor warrants

Kim Blakeslee motioned to approve and sign payroll and vendor warrants. Seconded by Jared Bellows, All in favor.

2) Minutes from November 4,2024

Valentine Reid motioned to approve and sign the November 4th Minutes. Seconded by Kim Blakeslee, All in favor.

3) Fire Equipment Heat Detector Town Hall Proposal

(Approved above in Admin Report #1)

6:00 pm – All Board Meeting to discuss the following:

1) Open Space and Recreation Plan overview of plan and feedback from Town Boards on updating plan goals and objectives

Sarah gave the background to the Open Space and Recreation Plan update, who had participated and where they were at with it. They had compiled survey results and now are giving members of all the boards the opportunity to give feedback on the Goals and Objectives section (by the first week in December.) Boards can talk through action items and decide how to edit. Sarah wants to know what is important to each board. If it is mentioned in the open space plan it will be easier to get grants to enact

the priorities. The deadline to spend the recreation grant money is 2026. Sarah would like the Open Space Plan to be done so that they can apply for grants and use the Rec money as matching funds. Sarah will follow up with links and language for each board.

2) Housing, possible new bylaws on short-term rentals, and abandoned and derelict properties

Val presented his idea for two new general bylaws. He explained his reasoning behind the draft regulation for vacant and derelict housing, to increase the housing stock and bring underutilized properties back into service. Often these properties change hands a lot. He has created a licensing structure, not aimed at property owners who cannot afford it, rather at the properties that are changing hands a lot and becoming increasingly more derelict. Val drafted a bylaw for Charlemont using Town of Somerset's as a starting point.

Val also proposes a cap on single family homes being used as commercial rentals. He has drafted a general bylaw on short term rentals using South Hadley's bylaw as a starting point. Doug Telling recommended watching Buckland for their Short-term Rental Zoning Bylaw. He has drafted a general bylaw on short term rentals using South Hadley's bylaw as a starting point

The Boards spoke about specific properties on the Abandoned and Derelict Housing list which have yet to be condemned, which was a separate project. The person in charge of the property at the Academy of Charlemont was not notified and was surprised about its designation on the list.

The Board spoke about getting people connected with programs to help maintain their properties.

Val would like input on the bylaws in time for getting them to Town Meeting in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Documents viewed at the meeting:

- Minutes of November 4, 2024
- Agenda for November 18th, 2024
- Letter from Charlemont Select Board to the Office of State representative Natalie Blais dated November 18, 2024, re language amendment to H3988
- Fire Equipment incorporated proposal for work on detectors in town hall
- MVP 2.0 grant slides
- email from Ashley Sparks to Town Administrator and town Clerk dated Nov 1, 2024, re: Trailer in river
- email from Corinne Coryat to Town administrator dated Nov. 15, 2024, re: H3988 RWA and the related Section 1 as attachment
- Change Order Form dated 11/15/2024 re: Charlemont Emergency Services Ambulance from Sales rep Mark Hooper,
- Invoice #11529 From Specialty Vehicles, Inc. to Charlemont Emergency Services Ambulance dated 11/15/2024
- Town of Charlemont Residential Short Term Rental Licensing Bylaw Draft
- Town of Charlemont Vacant and Foreclosing Properties Bylaw draft
- Open Space plan of 2004, table of edits and suggestions
- 3-page Plans and elevations of comfort Stations from Mohawk Trail

- Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and North Quabbin Region, letter to the Select Board dated November 12, 2024
- Email correspondence from Lora Fulton and other towns to Town Administrator and Broadband dated November 6, 2024, re: Continuing the conversation about Cyber Seniors/ regional coordination