

**CHARLESTOWN SELECTBOARD WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M.
CHARLESTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
AND ZOOM**

Selectboard Present: Jeremy Wood (Chair), William Rescsanski, Jeff Lessels (Vice-Chair), Nancy Houghton, Shelly Blouin-Andrus (via Zoom)

Staff Present: Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary
Keith Weed, Highway Department
Diane Town, Finance Manager
Shaun O'Hearn, Fire Department
Patricia Chaffee, Tax Collector
Pat Connors, Police Chief

Others Present: Jim McClammer, Roger Clark, Sharon Francis, Kirk Frost, Tom Domborski, Pat Dombroski, Bonnie Remick, Dick Holmes, Jim Fowler, John Callum, Nick Taylor, Kathi Brandt, Charlotte Comeau, Ray Leonard

Call to Order

Mr. Wood called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m and led the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Lessels commenced a discussion regarding scenic roads and Class 6 roads within town. He provided those in attendance with a brief history of Borough Road.

Recognition of Visitor or Public Comment

Mr. Wood invited members of the public to speak in response to Mr. Lessels statements regarding Borough Road. Members of the public discussed wetlands adjacent to the road under discussion. Mr. Holmes read a statement speaking on behalf of not upgrading Borough Road because of environmental impact. In his letter, Mr. Holmes requested that the Selectboard deny the road upgrade proposal. The Chairmen of the Selectboard of Unity made a statement and reflected on his personal history concerning the road. He stated that Acworth and Unity have an agreement that Acworth plows a portion of Unity road. He stated that if the upgrade takes place, this agreement may have to be amended. Mr. Clarke reviewed his professional experience, and stated his assurance that the road's upgrade would adhere to best-practice standards. Mr. Lessels stated that if the road were to be changed from a Class 6 to a Class 5 road, it would have to go to a town vote. Ms. Francis stated her concern is to protect the easement, and suggested other roads as alternatives to improving Borough Road.

Ex-Officio

Conservation Commission- Mr. Wood reflected on the previously read statement by the Conservation Commission concerning Borough Road.

ZBA- Nothing to report per Ms. Houghton,

Site Base- Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated at the last meeting a discussion was held about budgets and facilities/maintenance. Future agenda items will be budgets, analysis on data.

Finance Committee- Nothing to report per Ms. Houghton.

Heritage Commission- Nothing to report per Mr. Rescsanski.

Planning- Nothing to report per Mr. Rescsanski.

Recreation- Ms. Blouin-Andrus stated that soccer season started this week. They are working with Fall Mountain to bring a movie to the High School. There is a Halloween dance for adults planned to occur 10.29.2022.

Town Hall- Nothing to report per Ms. Houghton.

New Business

Mr. Wood commenced the discussion regarding perambulation and surveying the property owned by Mr. Clarke. Historical information was provided by the public, and identification of the markers was stated to be a necessary component of identifying property lines. Discussion was held by the public on how to coordinate the perambulation. Mr. Wood stated a GPS would produce a more accurate result, and also the town's Planning and Zoning administrator would provide the perambulations on file for Charlestown to Unity and Acworth. Mr. Wood stated the town would provide the updated information once it is gathered, to the tax assessment office.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Mr. Rescsanski motioned to accept the nonpublic meeting minutes of 9.14.2022. Ms. Houghton seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Ms. Andrus (yes), Mr. Wood (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes) Ms. Houghton (yes).

Consent Agenda

Mr. Rescsanski motioned to accept the consent agenda as written. Mr. Lessels seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Ms. Andrus (yes), Mr. Wood (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes) Ms. Houghton (yes).

Other Business

Chief Connors thanked the Selectboard for signing off on the grant for highway safety. Chief Connors stated that on 9.24.2022 at 10:00 a.m. a police chaplain would do a blessing of the badge's ceremony.

Mr. Lessels reviewed a list of issues he wanted the Selectboard to discuss, and spoke briefly on his role as a Welfare Officer within the town office. The Selectboard discussed the relocation of the welfare and possible other uses for the existing office space the human resource office in consideration of HIPPA of client privacy. Mr. Lessels handed out a file folder with supporting documentation to every board member containing the suggested handling to the Town personnel policy relative to ethical employee participation on boards and committees for the board to consider.

Discussion commenced regarding the re-licensing of the dams along the Connecticut River. Mr. McClammer presented information concerning his understanding of Great River Hydro, and opportunities available for Selectboard members.

Ms. Houghton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Rescsanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Rescsanski (yes), Ms. Andrus (yes), Mr. Wood (yes), Mr. Lessels (yes) Ms. Houghton (yes).

Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Cannon, Recording Secretary

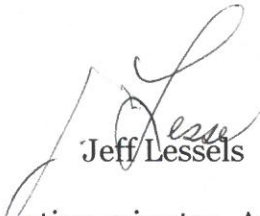


William Rescsanski

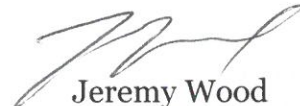


Shelly Blouin-Andrus

Nancy Houghton



Jeff Lessels



Jeremy Wood

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on September 28, 2022)