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TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of Regular Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:30pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room, 37 Main St., Charlton MA

Present: Chairman – David M. Singer, Vice-Chairman – Karen A. Spiewak, Clerk – William Borowski and Member – Deborah B. Noble. Also present: Acting Town Administrator – Graham Maxfield, Student Selectperson – Anya Grondalski and New Town Administrator – Andrew Golas. Absent: Member – John P. McGrath.

NOTE: Some matters may have been taken out of agenda order but were typed up in agenda order for ease of locating information when necessary.

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Singer called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with the pledge to the flag.

II. Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of Special Meeting – December 23, 2019 at 5:30pm. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to approve the special meeting minutes of December 23, 2019, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously.**
2. Minutes of Regular Meeting – January 14, 2020 at 6:30pm. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 14, 2020, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously.**

III. Community Relations, Announcements and Open Forum:

- Chairman Singer read the announcements.

IV. Appointments/Resignations:

V. Scheduled Appointments:

6:45pm – Senator Anne Gobi – Crumbling Foundation Report. Chief Maxfield stated that Senator Anne Gobi has asked to come to tonight's meeting to discuss the Crumbling Concrete Foundation Report and potential impacts to properties in Charlton discovered in the report. Senator Gobi came forward and provided the board with a copy of the report. She said she was made aware of this by representatives in Connecticut. JJ Mottes Concrete Company was sourcing their concrete from Becker's Quarry in Connecticut from 1983 – 2015. Connecticut has up to about 30,000 homes including and Elementary School that were affected by pyrrhotite in their foundations. This mineral when exposed to air and water, it expands. The effect would make foundations crack like a spider web. The only thing you can do is replace the foundation. She met with the Ways and Means Committee to get money in the budget for testing. There is a reimbursement program for the testing. There have been about 25 people that have come forward for testing. They were going to look into the company and search the records but there was a fire and all the records were destroyed. On the state level, they are looking at legislation to put in protection. She said the legislatures in Connecticut have been very helpful so we don't make the same mistakes moving forward. She also stated that some homeowners don't want to report it because their insurance

might not cover it. Mr. Borowski asked what are the next steps for a concerned homeowner. Is there a number they can call? Senator Gobi said they can call her office. She has on her website and the state website, the Department of Professional Licensure is the organization that is helping to coordinate all the testing. There is a form that people can fill out online that gets sent into the Department of Professional Licensure and they take a look at the form. They will contact the homeowner to coordinate on testing. Mr. Borowski asked Senator Gobi to send Ms. Devlin the link so it can be put up on the website. Chairman Singer asked for those homeowners that might not want to report it, can they do it anonymously so they can get the report? Senator Gobi said that's been asked. Ms. Noble asked when it comes to the testing, if someone is concerned about the foundation in their house and they would like to have the testing done, is there a list of companies they could call and the answer was yes. Ms. Noble asked the cost for the testing, is that something the home owner bares? Senator Gobi said it varies. The visual testing the state will pay 100% of that and up to \$400. As far as the testing that gets sent out, that's between \$1,500 and \$2,000 and that will be reimbursed up to 75%. It needs to be approved beforehand from the Department of Professional Licensure to be reimbursed. Curt Meskus, Building Commissioner came forward. He said the Building Commissioners have been aware of this for a number of years. He has a contractor that contacted him regarding a house on the south side of town that he will be changing the foundation. It's already been tested. He said Connecticut had been discussing reimbursement for financial repairs, is there anything being done for repairs here? Senator Gobi said at this point, there is not. Ms. Noble asked Mr. Meskus when he gets a visual of what these crumbling foundations look like, could he take pictures and we can put it up on the town's website so people would know what to actually look for and he said yes. The board thanked Senator Gobi for the update.

7:00pm – Change of License Type – Shree Somnath, Inc., d/b/a Country Farms. Chief Maxfield stated that attached is a request for a change of license type from a Wine and Malt Package Store to an All Alcohol Package Store submitted by Attorney Arthur Pearlman on behalf of Shree Somnath, Inc., d/b/a Country Farms, 57 North Main St., Charlton, MA. They have completed the paperwork required for this request. He would recommend the board approve the request. Chairman Singer read the public hearing notice and declared the hearing open at 6:55pm. Attorney Arthur Pearlman came forward and provided the Chief with affidavits for this. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to close the public hearing at 6:58pm, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously. Motion by Mr. Borowski to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously.**

7:10pm – Public Hearing – Chapter 61 removal request, Lot 14, Boucher Road. Chief Maxfield stated that attached is a request from Roy C. Gunter, III, Managing Member for Gunter, LLC to remove and sell 10 acres of land from Chapter 61A located on Lot 14 – Boucher Road. (Assessors Map 40-B-8.23) to Kelsey & Jason Foskett. The Planning Board, Board of Assessors, Conservation Commission and Water/Sewer Commission have all reviewed the request and have no objection to the Town of Charlton choosing not to exercise their right of first refusal for this request. He would recommend the board approve the request. Chairman Singer opened the public hearing by reading the public hearing notice and declared the hearing open at 7:00pm. Ms. Spiewak asked if the board should take other business before this because we are early. Chairman Singer said to leave the hearing open and come back to it. At 7:12pm, Chairman Singer asked if anyone had any comments or concerns. Seeing none, **motion by Mr. Borowski to close the public hearing at 7:13pm, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously. Motion by Mr. Borowski to approve the release of Lot 14, Boucher Road, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously.**

7:15pm – Public Hearing – Chapter 61 removal request, 107 Colburn Road. Chief Maxfield stated

that attached is a request from George P. Kiritsy to remove approximately 7.46 acres of land from Chapter 61A located at 107 Colburn Road. (Assessors Map 57-A-19) owned by Daniel S. & Holly A. Stevens. The Planning Board, Board of Assessors, Conservation Commission and Water/Sewer Commission have all reviewed the request and have no objection to the Town of Charlton choosing not to exercise their right of first refusal for this request. He would recommend the board approve the request. Chairman Singer opened the public hearing by reading the public hearing notice at 7:15pm. With no discussion, **motion by Mr. Borowski to close the public hearing at 7:15;pm, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously. Motion by Mr. Borowski that the town not exercise their right of first refusal for this request, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously.**

VI. New Business:

1. Request for Common Victualler license – Yankee Diner, LLC. Chief Maxfield stated that attached is a request for a Common Victualler license from Michael Niemszyk for Yankee Diner, LLC, 16 Worcester Road, Charlton, MA. The hours of operation are Monday – Wednesday, 6am – 2pm, Thursday – Friday, 6am – 8pm, Saturday, 6am – 12pm and Sunday, 6am – 1pm. They have completed the necessary paperwork needed. He would recommend the board approve the request. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to approve, seconded by Ms. Spiewak.** Ms. Noble said she has been aware of this request for some time and Mr. Niemszyk has been doing a lot of work in the building and he has a lot of experience running restaurants. **Vote on motion: motion passes unanimously.**
2. Request for Special Alcoholic Beverage License – Spotlight Dance Academy. Chief Maxfield stated that attached is a request for a special alcoholic beverage license from Spotlight Dance Academy for a Pasta Dinner Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 5pm – 11:00pm at St. Joseph’s Church Hall. The Police Department, Fire Department and Building Commissioner have all approved the request. Per the Board’s policy, the license, if approved, should be issued for two additional days which is to allow delivery the day before the event and for pick up the day after the event with no sales allowed. He would recommend the Board approve the special license as requested with the dates on the license to be February 7, 2020 – February 9, 2020. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to approve as stated, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously.**

VII. Old Business:

1. Civilian Traffic Commission – Chief Maxfield stated at the Board’s January 14, 2020 meeting, the board discussed two concerns the Civilian Traffic Commission brought forward which were regarding traffic at intersections and the make-up of the Commission. (see attached letters). He was directed to send a letter to Mass Highway District 3 Office asking if they could look at the intersections for Stafford Street and Center Depot Road, Stafford Street and Brookfield Road and Dresser Hill Road, Saundersdale Road and Schoolhouse Road and provide traffic calming measures for consultation on strategies to change drivers mindsets and behaviors. (copy of letter attached) He has not received a response back yet. Mr. Borowski asked about the composition of the committee? The commission was uncertain about their charge due to their limited authority. He asked if we are going to dissolve this and reestablish, change or keep as is? Ms. Noble doesn’t think keeping it as is, is an option. She thinks reconstituting it and changing it’s make-up is a much better option than dissolving it. Chairman Singer said we could wait till we hear back from the state and if they take over, we won’t need the commission. Mr. Borowski

said the Commission itself may act as a sounding board for concerned residents. He would suggest once Mr. Golas is on board to put this on his list for the best way to solicit resident feedback and how do we funnel that to the appropriate people that can actually take action. Chairman Singer said that was the charge of the commission. Ms. Noble said she thinks the concern of the commission is that once they come to us, we need to be more pro-active with their concerns. They would like to have a different make-up of the committee so they can have people there that can make decisions and policy makers. Chairman Singer said to put this on the February 25th agenda for discussion and invite the chairman of that commission. If we do not hear back from the state at that time, put it on a March agenda.

VIII. Committee Reports:

1. Public Safety Building Capital Campaign update – Ms. Spiewak reviewed the forming of the committee. The committee is up and running and introduced Steve Coleman who is a co-chair of the committee. Noreen Johnson Smith is the other co-chair. Mr. Coleman came forward and said the press release was sent out yesterday. Ms. Spiewak is working with the Finance Director on the process to accept monies. They already have several thousand dollars that have been pledged. They have a lot of thoughts and ideas. He said if any of the board members or the new Town Administrator have any ideas, please reach out to him or Ms. Smith. Ms. Spiewak wanted to thank the committee who are all volunteers and the employees here that have been working with them closely to make this happen. The committee is currently working on the solicitation material. Mr. Coleman said they will be working closely with the Public Safety Building Committee and they will be sharing a social media site. Ms. Spiewak thanked the Public Safety Building Committee as well for all their work. The board thanked Ms. Spiewak for working with this.
2. Marijuana Advisory Committee – Ms. Noble said prior to this meeting, there was a Marijuana Advisory Committee meeting and two groups there, Green Gold and Four Score. There was a discussion on vaping. The vaping ban has been lifted. Every vaping device will come with a score card of where it's from and what's in it. There will also be warning signs at the establishments for the vaping. Green Gold has had about 20 customers a day and are waiting for the Cannabis Control Commission to approve their recreation license.
3. Charlton Sustainability Center – Ms. Noble said that there have been a group of individuals spearheaded by Bill Caulway, who are interested in discussing how to deal with yard waste. In addition they want to think long term about what we are going to do when we can no longer count on Casella. It's sort of an ad-hoc committee and they will be looking to formalize that down the road. Ms. Noble explained the TreeCycle program that was used for residents to recycle their trees. There were 25 trees that were returned. Mr. Caulway said he went to businesses, churches and pre-schools to let them know about this program. He contracted lyme disease and wanted to do something about it. Ms. Noble said the chipping of the trees was done by a local contractor. The wood chips are used as a barrier to keep ticks away. Chairman Singer said there is a spray that you can get at Walmart and you can spray your clothes to keep the ticks off. The Board thanked them. Ms. Noble said their next meeting is February 11th.
4. Fay Mountain Farm – Ms. Noble said this committee hasn't met in a while and she's hoping they will get back together in the spring. She did get an update from Neil Johnson who is the farmer there. He told her that not only will they have pick your own apples, they will have pick your own peaches this year in the summertime. They have also started constructing tunnels for raspberries.

IX. BOS Policy Review:

1. Scheduling of Meetings – Chief Maxfield stated that at the Board’s January 14, 2020 meeting, Selectman Borowski asked if the board had any interest in changing the meetings from every other week to the 1st and 3rd or the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

Chairman Singer asked that this be put on the agenda for discussion. While reviewing the Selectmen policies, three policies deal with the Board’s meetings which are:

Agenda Closing

BOS Meetings

Meeting Postings

There are no policies that state the board meets every other Tuesday. The only reference to every other Tuesday is mentioned on the Town’s website. The Town By-Laws for the Selectmen state:

§ 50-7 Organization.

The Selectmen, within seven (7) days after each Annual Election, shall meet, elect a Chairperson and otherwise organize, and fix the time and place of their regular meetings. They shall adopt their own rules of procedure. Mr. Borowski said he just wanted to bring this up for discussion. He said we could leave it as is. Chairman Singer asked if we have to change the bylaw. It was stated that the board could fix the dates and times when they reorganize. If the board is going to change, it should be done in March. Discussion was to have them on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. **Motion by Mr. Borowski to change our meetings to the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month starting March 10, 2020, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously.**

X. Student Selectperson Report – Anya Grondalski reviewed her report.

XI. Town Administrator Report Chief Maxfield said the transition will go to Andrew Golas next Monday. The Board thanked the chief for going above and beyond these last four months to assist. Chairman Singer said he did this as well at no cost for the town.

XII. Other Business:

Steve Koronis from 17 Old Worcester Road came forward. He said based on the Chief’s dedication to the community and his donation, he thinks, Anya would be more than happy to let the Chief appoint a few selectmen to be able to accept a pie in the face for donations.

Mr. Borowski said he asked and Chairman Singer agreed that we will be having a discussion at the next meeting around mosquito spraying and he would like to invite the Board of Health and hear their thoughts on this.

XIII. Next Meeting Announcement:

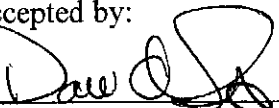
- BOS Regular Meeting – February 11, 2020, 6:30pm, BOS Meeting Room

XIV. Adjourn/Executive Session:


Motion by Mr. Borowski to adjourn at 7:43pm, seconded by Ms. Spiewak, motion carries unanimously.

Submitted by:
Mary C. Devlin
Administrative Assistant

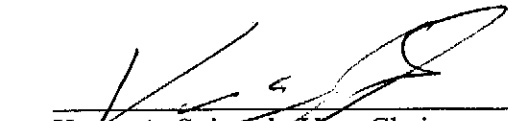
Accepted by:




David M. Singer, Chairman



William Borowski, Clerk



Karen A. Spiewak, Vice-Chairperson



Deborah B. Noble, Member

John P. McGrath, Member (absent)

Charlton Sustainability Center

MINUTES

January 9 2020

The meeting started at 6pm with the following attendees:

Kathleen Walker, BOH

Deb Marquis, Recycling Committee

Wayne Marquis, Resident

Bill Caulway, Resident

Deb Noble, BOS

Absent: Linda Davis, Roland Jackson, and Sandie Pisarski

Christmas tree discussion:

The group agreed to contact Gerry to confirm the location and access to the site.

Schedule for the tree drop off

Wayne – 10-11

Linda – 11:30 – 1pm

Advantage has agreed to provide its equipment/service for the chipping. Day and time to be confirmed.

Bill suggested advertising the chipping during Hazardous Day to make it available to the public along with some educational material depending on the amount of trees collected.

Voucher discussion:

Kathleen shared with the committee that the Board of Health had \$3,000 for Hazardous Waste Day. The money will be used towards vouchers. Each voucher will have a \$30 value. Residents will pick them up the Town Hall. It will be a first come first serve. The voucher will be designed and numbered. The citizen's address should be collected at the time of pick up so we can later on determine who is interested in the service and where they live.

The vouchers can be used in March and/or June.

Debbie suggested encouraging partnering with neighbors if a citizen does not have a lot of items to be disposed.

Next steps:

Where/how to use the wood chips

Collecting brushes next?

Contact Jack Jovan to determine what to do when Casella leaves

Contact Sturbridge to schedule a tour of its facility

Invite Andrew Golas to our next meeting on 2/11. Introduce the idea of having the Town picking up its resident's trash. Deb Marquis suggested preparing a RFP and trying the idea again. Bill volunteered to speak at Town meeting.

Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

Action Plan

Task #1

Schedule a tour of the Recycling Center in Sturbridge.

Task #2

Confirm if Andrew will be attending the meeting

Task #3

Confirm location for chipping and storage with Gerry

Task #4

Contact Jack Jovan

Leader	Open date	Start date	Close date	Status	Task #
	1/9/2020	1/22/2020		Waiting on Sturbridge	1
	1/9/2020	1/13/2020	1/13/2020	Completed	2
	1/9/2020	1/21/2020	1/22/2020	Completed	3
	1/9/2020				