

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECT BOARD
May 19, 2021
Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Arne Jonynas; Lee Gustafson; Heather Chase; Leigh Dakin; Jeff Holden; Julie Hance; Amie O'Brien

VISITORS: SAPATV; Robert Nied; Emily Burkland; Kate MacFarland; Tim Roper; Ginger Roper; Shawn Cunningham; Joy Slaughter; Astrid Hoyt; Scott Blair; Cheryl Joy Lipton; Hugh Quinn; Luna Burkland; Colleen Garvey; Melody Reed; Sharon Huntley; Preston Bristow; Jim Carroll; Carrie King; Cathy Hasbrouck; (802) 289-3565

Meeting was held via Zoom and at the Town Hall.

1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 5, 2021 SELECTBOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to approve the Minutes of the May 5, 2021 Select Board meeting as written. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS/ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Select Board was given an opinion on the Paper of Record from Nicholas Boke.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Public Safety Building: The floors and windows have been completed. Julie Hance is hoping to recoup some of the contingency through COVID grant money. The items being paid for must be COVID related expenses. The document is 160 pages, and she is waiting on guidance to see if the money can be used for this purpose.

Town Pool: The cameras are going up soon and the internet has been put in. They will be connected to the Police Department and can be viewed 24 hours a day. These cameras along with the cameras for the Public Safety Building will be connected to a server that comes with the system. The vandalism to the pool and graffiti found around town are connected to similar cases in surrounding towns. These towns are working together to find the ones responsible. The company from Indiana will be coming to fix the pool because local companies are unable to. A claim has been submitted to the insurance company.

Wayfinding Signage: A letter has been written to Secretary Kurrle and a hearing has been set for May 24, 2021.

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Coin Drop Policy: This will be on the next agenda for the Select Board to discuss. A draft policy will be written for the board to go over and make changes as they see fit.

Gravel Pit: Most of the trees have been taken down by Brien Smith clearing the extraction site. The town crew will build the roads and culverts. The cost to clear the trees was approximately \$6,000 with some being recouped from the sale of the lumber. The Highway Department will use it as firewood as well.

Ambulance Department: Dan Cook has retired after 33 years on the service. A retirement party is planned for June 9, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Pinnacle. Amanda Silva is the Ambulance Chief and is doing well. She is working on getting someone to sign off so she can teach classes at the new building to certify new people. Arne Jonynas thanked Dan Cook for his service.

Emerald Ash Meeting: The meeting will be Monday, May 24, 2021 at 6 p.m. and will train people how to identify an ash tree and how to use the tracking app. There are 6 or 7 people interested in helping and a few from the Green Up Day Committee.

4. SIX HOURS ON LOVERS LANE RUNNING EVENT; PERMISSION TO USE TOWN PROPERTY

Astrid Hoyt will host a six hour race on August 14, 2021 at the Pinnacle. Racers will make laps around the Pinnacle trails and disc golf course, which is about two miles. The town's insurance would cover the event. The proceeds will go to the Chester Recreation Department and Turning Point. An EMT will be present the day of the event in case of an emergency. This event will be a reoccurring thing each year going forward.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to allow Astrid Hoyt to hold a six hour race at the Pinnacle on August 14, 2021. Seconded by Leigh dakin. The motion passed.

5. COIN DROP; RUCK UP

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to allow Ruck Up to hold a coin drop on August 14, 2021 with a rain date of August 15, 2021 on Route 103 between Mountain View and Marshall Road. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The motion passed.

6. CHESTER COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE; UPDATE

Robert Nied explained the Chester Community Greenhouse Committee has set up a nonprofit and are pursuing grants to help with funding. The board consists of 6 members which will oversee the operations. They will be applying for 2 grants through the USDA within the next couple of weeks. The group has been in contact with Senator Sanders' and Senator Leahy's offices to add the greenhouse to the list of things they advocate for and are asking for \$500,000 from each one. If awarded, the money would be available next spring 2022 and would have to be utilized by September 2022. He

92 explained the committee is focused on spending the money locally by using local
93 resources and contractors.

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95 The site selection committee narrowed down two spots, which are town owned
96 properties. The preferred site is behind the Academy building and the second site is on
97 Canal Street. There is still extensive research needing to be done at both sites. The DRB
98 process will have to be followed and the town attorney will need to be involved. The
99 Select Board will have to give approval for a long-term lease or use agreement. The
100 committee will create a 5-year plan updated yearly which will include an endowment to
101 self-sustain and a decommissioning strategy.

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103 Leigh Dakin stated she previously spoke with abutters to the Canal Street property
104 about having a farmers' market on the site. After speaking with them it was decided
105 that location would not be a good place to hold the market. Jeff Holden said he thought
106 the Canal Street property would be a good location. The Academy building location was
107 supposed to be used to expand the cemetery. The flood plain in that area makes it so
108 there cannot be any underground burials. Cheryl Joy Lipton explained the greenhouse
109 would be exempt from flood plain setbacks because it is agricultural. Lee Gustafson
110 stated he would like to see the plan in writing including how it would affect property
111 values, the decommissioning process, and financial details. Leigh Dakin and Arne
112 Jonynas volunteered to work with the Greenhouse Committee, and Heather Chase
113 offered on an as needed basis. The Select Board will tour both sites before the Select
114 Board meeting on June 2, 2021 at 5 p.m.

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116 7. ROUTE 103, BRIDGE 14 CONCEPTUAL PLANS; COMMENTS FOR VTRANS

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118 This project will replace bridge 14 on Route 103 North. There will be a temporary bridge
119 in place for the 2-year duration. The Select Board did not have any comments for VTrans
120 relating to the bridge replacement.

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122 8. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA

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- 125 • Cion drop policy
 - 126 • Review of all policies start with the oldest first

127 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: INTERVIEW APPLICANT FOR ZONING ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

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129 The Select Board did not see a need to interview Preston Bristow for the Zoning
130 Administrator position. He came highly recommended by the Planning Commission and
131 is well qualified for the position.

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133 10. APPOINT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

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135 A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to appoint Preston Bristow as Zoning
136 Administrator for a three-year term ending May 2024. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The
137 motion passed.

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11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: RE POLICE MATTER TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL CIVIL LITIGATION WITH COUNSEL

A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to enter Executive Session for the purpose of a police matter to discuss the potential for civil litigation with counsel. Seconded by Heather Chase. Jeff Holden recused himself. Julie Hance and Jim Carroll were allowed in. The Select Board entered Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The Select Board exited Executive Session at 8:49 p.m.

No action was taken.

12. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.