

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECTBOARD MEETING

August 30, 2017
Minutes

PRESENT: Arne Jonynas, Heather Chase, Dan Cote; Lee Gustafson; David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Frank Bidwell; Shawn Cunningham; Lydia Menendez

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Arne Jonynas.

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

1. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

There were no citizen's comments.

2. REVIEW RAINBOW ROCK:

The Selectboard called Attorney Coni Pell to be a part of the discussion. Arne Jonynas stated that the Board was presented with three documents; Management Plan, Grant of Development Rights, and Baseline Documentation Report.

Arne Jonynas stated that in reviewing the Baseline Documentation, the address to the property needs to be changed to say the first right. Lydia Menendez also stated that there has been a footnote added to the document which explains the difference in the acreage. Parking should be changed to say 2-3 cars. Arne Jonynas stated that there is mention of a dam upstream but he is not aware of any dam in the river. Lydia Menendez stated that the Baseline Documentation Report does get signed but is more of a reference document for the River Conservancy.

In reviewing the Grant of Development Rights and Easement, Lydia Menendez stated that this easement is placed on the land when it is conveyed to the town. However, the River Conservancy maintains the easement. She clarified that she does not have authority to change this document. The Board confirmed that the town's attorney has reviewed all documents.

The Management Plan is the governing document that the town must abide by. The language under item 6, Invasive Species was amended from "reasonably control" to "monitor and assess". Lee Gustafson questioned the language relating to "reasonable". Coni Pell suggested that there could be language added that describes the process of achieving reasonableness. The other option is to describe what is "reasonable". Lydia Menendez suggested changing the word to "pedestrian" or "limited". Coni Pell suggested that there be language added stating an assumption of risk for the pedestrians.

Heather Chase stated that she heard from some citizens with concerns. She suggested that someone be assigned to check out the swimming hole on a regular basis. Coni Pell also suggested that the town contact the League to discuss signage.

Coni Pell stated that the best protection for the town is to make sure that the town addresses any concerns that arise in the future. In addition, the town needs to make sure that there is adequate signage.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to accept all three documents with amendments. There was no second. The motion died.

Lydia Menendez questioned who will be signing the document. She also stated the trail builder is available on September 7 and 8 to construct the new trail. She questioned whether the town will be able to donate the gravel, stone and trucking? Lydia Menendez questioned if the rope swing should be mentioned in the Management Plan and if the town wants to remove the rope swing?

David Pisha stated that the trail builder needs to contact David Pisha and/or the Public Works Director regarding the material and trucking. The Board also agreed that David Pisha can sign the document. It was agreed to add language stating that “the town, at its discretion, may choose to remove the rope swing.”

A motion was made by Heather Chase to approve all three documents as amended and authorize the Town Manager to sign the amended document. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

Heather Chase stated that she would like to have a specific process or policy of managing this property. Arne Jonynas stated that currently the Chester Conservation Committee maintains the trails. He suggested that perhaps the CCC could manage this property as well. Heather Chase stated that she would like to have David Pisha put something together. She would also like to have open and close times posted on this property. Lydia Menendez stated that they have drafted signage language.

Lydia Menendez stated that the River Conservancy will close on the property on September 6. They would also like to convey to the property on the same day. Coni Pell stated that she will reach out to the title searcher and see if they can search title prior to September 6.

3. CONTINUE SELECTBOARD VISIONING PROCESS:

David Pisha stated that the papers show the last list of priorities for the town in anticipation of preparing the budget. He stated that the Board now needs to decide how they wish to proceed. He suggested that the Board identify the top 5 or 6 priorities. Lee Gustafson stated that the views this is a long term, 10 year plan for the Selectboard. Heather Chase stated that she would like to see a top 5 categories pillars and condense the

other ideas within them. The following 5 pillars were agreed on: Recreation; Town Management; Quality of Life; Historic Preservation; Economic Development.

David Pisha suggested that he and Julie will elaborate on the pillars and starting writing something more specific. The Board also requested that any overlap with the Master Plan be identified.

Arne Jonynas noted that the radar signs are up. The Board agreed that the Chief should be commended for the selection of the sign.

Arne Jonynas stated that he, David Pisha and Julie Hance met with Peter Jones from the New England Forestry Foundation and walked the property owned by the Vermont Forestry Foundation. There is a potential of the NEFF purchasing the property.

Heather Chase stated that she and David Pisha reviewed the new water tank. She was very pleased with the work that was done. David Pisha stated that Robbo Holleran is working on a reclamation plan for the Irene site with planting expected for April/May.

Lee Gustafson stated that he would like to continue to hear from department heads.

4. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Ben Whalen
Clerk of the Select Board