

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECTBOARD

October 5, 2016
Minutes

PRESENT: John DeBenedetti; Arne Jonynas; Dan Cote; Heather Chase; David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Ron Patch; Neil Allen; Frank Bidwell; Shawn Cunningham;
Tory Spater; Doug Somerville; Richard Cloud; Kelly Arrison; Marilyn
Mahusky; Claudio Veliz; Amy Mosher

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by John DeBenedetti.

PUBLIC HEARING

Julie Hance explained that she is seeking permission to apply for the Transportation Alternatives Grant for the purpose of replacing the existing culvert on Popple Dungeon Road which is in a critical condition. She explained that the total project is estimated at \$400,000 with a town match of \$100,000.00. The Selectboard members thanked Julie Hance for locating the grant.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to open the public hearing. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

There were no comments made.

A motion was made by Dan Cote to close the public hearing. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

September 21, 2016:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to approve the September 21, 2016 minutes of the Chester Selectboard meeting and Executive Session meeting record as amended. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

Page 3, last sentence of last paragraph, should say that all businesses can advertise in the Information Booth

Executive Session, should reflect that Dan Cote recused himself during the meeting

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Frank Bidwell stated that the DRB minutes show that they are draft. He asked if the minutes could reflect that they are either draft or final. John DeBenedetti stated that the next set of minutes shows the changes to the previous meetings.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Master Plan: David Pisha noted that the Steering Committee for the Master Plan is on the agenda for tonight.

Water Project: David Pisha stated that the ACT 250 site visit and initial hearing is being held this coming Friday at 9:30 a.m.

EMS Building: David Pisha stated that he has spoken with the Town Manager from Castleton who is available to show their building the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays in October.

Yosemite Fire Station: David Pisha reported that the Yosemite Fire Station building is now insured through VLCT.

Speed Control: David Pisha stated that speed control has been added to the Old Business List and is on the agenda.

Tree Inventory: Arne Jonynas stated that he has not spoken with Joe Epler yet but will before the next meeting. John DeBenedetti asked for a copy of the statutes relating to the Tree Warden.

4. SPEED MANAGEMENT:

David Pisha stated that the portable radar sign was installed on North Street between September 30 and October 3. During that time 3,699 cars were observed. He presented a chart to the Selectboard demonstrating the results. He noted that there were 3 cars going over 51 mph.

Richard Cloud stated that he would like to install 3 speed signs at the entrances into town. He stated that he would like to install radar signs that mount to a pole and are solar charged. These would be up all the time and would not have to be removed for charging.

Dan Cote stated that he would like to see more signs and would like to show the speed management video at a meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the signs themselves and what might be the best option for Chester. The board also discussed the effectiveness of the radar signs and the data that can be gathered.

Dan Cote stated that he would like to see similar data for all of the hot spots in town. Location decisions could be made at that time.

Frank Bidwell stated that he would like to see cars stopped more frequently and feels that anything above the speed limit is too much. He further noticed that Church Street has many speeders as well.

5. MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE:

Julie Hance stated that a recommendation is being made to appoint all individuals who have expressed an interest in serving on the committee.

A motion was made by Dan Cote to appoint David Pisha, Julie Hance, Jason Rasmussen, Bob Flint, Carla Westine, Scott Wunderle, Kelly Arrison, Hugh Henry, Barre Pinske and Claudio Veliz to the Master Plan Steering Committee. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

Julie Hance announced that there will be a townwide event on October 22, 2016. She stated that this will be advertised throughout town as soon as the times and schedule have been created.

6. HISTORIC BUILDING COMMITTEE:

David Pisha presented and reviewed a series of spreadsheets delineating the long term capital needs of the town, including the historic buildings. He also presented a sheet showing a breakdown of the needs of the historic buildings which have been identified through conditions assessments. Discussion ensued regarding these needs.

Heather Chase stated that it was her intention to discuss creating a committee for the purpose of reviewing of historic buildings in town. She does not like all of the capital needs of the town together into one capital plan with historic buildings. Marilyn Mahusky stated that she would like to see the needs of the historic buildings maintained separately than the other capital needs. John DeBenedetti questioned what the historic committee's function would be. It was discussed that the function of the committee would include fundraising and locating sources of funds for the maintenance of the historic buildings. Frank Bidwell stated that the committee could also look at utilization of these buildings after they have been renovated. Tory Spater and Kelly Arrison expressed their support of creating a historic building committee. Discussion ensued.

It was suggested that the town manager draft a job description for a historic building committee.

Arne Jonynas suggested that maintaining the same contribution amount each year into the Capital Plan may not be reasonable. This number may need to be changed as time goes on.

7. TOWN HALL RENOVATION:

David Pisha stated that the ramp is becoming a priority due to safety concerns. Rohr Cook will be here to look at the slates next week. The work will be done by the end of October. Heather Chase expressed that she wants the focus to be put towards the roof.

Marilyn Mahusky requested that thought be given to moving the ramp to the front of the building. Julie Hance stated that she will be meeting with the architect next week and she will mention this to him.

8. NEW BUSINESS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Heather Chase stated that she will not be at the next meeting. She requested that the items of Conflict of Interest and Historical Committee be put on another agenda since she will not be present. Dan Cote stated that he will not be at the following meeting and will be calling in for the discussion.

Marilyn Mahusky mentioned that there have been letters submitted to the town demonstrating interest in serving on the Planning Commission. Julie Hance stated that she was told that these would be on hold until the Conflict of Interest Policy was adopted. Discussion ensued regarding the process for reviewing letters to the Selectboard when they are received. Amy Mosher questioned how many positions are available on the Planning Commission.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION – TOWN MANAGER REVIEW:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to enter into executive session for the purpose of performing the annual review of the town manager. David Pisha was invited into the Executive Session. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed. The board entered Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. David Pisha entered into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. and exited at 9:01 p.m.

A motion was made by Dan Cote to exit Executive Session at 9:34 p.m. Seconded by John DeBenedetti. The motion passed. There was no action taken.

10. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to adjourn. Seconded by John DeBenedetti. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Heather Chase
Clerk of the Select Board

The SAPA-TV recording of this meeting is hereby made a part of the permanent minute record of this meeting.