



Town of Chester Newsletter



January 2018

Winter

www.chestervt.gov

TOWN CLERK

The available Elective Offices for 2018 can be found at chestervt.gov on the home page. Petition forms for these positions can be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 pm. Monday through Friday. If you have any questions you can call the Town Clerk's Office at 875-2173.

Petitions must have 25 – 30 signatures and they are due back in the Town Clerk's Office by January 29, 2018 at 5:00 pm. Petitions to have an article on the town meeting warning must have 120 – 130 signatures and are due back in the Town Clerk's Office by January 18, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

Town Meeting will be held on March 5, 2018 at 6pm, and the Town Meeting Election will be held on March 6, 2018 from 9 am-7 pm, both upstairs at the Town Hall.

Please remember to register your dog at the Town Office on or before April 1, 2018. There will be a rabies clinic held at the Town Garage on March 10, 2018 from 10:30-Noon. Cost for this clinic will be \$10. Dog registration will be available at the clinic as well.

Town Manager's Message

Plans for Chester's future continue to evolve as the New Year begins. The Master Plan Steering Committee has been dissolved by the Select Board now that their work is finished. In their place, an Implementation Committee is being formed. Their mission will be to work on the ideas the Steering Committee identified.

Some of their early projects include the establishment of a 'Pocket Park' at the end of School Street, they will work with Town Staff on the new sidewalk project on Depot Street as well as working with already established committees such as the Economic Development Committee, Historic Preservation and Chester Townscape.

The report regarding the feasibility study for a new Fire Station and Town Garage will be published and available soon. Claudio Veliz has done a considerable amount of work interviewing staff, meeting with State officials and reviewing the current facility, all the while developing ideas for a new Emergency Services building and Town Garage.

The results will be published in a document that will be available for review at Town Hall and on the web. Public comment is encouraged; this is only the first phase of a process to consider constructing new space for these important Town services, so the Select Board wants to hear from you.

As an update on the water project, the new precast prestressed concrete storage tank was placed on line in December, providing enhanced fire protection for the water system. The work done in late 2017 included installing control valves and process piping in the valve vault. Currently, the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system is being installed to allow monitoring of the water storage tanks at the well house and by remote computer.

Because of project cost savings, we were able to complete another significant construction project. This project included replacement of the 48-year-old PVC water service to the Wastewater Treatment Facility, and a 24" diameter steel sleeve installation underneath the railroad tracks via trenchless technologies. With the new 8" diameter ductile iron water main, this project eliminated the loss of pressure due to the old undersized line, and provides the reliability of ductile iron piping.



Chester Wayfinding Signage

WHICH ONES DO YOU LIKE?

Here are three different option groups of the designs the Town is considering for their "Wayfinding" signage. These are just the general forms they'll take.

You can indicate your preference by voting for one or more on the voting ballots which are available on the counter in the office.

Colors and lettering coming soon after these shapes are selected, and you'll get a chance to vote for those, too!

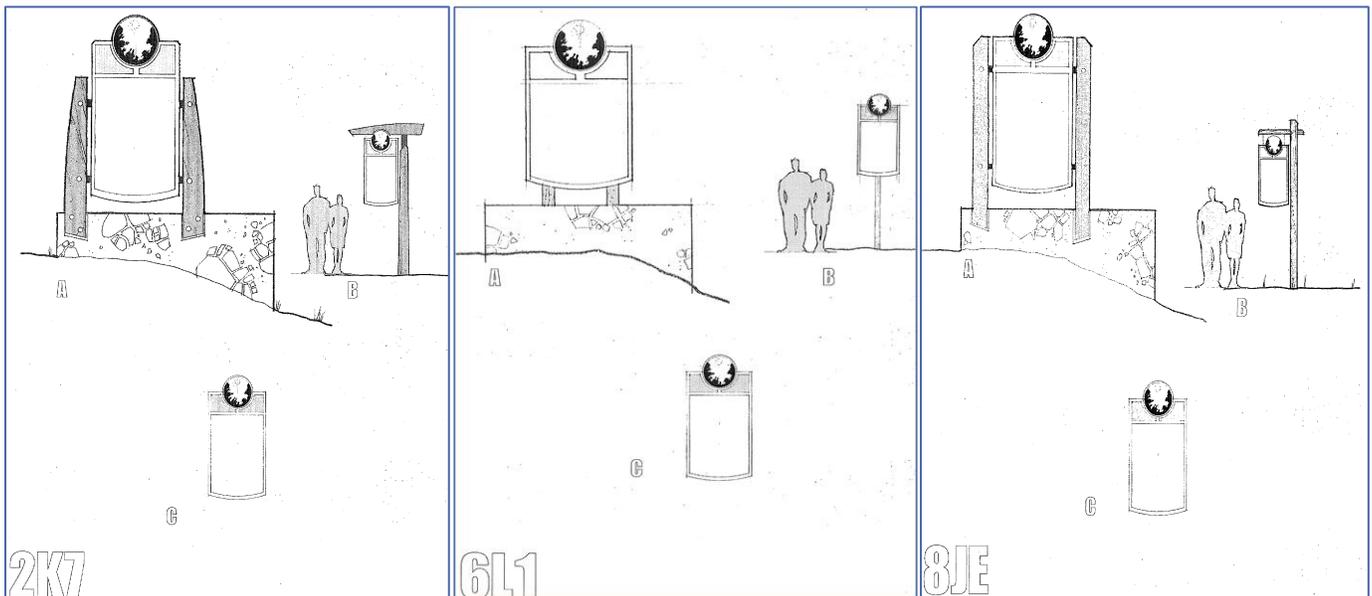
On the ballots, you can also comment about specific aspects of the design/s.

Thanks much! We're all working to make Chester even more beautiful and user-friendly!

The concept

The graphic design and materials of the signage are intended to reflect the character of the community. Future reviews will include samples of the stone, timber, black iron (*reflecting our railway heritage*) and stained glass.

The Sketch Concept medallion you see above is a blow up of the much smaller one you see in the signage sketches. It is still under development and is intended to represent key symbols of the community; the hills, trees, historic building (styles) and even, well, a little whimsy. In the final version the sky is to be "split" into day and night and will be of a translucent, color material, reflective of the Town's stained glass artwork in numerous churches and homes. Typically the larger signs will have this feature.



Created under
contract to
the Town of
Chester Vermont, Inc.



Chester Townscape (also Hearse House Committee)

A Committee of Chester
Community Alliance,
Inc.

Chester Historic Preservation Committee



Chester Celebrates Winter

Long before snow arrived, Chester Townscape volunteers planted more daffodil bulbs at the Brookside Cemetery wall and new allium bulbs around the gazebos so they could root for spring bloom. Volunteers also decorated Town Hall, all public buildings, and key planters around town with evergreen wreaths, roping, boughs, and winterberry to proclaim the holiday spirit and brighten winter. Now, while flowers sleep, plans are underway to choose the flowers that will grace pots and planters in the spring and summer. All visitors and residents can look forward to seeing how the new bulbs survive the winter and how Townscape's successive seasonal decorations, plantings, and other projects improve Chester's appearance and appeal, and show that residents and businesses care about their town.

Hearse House Museum Opened!

By October 28, when the Hearse House Museum opened to the public, all intended work to the building, its new educational foyer, and its museum displays were finally in place. The small museum features the Town's handsome horse-drawn hearse and information about the vehicle, the building's renovation, and funeral customs of the times – along with photographs of the hearse in action and a slide show of the building and public Tomb both before renovation and during the various stages of building and repair work. While the unheated Hearse House is closed for the winter, when the good weather returns the plan is for the building to be opened during the day for people to view the hearse, photos, and abundant information, which anyone can see now by accessing the Town's website <http://www.chestervt.gov/history.html>. Many people gave gifts of time, labor, and professional expertise to make the project possible, and their names are listed in a framed thank-you inside the museum on the right. It was the generosity of residents and businesses and the complete cooperation of Town Staff that allowed Chester Townscape to raise the funds and create this truly unique attraction so appropriate to Chester's history. Anyone with additional pictures or information is urged to contact Lillian Willis at 875-1340 or Suzy Forlie at 875-3634.

Chester Historic Preservation Committee

The Chester Historic Preservation Committee (CHPC) continued its work of caring for the Town's historic buildings. While Yosemite Fire House is effectively snowed in for the winter, the Town, in preparation for its ownership, recently internally covered over slipped or broken windows, fixed the lock in the side door, and is looking into what needs to be done to ensure stabilization of the structure. **Town Hall-** CHPC presented to the Select Board its concept of a renovated look and amenities for the second floor. The Board was in agreement, and those ideas and requests were sent to an architect so he could help supply additional information and estimated costs for a grant to be written to renovate the exterior and second floor. **Jeffrey Barn-** Two committee members met with a barn expert at the Jeffrey Barn on Route 103. This is the last old building owned by the Town that does not have an official Condition Assessment. That document is necessary to determine if the building should be stabilized and restored or if it is beyond hope. CHPC was assured by the representative from the Preservation Trust of Vermont that he would endorse the Trust's grant of a barn assessment, which only requires a match of \$250 from the Town. CHPC is hoping for formal approval of that request and the ensuing investigation in early 2018. As dreadful as the barn looks from the outside, except for a large hole inside caused by the irresponsible placement of overly heavy equipment, the basic structure seems sound. The assessment will be invaluable in determining how to proceed with this resource. While any future use is completely premature at the moment, anyone with ideas is encouraged to contact Committee Chair Lillian Willis at 875-1340 or lbwillistc@comcast.net.



Recreation

Winter Carnival



February 16th:

- 5:30pm-7:30pm: Dinner and a movie for kids at CAES. FREE

February 17th:

- 11am: Sledding at the Pinnacle.
- 11am-3pm: Sleigh Rides with Smokeshire Farm at the Pinnacle.
- 11am-3pm: FREE Face Painting at the Southern Pie Company.
- 11am-4pm: CAES PTG will have food/drinks for sale at the Pinnacle.
- Noon-4pm: Southern Pie Company Pie Tasting @ 287 Main St. \$5.00 per plate. Proceeds donated to the Chester Recreation Dept.
- 5pm-8pm: Southern Pie Company with coffee, hot chocolate and pieces of pie for sale at the Pinnacle.
- 6pm-8pm: The Chester Conservation Committee will host a self-guided tiki torch snowshoe hike around the disc golf course located at the Pinnacle. Snowshoes will be available for borrowing.
- 6pm-8pm: Bonfire/Music/Skating Party from at the Pinnacle.

February 18th:

- 10am-1pm: Broom Hockey at the Pinnacle \$25 per team. Please pre-register at matt.mccarthy@chestervt.org.

CALENDAR

January 18th:

- Article Petitions for Town Meeting due

January 29th:

- Elective Office Petitions due

February 16th -18th:

- Winter Carnival

March 5th:

- Town Meeting 6pm
Town Hall (upstairs)

March 6th:

- Town Meeting Vote
9am-7pm
Town Hall (upstairs)

March 10th:

- Rabies Clinic and Dog Registration at the Town Garage from 10:30-Noon



Blue Family

The Chester Police Department would like to thank all those who have supported us during this difficult time. Mark Phelps was a staple in our community and he will be greatly missed. Our Department will not be the same without him and his dedication. Rest in Peace Sargent Mark Phelps.

The State of Vermont has embarked on a new energy plan to meet 90% of the State's energy from renewable sources by 2050. The Town of Chester may participate in this goal by adding an energy plan chapter to our Town Plan, giving us a voice in this matter. The Chester Planning Commission would like to get a sense of how residents stand on this issue. Please visit www.chestervt.gov/planning-commission to fill out the survey and return it to the Town Office.