

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECT BOARD
May 5, 2021
Meeting Minutes

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

VISITORS: SAPATV; Cynthia Prairie; George Legace; Kate DeRosia; Lauren Ingersoll; Scott Blair; Shawn Cunningham; Jared Gunnell; Sharon Hunley; Linda Diak; Matthew Gorsky; Frank Kelly; Barre Pinske; Carrie King

Meeting was held via Zoom.

1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 21, 2021 SELECTBOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Heather Chase to approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2021 Select Board meeting as written. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

Lee Gustafson mentioned he likes the new format with the line numbers added to the side of the Minutes.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS/ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Frank Kelly is part of the Conservation Committee and Green Up Day Committee. He spoke about the successful clean up of all the roads in Chester on Green Up Day. He thanked the committees, Town Hall, and the town road crew for all their help. The Whiting Library decorated the tree out front with bags for people to take. Carrie King from the library stated it was a fun day with fun activities at the library. This attracted people to visit the library and check out the new offerings. She looks forward to next years event. Leigh Dakin said her grandson helped clean up and took some small seedlings in pots from the library. Carrie King mentioned Chester Townscape donated sunflower seed packets to be given out. The third graders at the elementary school said they wanted to see more sunflowers around town. Arne Jonynas thanked everyone involved. Frank Kelly pointed out the Green Up Day volunteers are familiar with the roads, which may help with the ash tree inventory. Joanne Garton from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation will hold a training about the inventory process on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 6 p.m.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Public Safety Building: The concrete floors are being dyed, the doors and windows are going in, and the siding will be done soon. The building should be finished around the third week in June.

47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92

Town Pool: The pool lining tore from someone riding their skateboard in it. There is not a local company around that can repair it, so the company out of Indiana is coming to do it. The expected cost of the repair is \$2,000 to \$3,000. A security system will be going in adding four cameras to the pool house. Two of which will be telescopic to reach the skate park and baseball fields. The Police Department is working on finding the persons responsible for the damage to the pool and the graffiti that has been found around town. The quote for the cameras came in at \$4,700 and another \$2,600 to tie them back to the Police Department. The \$2,600 will pay for the cameras that will be added to the Town Garage as well. An insurance claim for the damage to the pool requires a \$1,000 deductible if submitted.

Wayfinding signage: The Transportation Counsel has not responded to correspondence in almost two years. Julie Hance wrote the Chair a letter stating the town would be moving forward with the project and she got a response within a few minutes. The 11-11 Permit for 4 signs was submitted at the end of 2019. The signs will direct people to shop, dine, stay instead of directing them to the Village Green. John Kessler stated the council must review the plan. Julie hance emailed the Governor about the issue and is waiting for a response. Citizens are encouraged to write the Governor as well.

Andover Road: The road starting from Route 11 is state highway. The board would like clarification of what that means for the town. Julie Hance pointed out it is a class 2 state road and Route 35 to Grafton is as well. Regional Planning will put two speed strips in different locations on Andover Road to collect data for the speed study. The results should be in by June.

4. FALL FESTIVAL; UPDATE AND PERMISSION FOR USE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Shannon Parker, Lee Whiting, Lauren Ingersoll and Scott Blair were present at the meeting to represent the Fall Festival Committee. They have created a nonprofit called Chester Community Events, LLC and will call the event Chester Fall Festival on the Green. This will make it clear that booths and other things will be on the Green and will differentiate between the Open-Air Market being held at the American Legion. The date of the festival is September 18-19 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. with the booths closing at 4 p.m. There will be local live music behind the Fullerton Inn after the booths close and components added dedicated to VT agriculture. Security will be needed from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. to oversee the closed booths. Julie Hance will check with Rick Cloud to see if two officers would be willing to work and get paid overtime. The town has a few thousand dollars in the budget to be used on the festival. The Welcome Center restroom will be closed, and the town will pay to have portable toilets.

The committee is requesting use of the Green, Cobleigh Field, the Pinnacle, well site, Academy building front and rear, and the Hearse House area to hold the event. They are also asking for access to the power sources in these areas. The festival will be promoted on the town website and Facebook page. Chester Community Events, LLC will be used

93 for other festivals and events that will take place in Chester. The group is looking for
94 people to help. Leigh Dakin pointed out the high school students may need community
95 service hours. This would be a good opportunity for them to volunteer and fundraise.
96 The school will advertise the festival in August to get the students involved.
97

98 A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to allow Chester Community Events, LLC to use
99 town property as presented and to authorize Julie Hance to coordinate the event with
100 the group. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.
101

102 5. PERMISSION TO USE COBLEIGH FIELD; DANCE FACTORY
103

104 Kate DeRosia from the Dance Factory requested the use of Cobleigh Field to put on the
105 show Thumbelina. She is looking to do two shows in Chester to be held at Cobleigh Field
106 on June 25 at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The rain date requested would be June 26 at 10
107 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. There is power located at Cobleigh Field that she will utilize. The
108 show is free of charge with donations accepted. Volunteers will be there to help keep
109 people separated and everyone will follow all COVID guidelines.
110

111 A motion was made by Heather Chase to allow Kate DeRosia to use Cobleigh Field to
112 present Thumbelina on June 25, 2021 with a rain date of June 26, 2021. Seconded by
113 Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.
114

115 6. COIN DROP; RUCK UP, INC.
116

117 George Legace from Ruck Up, Inc., a veteran's organization, would like to hold a coin
118 drop between Mountain View and Marshall Road on July 10, 2021 with a rain date of
119 July 11, 2021. Leigh Dakin was concerned about the date because the Legion is holding
120 one in the same area at the end of May. He will change the date to one in August and
121 will have Julie Hance present the new date at the next meeting for approval.
122

123 7. FINANCIAL REVIEW
124

125 The town's finances are doing well during the first quarter. The department heads have
126 been limiting spending. There is no need for a TAN currently. If one is needed, it will
127 only be a small amount. A tax sale will be held this spring on properties that are
128 delinquent at least 2 years or more. Letters have been sent to the people with
129 delinquencies stating they should set up a payment plan to avoid going to tax sale. If a
130 property is purchased at tax sale the owner has one year to redeem. After the year is up
131 it is the new owner's responsibility to evict anyone living on the premises. Lien holders
132 will usually pay the back taxes to keep the property from going to tax sale. Ambulance
133 Revenue is down and other ways to collect payments are being considered. Amie
134 O'Brien reached out to surrounding services to compare their ambulance charges to
135 Chester's. She found Chester's charges to be a little less or in line with most other
136 services in the area. An agency that focuses on ambulance billing has been contacted.
137 They have the knowledge and resources needed to deal with all the regulations placed
138 on ambulance billing. The agency will take 5% of what is collected for payment of their

139 services. This is comparable to the cost of the software being used now for billing. A
140 collection agency is being considered for amounts past due. Heather Chase is concerned
141 about using a collection agency to collect money from taxpayers which already pay for
142 the service. More research will be done before deciding to use a collection agency.

143
144 Leigh Dakin stated she is concerned about a property in town with campers and other
145 junk around the yard. She believes people are living in the camper and will let Julie
146 Hance know where the property is located.

147
148 8. CEMETERY DEEDS

149
150 The Select Board signed two Cemetery Deeds.

- 151 • Patricia Townsend
- 152 • Lillian Hildreth

153
154 9. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA

- 155
- 156 • The Chester Snowmobile Club invited the Select Board to their landowner BBQ.
- 157 • The gravel pit appeal has been filed. The land will be logged first with extraction
158 starting next spring. There will be a bid process for crushing.
- 159 • A coin drop policy will be put in place to state how many coin drops the board
160 will allow each year with other guidelines included.
- 161 • The Chester Community Greenhouse Committee will give an update at the next
162 meeting.

163
164 10. ADJOURN

165
166 A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The meeting
167 adjourned at 7:23 p.m.