

1 **TOWN OF CHESTER**  
2 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
3 **June 15, 2022, Draft Minutes**

4 **Board Members Present:** Arne Jonynas, Ben Whalen, Lee Gustafson, Heather Chase, and Leigh  
5 Dakin at Town Hall; and via Zoom.

6 **Staff Present:** Julie Hance, Town Manager, at Town Hall; and Susan Bailey, Recording Secretary  
7 via Zoom.

8 **Visitors Present:** Bill Dakin, Matthew Gorsky, Carlton Comstock, Sean Cunningham, and Linda  
9 Diak at Town Hall; and Steve Mancuso, SAPA TV, Robert Nied, John Garison, Jesse Bailey, James  
10 Clemer, Carrie Roy King, Tim Roper, Lora Cokolat, Reisa Alexander, Scott MacDonald, Susan (no  
11 last name listed), iPhone (name unknown), and Linda Diak via Zoom.

12  
13 **Call to Order**

14  
15 Arne Jonynas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance. He welcomed  
16 everyone to the meeting.

17  
18 **Agenda Item 1, Approve minutes from the June 1, 2022, Selectboard Meeting**

19 Heather moved and Lee seconded to approve the June 1<sup>st</sup> draft minutes. Leigh noted on page 11,  
20 line 35, it should have read the board chair resigned and not the board. Lee couldn't remember  
21 what Arne had said but noted the board had resigned except for one. Arne and Leigh thought it  
22 was eventually. Lee noted he had said the board was without a quorum and Arne agreed. Arne  
23 asked if there were any changes and there were none. Arne asked for all those in favor of approving  
24 the minutes as written, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, and the minutes  
25 were approved.

26 **Agenda Item 2, Citizens Comments/Answers from Previous Meeting**

27 Arne asked for comments regarding issues not on the agenda. There were none.

28 **Agenda Item 3, Old Business**

29 Report given by the Town Manager:

30 Solar Field

31 Tim Roper gave Julie some more names, whom she had reached out to. She had been playing  
32 phone tag with one of them. Green Lantern was looking for someone. She hoped the next one  
33 panned out.

34 Public Safety Breakfast

35 The first breakfast was a success. The next one was slated for the Sunday before the July 4<sup>th</sup>  
36 holiday, so it has been moved to July 10<sup>th</sup>. It was well received, and they had around 75 or 80 in  
37 attendance. French toast will be served at the next breakfast.

38 Police Department Assessment

39 The assessment was moving right along. There will be 4 focus groups comprised of: businesses

1 owners; in-town residents; rural residents; and special interest groups with whom Jim Baker will  
2 meet with. Anyone wanting to serve on the groups only needs to let Julie know, interviews are not  
3 required. It will be one meeting per group so it will not be a huge time commitment.

#### 4 Popple Dungeon

5 The temporary bridge is down, and the road is closed, and new construction is beginning. The road  
6 is closed just past Zezza Road. They are hoping to be done before August 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### 7 Brookside Bridge

8 John Wright will be working with Steve, Chester's Facilities Director. They have come up with a  
9 design and assignment of costs. It will be constructed once Julie has the final cost. She is hoping  
10 to use ARPA funds to complete it. Steve will be constructing it with the help of a local contractor.

#### 11 Fencing for Public Safety Building

12 They submitted the permit to the DRB. It was approved. The DRB wasn't sure one was necessary  
13 but because the first permit application said no fence would be installed, they wanted to be above  
14 board. No abutters were present to appeal, so once the permit is in hand, they will order fencing  
15 and get it installed.

#### 16 Grants

17 Julie noted a list of grants with updates was included in the memo. Anyone interested in grant  
18 updates should get a hold of her.

### 19 **Agenda Item 4, Chester Community Greenhouse Update**

20 Arne announced there were members of the Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens in  
21 attendance to give an update and presentation. They had been working hard for the past 2 years.  
22 He said they had an update, including a formal request for the use of town land. At this point, the  
23 project would be smaller and was being narrowed down to the Canal Street site for reasons listed  
24 in the forms and the paperwork included in the package for the meeting. It had to do with the size  
25 of the land, access to utilities and parking. The academy site wasn't feasible for many reasons. The  
26 Canal Street site would also provide room for orchards.

27 Cheryl Joy Lipton, President of Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens, gave a presentation  
28 which included a brief history, their reason for being, the ideas they are drawing from, possibilities  
29 for the future, and what they hope to do now.

30 They began as an offshoot of Victory Gardening in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which was an offshoot of  
31 Mountain Valley Climate Action Group. They had been thinking of gardening as a response to  
32 climate change and then when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the food supply system began to  
33 fail, they knew the issue was immediate.

34 Melody Reed and Cheryl Joy began Victory Gardening in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. From those weekly  
35 gardening Zoom meetings, they began Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens initially to  
36 address food security and climate change.

37 They became a Vermont non-profit corporation, a federal 501(c)(3), and acquired a 1936 Lord and  
38 Burnham greenhouse. They received grants and donations and searched for a location and reached  
39 a lot of people in the community. Because they were given the greenhouse and the opportunity to  
40 apply for congressional funds, they initially focused solely on the greenhouse and the grant

1 application for funding the reconstruction, which they weren't awarded, and have returned to a  
2 more manageable pace and more logical sequence of tasks.

3 They have received many cash donations and gardening items, and donations through the  
4 Springfield Co-op Change for Change program. They participated in Chester's Farmer's Market,  
5 had a raffle, and a booth at the Fall Festival. They also held a public forum at Town Hall and  
6 created their 5-year strategic plan and adopted bylaws.

7 They are a member of the Vermont Community Garden Network. They are adding a new board  
8 member to bring traditional ecological knowledge into the organization and are seeking someone  
9 for treasurer and another one dedicated to grant research and applications. Their board members  
10 include Judy Hallberg, Andrew Mallaby, Deb Velto, and John Velite, and Luna Burkland, Melody  
11 Reed, and Cheryl Joy Lipton.

12 They are dedicated to creating and operating a community garden greenhouse in which those  
13 people who live, work, or go to school in Chester can garden. They will work to align the  
14 greenhouse gardens and its programs with efforts to address local food production, food security,  
15 holistic health, climate change, sustainability, education, access for seniors, and those with  
16 disabilities, environmentally compatible, economic development, and overall quality of life of the  
17 residents of Chester treating those with justice and equality.

18 They envision an inclusive community space open to all where they teach and learn from each  
19 other. Potential programs include gardening plots and spaces allotted to the schools, including  
20 homeschoolers, to have hands-on learning; seminars; master gardener and master composter  
21 programs; plant propagation; demonstrations on preserving food, cooking, and saving seeds; and  
22 artistic endeavors. They welcome comments and ideas from the Selectboard and people of Chester.

23 The community gardens in Ludlow, Putney, Brattleboro, and Manchester, were among those  
24 investigated. They want Chester's available to anyone despite their income level. Putney and  
25 Ludlow gardens are all the same size and are priced per plot. Putney has different sizes and are  
26 priced differently between \$6 and \$65.

27 They are reserving space for the greenhouse. After getting the outside community garden plot  
28 started, they will work on fundraising and grant applications for the greenhouse. They are waiting  
29 on a grant determination from the James Crockett Foundation.

30 The presentation included a site plan of the proposed garden plots, meandering walkways,  
31 greenhouse, and orchard, if it were to be located on Canal Street. If the neighbors wanted access,  
32 they could have it, and if not, they would accommodate that. The plan included potential parking,  
33 including 2 handicapped spots, and a bike rack. They would not go in simultaneously but be phased  
34 in.

35 The presentation included pictures of other Vermont community gardens like the proposed site.

36 They have been endorsed by Representative Tom Bock, Bill McKibben, Jennifer Barrett from the  
37 Vermont Community Foundation, Libby Weiland from the Vermont Community Garden Network,  
38 Nick and Buffy Boke, reverends here, and Jacki Restmeyer of the Moon Dog Café, and Carol  
39 Lighthall from Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce, Robert Donald from the Windham  
40 Foundation, and Frank Kelly who is a science teacher at Chester Andover School.

41 Their reason for the presentation was to ask if they could move to the next phase of their project  
42 and break ground and prepare garden beds for spring planting next year, and possibly fall planting

1 for garlic and other things. They would be grateful for any spot the board determined is the right  
2 one within walking distance of the village, where people have the smallest plots of land. But she  
3 thought this site was perfect.

4 Steve Mancuso suggested more public outreach to gain advocates. He thought it was a good  
5 presentation and suggested outreach to the trades and they could help. Arne asked if it was an offer  
6 or a suggestion. Steve said one could lead to the other. Cheryl Joy said they could use help breaking  
7 ground and she suggested they reach out to the gardens at the email address or calling her.

8 Arne said, as a Selectboard, they showed their support back in June of 2021 with their letter of  
9 support and intent. As far as he was concerned, the Selectboard was behind it. The only item at  
10 issue was where it would be located. As a Selectboard, they needed to decide if the Canal Street  
11 site would be the preferred site. Lee knew at a previous meeting they had discussed the possibility  
12 of using the Pinnacle property. Cheryl Joy said they had, and it wasn't centrally located. They  
13 wanted to try to make it as walkable as possible to as many as possible, so centrally located was  
14 the best. If it were at the Pinnacle, many people would likely need to drive to it. Lee asked who  
15 they saw as using the gardening space: people in town or out of town. Cheryl Joy thought the  
16 Senior Circle area and the apartments on Pleasant Street. She thought the Mountainview area and  
17 some of the places on Breezy Place had land but not a ton of it. She saw it as an opportunity for  
18 community building. And because it was so close to the schools, both schools could walk to it  
19 easily. People on the Commons don't have land at all. The people in town that don't have a lot of  
20 land or people coming to work there could garden before or after work before going home.

21 Leigh said she had many calls from people on Grafton Road and the surrounding neighborhood  
22 who were concerned about having it there because of the number of people it would draw. She  
23 wondered if Cheryl Joy had heard from people. Cheryl Joy remembered it being a concern. They  
24 are working on shielding them with the plantings and could consider a fence, if that's what was  
25 wanted. It was the abutting homeowners' choice if they wanted access. They have had several  
26 presentations, and nobody had said anything to them.

27 Heather asked how the water issue was resolved. Julie said the Canal Street well would never be  
28 anything more than an emergency well. They are working with the state on their secondary site. It  
29 may not be Jeffrey, but they have options and Canal Street was not one of them. Arne said a report  
30 from Hoffer Consulting and Engineering to the town said there were numerous closed hazardous  
31 waste sites near the Canal Street well and concluded re-permitting the Canal Street well or a new  
32 well at that site was not practical. Heather wanted to make sure they had followed up.

33 Arne said if the neighbors wanted a screen or fence or plantings, they were willing to accommodate  
34 whatever it took to make them happy. He thought if he had a property there, he would want a  
35 pathway, but other people may want their privacy. They don't want to push it on anyone, but it is  
36 3 acres of town land that sits in the center of the village and would be an attraction for businesses,  
37 education, sustainability, and people coming to town when they're working on gardens, doing  
38 things, going to restaurants and bringing their families. He saw it as a focal point as it grew with  
39 the final caveat that the greenhouse would eventually be there. And if not, having community  
40 gardens with edible plants, orchards and vines in next to the river would be an excellent idea.

41 Cheryl Joy agreed and thought it would be a beautiful park-like setting. Research shows that  
42 community gardens increase the value of surrounding residential properties. She thought it would  
43 be a place that people would want to be next to. She thought something different could be scary at  
44 first, but this would be beautiful.

1 Tim Roper wanted to express his strong support for the project and that it was a fantastic use of  
2 the property that currently gets little or no use. He wanted to say kudos to the greenhouse group  
3 for putting this much work together and getting it going. He gave his full support. Arne thanked  
4 him. Cheryl Joy thanked him and said it meant a lot.

5 Lee said a lot of the community garden pictures in the presentation showed secondary buildings.  
6 He wondered if there would be a need down the road for a tool shed and wondered if there would  
7 be other ancillary buildings constructed. Cheryl Joy said they wanted to have something enclosed  
8 for tools. If it worked out perfectly, it could include a library of gardening books and a seed saving  
9 place. He asked if the structure had been tested for lead paint. She said they put the greenhouse  
10 back together and would paint it on site, like in your house, encapsulation is the answer. Lee asked  
11 the condition of paint. Cheryl Joy said it was strangely very sound and not chipping. Arne said it  
12 was handled piece by piece a month ago by the members of the group and was in pretty good  
13 shape. Lee asked if it had lead paint. Tim said it tested positive for lead and at the time he was  
14 involved, they checked with an engineer and there are proven ways to encapsulate it. He believed  
15 it involved epoxy paint. Lee asked if he remembered the concentration. Tim said he didn't know  
16 but it was built in 1936 and certainly had lead paint on it. Arne thought most of the village had  
17 lead paint but agreed with Lee's concern. Lee was concerned environmentally and wanted to make  
18 sure as a town they were protected from lead into the soil.

19 Julie asked if any thought had been given to the animals an in-town garden would draw. Cheryl  
20 Joy said they will have to fence for deer and groundhogs. She thought regarding the compost, they  
21 would only have green and brown materials and no meat or animal fats. It would only be uncooked  
22 vegetables in the compost, as to not attract raccoons or bears.

23 Arne confirmed the map layout was only tentative and an idea of how things could look if the town  
24 granted approval of it. It could be worked out, so it was beneficial to both the town and the  
25 greenhouse. Cheryl Joy agreed and said they were just ideas. Arne thought it was important the  
26 abutters were included, and people had a chance to respond to what is going on. He suggested they  
27 email the abutters and possibly at the next meeting finalize it and see what they want to do and  
28 how to approach it. It was important the abutters were included. The greenhouse didn't need to be  
29 included at this time but to make sure they keep an area open for the greenhouse as it was part of  
30 the eventual plan. The greenhouse is 100 x 32 on the outside and 100 x 30 on the inside. Arne  
31 asked if it could be 20 feet shorter. Cheryl said they could change the size, if needed.

32 Julie said there was a process including the drafting of an easement, a 1031 notice to the  
33 community, and things the greenhouse committee was going to submit. She wondered if they  
34 wanted to take time to review it to include in the agenda. In the meantime, the committee could  
35 notify the abutting property owners, or the town could, to make sure they had opportunity to come  
36 in prior. There will be other opportunities, as they will have discussions about the lease and a 1031  
37 hearing which requires ample notice. She asked the board if that was the direction they wanted to  
38 go for the next meeting. Arne asked if that was the consensus of the board, and it was. Julie said  
39 the town would notify the abutters. She wouldn't draft a lease at this point but would just have the  
40 general discussion and identify the process.

41 Julie said she would just send a letter to the abutters but if someone requested additional material,  
42 Cheryl Joy would work on the information to distribute.

43 Steve Mancuso asked if there were any architectural drawings drawn up. Cheryl Joy said she did  
44 a landscape architectural site plan/planting plan for it but nothing regarding grading. It was just a

1 sketch of a site plan with parking, which she didn't think they would need because parking was  
2 allowed on the street. They have architectural plans for the greenhouse but that wasn't part of the  
3 current plan. She was happy to show Steve the site plan potential she had. Steve was suggesting it  
4 to move things along and gain involvement and interest from the tradesmen. Steve said there were  
5 two tradesmen in attendance, and they were all supposed to be certified in lead so that was  
6 something they really needed the trades for.

7 Arne thanked Steve. Arne asked Cheryl Joy if she had 2 people who were experienced in the  
8 greenhouse because it was a specialty type of thing. Cheryl Joy said they had 2 people that were  
9 experienced with Lord and Burnham greenhouses who were both in Massachusetts. They have  
10 both been working with them their entire lives. One would even be interested in buying the  
11 greenhouse if the time came that they no longer wanted it.

12 Bill Dakin said there was a Lord and Burnham greenhouse in Grafton and it was worth looking at  
13 if they had not seen it. Cheryl Joy thanked Bill for bringing that up and said it was about 20 feet  
14 shorter than the Chester greenhouse.

15 Arne thought the gardens, orchards, and vines were a great start and would foster community  
16 involvement. He hoped to see the greenhouse up sooner than later. He thanked Cheryl Joy for the  
17 presentation and thanked the group for the work they do.

18 **Agenda Item 5, Vendor Permit; Meditrina**

19 Meditrina requested a permit for a winetasting event with a food truck available to anyone and not  
20 just to those attending the tasting. It would be July 1 and 8, and September 9 and 23. The truck  
21 would sit immediately out front of Meditrina and would not block parking spaces on The Green.  
22 The board signed the permit.

23 **Agenda Item 6, New Business/Next Agenda**

24 Community Greenhouse will be on the next agenda.

25 The tax rate will be set at the next meeting. Julie hoped to have an updated list of projects for  
26 ARPA funding discussion.

27 June 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a special meeting at 3:30 to solely sign the TAN note and equipment notes.

28 **Agenda Item 7, Executive Session Interviews for Whiting Library Trustees**

29 Arne said last time they interviewed for the Cannabis Commission they did it in open session.  
30 Leigh asked if she should recuse herself when her husband interviewed. She asked if there was a  
31 conflict of interest and what the other members thought. They thought she shouldn't interview her  
32 husband but could interview the others. And when it came to appointments, she should recuse  
33 herself, if her husband was appointed.

34 Arne said they would need to run in March for a new term, as these appointments were only until  
35 March.

36 1. Sam Comstock, formally known as Carlton Comstock said he and his wife had been here  
37 a little over 20 years. They moved back east from Colorado so he could work for UVM.  
38 Since that time, he has moved on to working for the Holstein Association in Brattleboro.  
39 He holds a Masters in Soil Science, a Ph.D. in Animal Breeding and Genetics and has  
40 worked primarily in genetics and data science. He spends a lot of time doing research. He  
41 has never worked actively with the library other than being in libraries researching. He was

1 amazed at how many programs were going on that the library was involved with. He is  
2 interested in the position because he realizes there is a need. He didn't know any board  
3 members and did not have any preconceived notions in that regard. He was aware there  
4 was a need and was interested in doing what he could to help the library.

5 Leigh thought he was familiar with the library through raising his kids and was glad he had  
6 stepped up.

7 2. Bill Dakin, a community member who has been in Chester more than 40 years, is an  
8 attorney, and a member of many boards and committees for the town and has enjoyed  
9 participating in activities and enjoyed being supportive of the lifestyle they enjoy in this  
10 rural Vermont community. One of the best moves they've made is when they first came to  
11 town. Many are delighted the library is there and use it on occasion to check books out and  
12 use the community room, and when Sharon was librarian, enjoyed the artwork she brought  
13 in and continues to be there. The library is an important part of the town and is in the midst  
14 of a grant process that will have a major impact on the town and operations. Because of the  
15 opportunities, Bill wanted to offer his services as a citizen to serve on the board. He knew  
16 there were 6 open positions, and if chosen, looked forward to working with the other  
17 members to come together to maintain the stability the library has enjoyed for many  
18 decades. He looked forward to how the library could continue to serve the community.

19 3. Matthew Gorsky said he grew up in the area and moved to Chester in 2009. The main  
20 reason he stepped up was that when the brouhaha started brewing, he was fairly vocal on  
21 social media, and he believes in putting his money where his mouth is. If he believes  
22 someone isn't doing something right, he thinks he should step up and do what he thinks is  
23 right. He's looked over the board duties and perused the trustees' document from the state.  
24 He grew up in the Springfield library and spent his summers reading in their carpeted  
25 bathtub. His aunt is a librarian, and he has been a bookhound since he could remember. He  
26 knows the importance libraries have, especially in today's multimedia. They are one of the  
27 few places that community members can go and get free internet access. They are a bastion  
28 for free thought and accessibility for everyone. Arne appreciated him putting his hat in the  
29 ring.

30 4. John Garison moved to Chester in 2005 with his wife from the Boston area. He was  
31 working remotely for Hewlett Packard at the time. They loved Vermont skiing and winter  
32 in Chester. His wife was able to find employment and he thinks they tell themselves daily  
33 this is the best place they could possibly be. They have 20 acres on a dead-end dirt road  
34 with a fiber optic connection. Who could ask for more, especially during a pandemic? He  
35 works for a software company headquartered in New York City. He is a very experienced  
36 technical writer, and his company is the biggest company in the world that does clinical  
37 trials. They ran Moderna's trial for their vaccine and 60% of the drugs approved last year  
38 by the FDA were done by his company. His job is to help design software and explain it.  
39 He has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Philosophy from Tulane University in New  
40 Orleans. He has worked 48 years as a technical writer in the software business and has  
41 worked in Dartmouth Hitchcock in their cancer center running their website. He loves  
42 Chester and wants to make a difference. He felt this was something he can do. He could  
43 echo a lot of what Sam Comstock, whom he has never met, said earlier. He has no  
44 allegiance to anybody and is coming at it kind of cold and wants to make a difference and  
45 give something back to the town.

- 1 5. Jesse Bailey has lived in Chester since 2020. He has been interested in trying to serve the  
2 community in some way he feels passionate about. He thought, like most people, that  
3 libraries were an anchor point in his childhood. His hometown library was where he spent  
4 every day after school, where he learned to play chess, where he got his first job, where he  
5 discovered one of the authors who his wife and he bonded over in the early stages of their  
6 friendship which then turned into a relationship and marriage. Books are very important to  
7 them, so they still gift each other books for the holidays and birthdays. Even as an adult,  
8 libraries have a special place in his heart. In wanting to do more, he thought this was a  
9 perfect opportunity and the reason he was throwing his hat in the ring.
- 10 6. Linda Diak began her relationship with Chester in 1994 when she opened an art gallery on  
11 The Green. They moved to Chester in 2015. She and her husband own Diakraft and make  
12 the world's finest fiber arts tools. She is also an art quilter. She has served on two unrelated  
13 boards in her life. She has worked for the Atlanta Botanical Garden and the Fort Lauderdale  
14 Museum of Art. When she worked for the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale, she was the  
15 Development Coordinator working on membership development and the capital campaign,  
16 as well as use of the facilities. She did the same for the Botanical Garden in an unofficial  
17 capacity. She was the Assistant to the Director. When she worked for the museum, they  
18 had the worst board in the United States amongst art museums according to the American  
19 Museum Association. They had the worst board because they all had agendas. They had a  
20 desire to make a name for themselves through their work with the museum. She witnessed  
21 firsthand the stress it puts on staff. It interferes with the messaging. A library, of all places,  
22 should be a very safe place for everyone and not just some. Like Mr. Gorsky, she was vocal  
23 when events played out last month and thought she should step up, so she was stepping up.
- 24 7. Lora Cokolat moved to Chester last August. She moved with her family from Northern  
25 California. Her husband is Mason McCarty and she has twin daughters, Isabella and Emma.  
26 They have really come to love the Whiting Library. They check out books regularly and  
27 have gotten to know the librarians. Lora has been a librarian for over 20 years with a degree  
28 in Library Science from UCLA. She is currently working for Elm Hill School in Springfield  
29 as a school librarian, which was their reason for moving here. Before that she was working  
30 in a public library for 20 years. She worked 5 years as a youth services librarian at Los  
31 Angeles County Public Library and then she moved up to the Bay Area in San Jose,  
32 California where she met her husband and married. And then she worked for the Santa Clara  
33 Library until she moved here. She wore many different hats, including their Electronic  
34 Resources Librarian, and behind the scenes with online resources and databases. She knows  
35 a lot about contracts and negotiations for databases. The budget was over 1 million dollars  
36 for databases. She was also the Collection Development Librarian, at some point, and was  
37 purchasing all the eBooks and audio books. It was a huge budget over \$500,000. She also  
38 was the Supervising Librarian where she managed the adult services department and  
39 oversaw the adult and teen services. She covered for her boss while her boss went on  
40 maternity leave for 6 months. She has well-rounded library experience and is very  
41 passionate about them. She loves her current job at the library and loves running it.
- 42 8. Jeannie Wade is currently teaching as a Special Education Teacher at Chester Andover.  
43 She has 5 children with her husband. She really believes in community building and the  
44 library is a huge part of the community. She thought a lot of children need a place in Chester  
45 outside of the school. The Recreation Department does a good job of bringing kids

1 together, but the library is another feature of building the youth community in town. It  
2 saddens her that this is going on. She doesn't have a political opinion either way but it's  
3 just something else affecting the kids and they've had a rough road in their childhood, and  
4 she wanted to see the library be prosperous and a happy place where families can go and  
5 meet and greet. She thought it was a huge opportunity for people to broaden their education  
6 and job opportunities. That is why she wants to be part of the library as a trustee. People  
7 need to step up during this time and get back to where we were with the library. As a  
8 teacher, she has a big educational background. She has worked with all sorts of children at  
9 different ages from very little throughout high school. She has worked with a lot of children  
10 who have trauma who have dealt with hard issues. She thought she could bring that  
11 perspective to her job in terms of seeing different programs and things that could help the  
12 community and be another outlet for families to seek opportunities and engage with other  
13 people and build neighborhood connections and relationships. It's important now more  
14 than ever and we need to find more common ground with each other and less divisiveness  
15 that's happening everywhere. She thought we need to make sure Chester is protected from  
16 that and create places where they can talk and meet. She thought she would bring that  
17 perspective to the board and that's why she sent her resume and letter in and with her  
18 background, it was almost an obligation to see what she could do to help.

19 **Executive Session 7:53**

20 Heather moved and Lee seconded to go into executive session. A vote was taken, and the motion  
21 passed unanimously. The board went downstairs to meet in executive session. Lee moved to exit  
22 executive session and Heather seconded it. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.  
23 Executive Session ended at 8:12 p.m.

24 **Agenda Item 8, Appoint Trustees for the Whiting Library**

25 Arne said they had a very qualified group, and it was great to see interest in the positions. He  
26 welcomed a motion for the appointments.

27 Lee moved to appoint Sam Comstock, Bill Dakin, John Garison, Lora Cokolat, Jesse Bailey, and  
28 Matt Gorsky to serve on the Whiting Library Board of Trustees until March 2023. The motion was  
29 seconded by Heather. Arne said all the positions run until March when they could opt to run for  
30 the office. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

31 Julie asked the appointees to stop into Town Hall and see Debbie to swear in and unless anyone  
32 was opposed, she would give all their contact information to Donna Hudkins, the remaining board  
33 member. Donna would send an email to everyone and schedule a meeting and organize themselves  
34 as a board. Deidre is working on establishing some training for the new members through the  
35 Department of Libraries.

36 **Agenda Item 9, Adjourn**

37 Lee moved and Heather seconded to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed  
38 unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.