

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECT BOARD
March 17, 2021
Meeting Minutes

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

VISITORS: SAPATV; Everett Mosher; Amy Mosher; Eben Mosher; Dick Jewett; Remus Preda; Aaron Guyette; Gary Gibbs; Corey Quenneville; Cathy Hasbrouck; Cheryl Joy Lipton; Cynthia Prairie; Brian Mosher; Kent Gillman; Jeff Bachiochi; Jen Wright; Jon Wright; Jonathan Griffin; 48085 Unknown; Ryan Barnes; Steve Mancuso; Darryl Douglas; Ken unknown last name; Shawn Cunningham; Robert Nied

Meeting was held via Zoom.

1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 3, 2021 SELECTBOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the Minutes of the March 3, 2021 Select Board meeting as written. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The motion passed.

Leigh Dakin pointed out a typo spelled sing instead of sign.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS/ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No citizens comment.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Emerald Ash Borer Committee: A committee will be formed to do an inventory of Ash trees in the towns right of way.

Police Policies: Trevor Whipple completed the review of the police policies. The policies will be modeled after VLCT's updating some of the items. These will need to be adopted annually.

Bridge at Brookside Cemetery: A structural engineer will be creating a design for the structure. This will be paid for through the grant and should be ready by spring.

Ambulance Service Assessment: The policies and procedures for the Ambulance Department are being reviewed. Amie O'Brien is working on assessing the fees and billing portion to see if the department is in line with surrounding town's fees.

Fall Festival: The Rotary is no longer hosting the Fall Festival. A group of members from the community have taken it on. They are looking for volunteers to help with the process. Contact Julie Hance if interested.

Stimulus Update: A large amount of money will be sent to the state from the newest stimulus package signed by President Joe Biden. This package has money being sent directly to municipalities. The details of where and how the money can be spent are being worked out. The spending must be on covid related items.

4. PEOPLES BANK; UPDATE ON INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

Remus Preda and Gary Gibbs explained People's Bank is merging with M&T Bank. This merger will happen before the end of the year. There should not be any major changes to their policies with little or no impact to the town. They explained the funds and where they stand regarding interest rates and how much each account holds. Arne Jonynas stated he does not see an immediate need for funds but would like to have a conversation on how to make funds available to people in the future. Remus Preda stated cash can be available within a few days of the request.

5. ROUTE 103 BRIDGE PROJECT – PALMER, JEWETT AND THOMPSON; PRESENTATION FROM ENGINEERS

See the attached documents related to this presentation.

Aaron Guyette and Jonathan Griffin explained the proposed document of the Route 103 bridge project. This plan is different from the one the Select Board had already approved, and property owners will need to be notified.

Arne Jonynas stated the decision was hard the first time and feels this time will be just as hard. Lee Gustafson would like to explore the option of adding a road to the north side of the houses or have the road travel through the field instead of people's door yard. He does not want to revisit issues that have already been addressed and would like a better understanding of the financial impacts. The plan that has already been decided on costs less than the two being proposed in this presentation. Both alternatives cost the same with a few minor differences. Heather Chase pointed out some properties in that area have recently sold or are now on the market. She would like the new owners to be made aware of these current discussions. Corey Quenneville is the new owner of the house located off Palmer Bridge. He was unaware of the bridge situation when he purchased the property. He would like to be informed of any upcoming discussions and decisions involving this matter. His contact information was taken down by Julie Hance.

Dick Jewett spoke about the repairs that have already been done to one of the bridges. He is in favor of eliminating one of the bridges but does not like some of the proposed changes to the roadway. He is concerned about two sharp turns that will be added as part of the modifications. He suggests waiting until the properties for sale and the ones that will be going on the market sell before making any decisions. The town will then be dealing with the new owners instead of the current owners. Arne Jonynas stated the longevity of the bridge that had repairs done is approximately 15 years. Julie Hance is waiting to hear from Jim Hollar on what the next steps will be for that bridge.

Amy Mosher lives in the old Jewett farmhouse and approached the board. She read a statement she prepared earlier explaining her concerns for reversing the earlier decision

made about the bridge project. The letter stated reversing the decisions would not set a good precedent for the town. She explained eminent domain is a long process which would also be an added cost to the project. She asked the board to keep the decision made in 2019 and would like a decision to be made at this time. Arne Jonynas explained a decision will not be made until further notice. Some of the board members were not involved in the decision in 2019. Lee Gustafson and Heather Chase would like more information regarding the total cost of the project. If eminent domain becomes part of the project, the lawyer's fees and any other fees would be added to the total cost of the project.

John Griffin explained the State wants to be sure the board makes the decision they feel is right. He would like this project to move along and advance to the next stage. The Select Board will have to decide on a plan to move forward. This will be added to the next Agenda to be finalized.

6. COIN DROP; AMERICAN LEGION

Jeff Holden recused himself as a Select Board member.

The American Legion will hold a coin drop between Mountain View and Marshall Road Friday, May 28, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Heather Chase mentioned creating a policy surrounding coin drops for future consideration.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to allow the American Legion to hold a coin drop on May 28, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

7. PAPER OF RECORD

The Chester Telegraph and Vermont Journal sent proposals to the Select Board to be the town's paper of record. The Telegraph's proposal was significantly lower than the Vermont Journal. The Telegraph is online only. Notices will continue to be posted around town.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to select the Chester Telegraph as the paper of record for the Town of Chester. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

8. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

See attached list.

Arne Jonynas requested a change be made to the Transportation Advisory Counsel. He would like to retire as the main representative and appoint Kent Gilman to the position. Adam Woodell will now be the Constable as Jeff holden cannot be on the Select Board and be the Constable. Arne Jonynas read through the list of Annual Appointments.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the 2021 Annual Appointments. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

9. LIQUOR LICENSES AND ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT; FULLERTON INN

The Select Board signed the liquor licenses and entertainment permit for the Fullerton Inn.

10. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA

The Route 103 bridge project decision, Fund Balance Policy, and Justin Diak with improvements to the skate park will be on the next Agenda. Heather Chase would like the creation of a Coin Drop Policy to be revisited. Julie Hance will speak with Bob Flint regarding guidelines for the Economic Development fund and ways to make it more flexible.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: REVIEW INTERVIEWS FOR PC & DRB POSITION

A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to enter Executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Planning Commission and Development Review Board. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The Select Board entered Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Heather Chase. The Select Board exited Executive Session at 9:03 p.m.

12. PLANNING COMMISSION & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Jeff Holden to appoint Gary Coger to the Development Review Board. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Jeff Holden to appoint Larry Semones to the Development Review Board. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Jeff Holden to appoint Cathy Hasbrouck to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to appoint Hugh Quinn to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The motion passed with one opposed.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: TOWN MANAGER REVIEW

There was no action taken.

14. ADJOURN

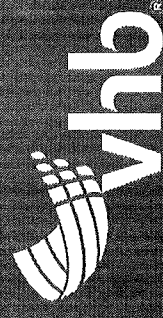
A motion was made by Heather Chase to adjourn. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

2021 Appointment List

Position	Term Limit	Current Holder of Position:	Request for Appointment
Animal Control Officer	1 Year	Police Chief	Police Chief
Cemetery Sexton	1 Year	Jeffrey Sheldon	Jeffrey Sheldon
Connecticut River Authority	1 Year		
Senior Solutions	1 Year	Linda Stowell	Linda Stowell
Emergency Manager	1 Year	Town Manager	Town Manager
Fence Viewers	1 Year	Frank Balch	Frank Balch
		Jack Cable	Jack Cable
		Tony Weinberger	Tony Weinberger
First Constable	1 Year	Jeff Holden	Adam Woodell
Green Up Day Chairman	1 Year	Frank Kelley	Frank Kelley
Inspector of Lumber, Shingles and Wood	1 Year	Tony Weinberger	Tony Weinberger
Pound Keeper	1 Year	Police Chief	Police Chief
Regional Planning Representative	1 Year	Tom Bock	Tom Bock
RPC Alternate	1 Year	Derek Suursoo	Derek Suursoo
Road Commissioner	1 Year	Town Manager	Town Manager
Secretary to Selectmen	1 Year	Amie O'Brien	Amie O'Brien
Board of Wastewater Disposal	1 Year	Selectboard	Selectboard
Solid Waste District Rep	1 Year	Derek Suursoo	Derek Suursoo
Solid Waste District Rep Alternate			Alden Blodgett
Town Service Officer	1 Year	Town Manager	Town Manager
Transportation Advisory Council	1 Year	Arne Jonynas	Kent Gilman
Transportation Advisory Council Alternate			Arne Jonynas
Tree Warden	1 Year	Joseph Epler	Joseph Epler
Water Commissioners	1 Year	Board of Selectmen	Board of Selectment
Weigher of Coal	1 Year	Tony Weinberger	Tony Weinberger
Library Trustee - unexpired term until next election			Cathy Hasbrouck



Chester BO 1442(39) Town Highway Bridge Project



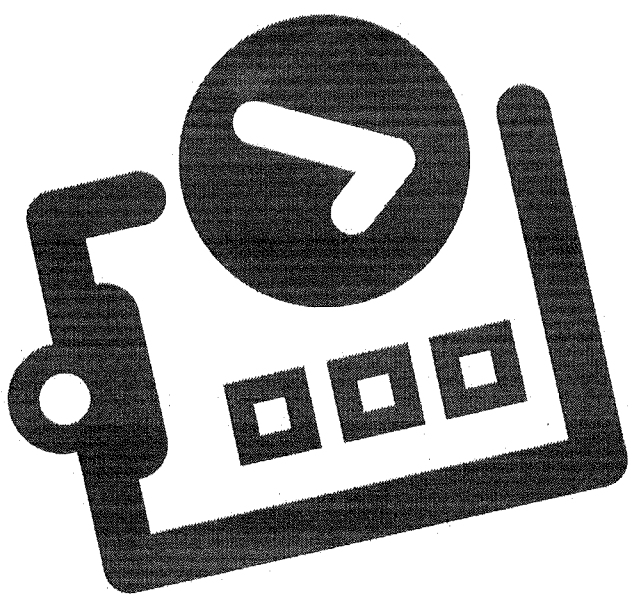
March 17, 2021

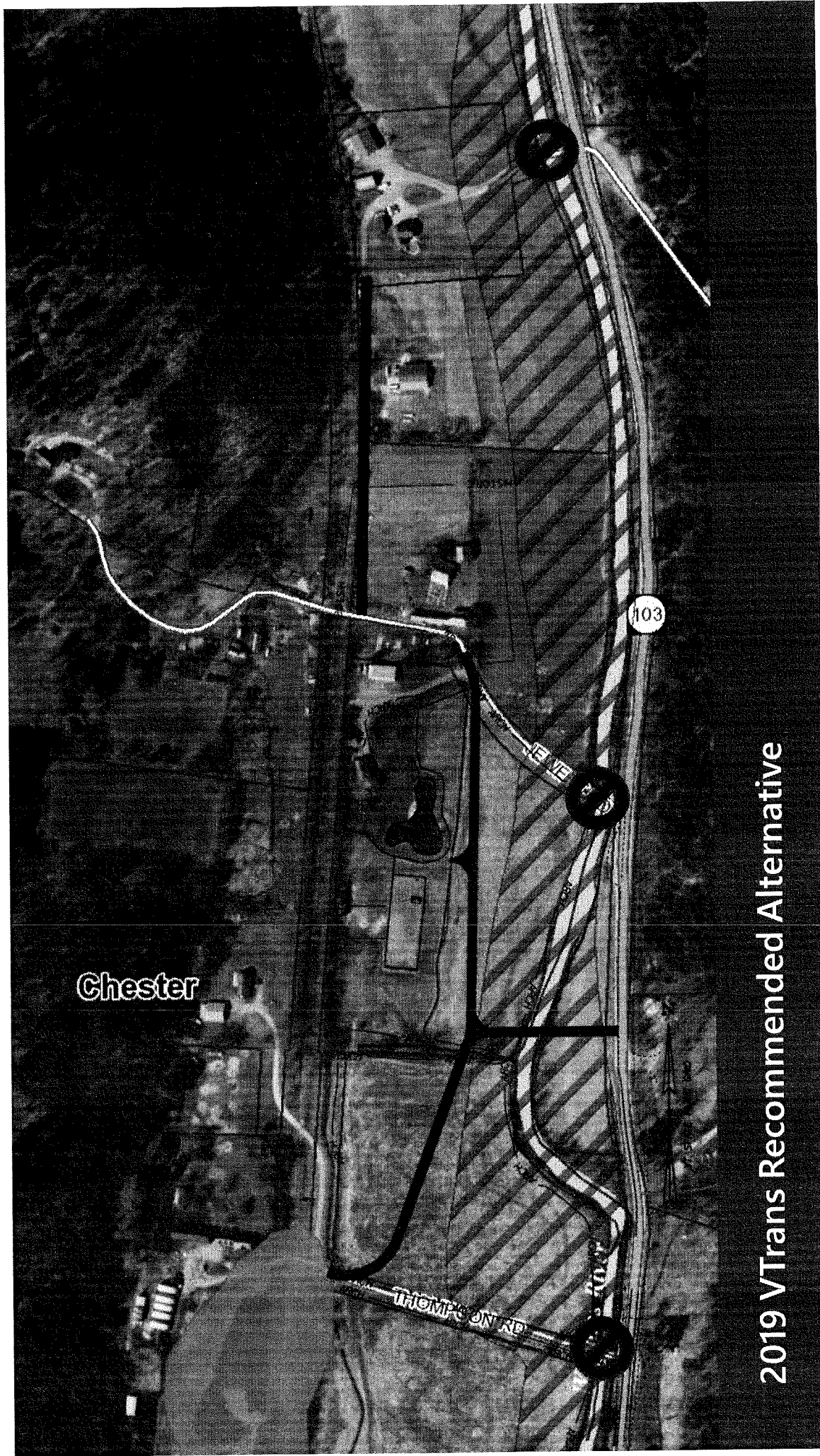
Meeting with you Today



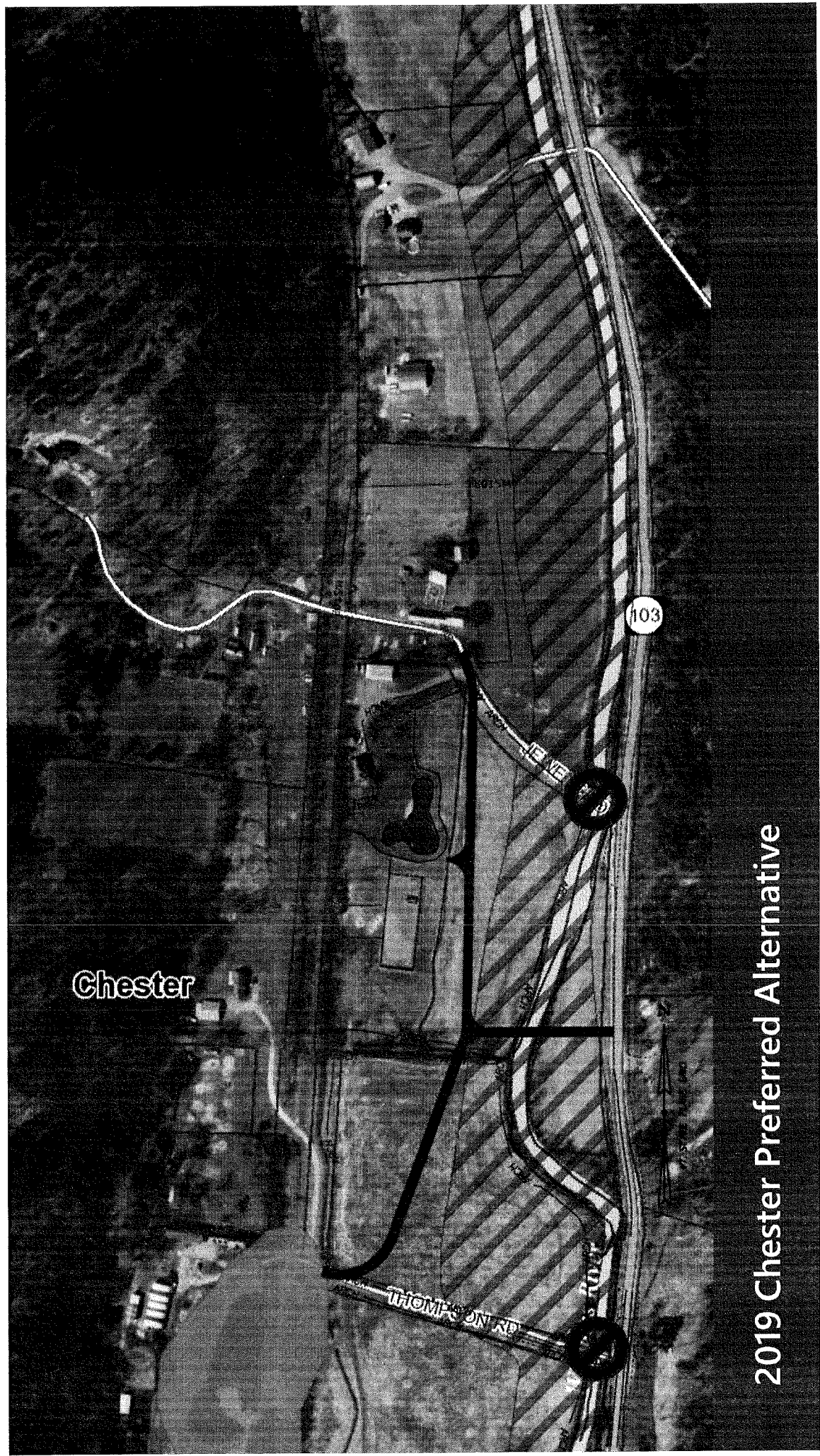
VTrans Project Development Process

- Scoping – Completed
- ***Conceptual Design – In progress now***
- Preliminary Design
- Final Design
- Construction





2019 VTrans Recommended Alternative



2019 Chester Preferred Alternative

Purpose & Need

■ Purpose:

- Create safe, reliable, low maintenance, and cost-effective access from Route 103 to homes and properties along Thompson, Jewett, and Palmer Roads.

■ Need:

- The existing bridges each have advanced stages of deterioration and are classified as structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. The existing bridges don't meet current design codes for load capacity or width and are hydraulically undersized. In addition, the existing town highway intersections with VT Route 103 are currently substandard. The intersections don't currently allow for the appropriate geometry that is required for safe ingress to or egress from VT Route 103.

STATE OF VERMONT
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

Scoping Report

FOR

Chester BO 1442(39)

TH-18 (Thompson Road), BRIDGE 62 OVER WILLIAMS RIVER

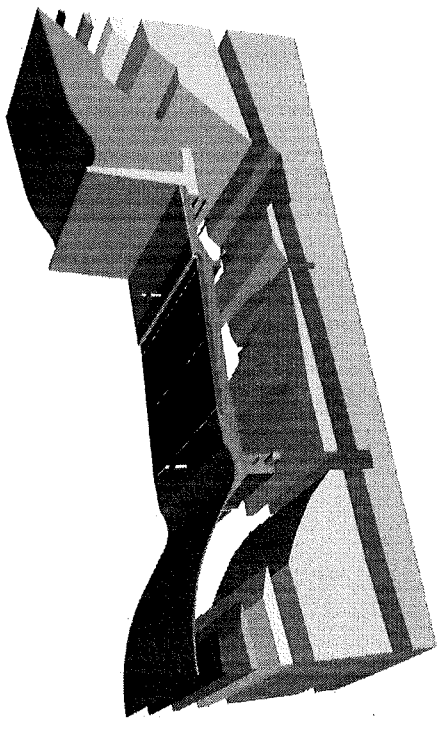
March 12, 2019



Digital Project Delivery

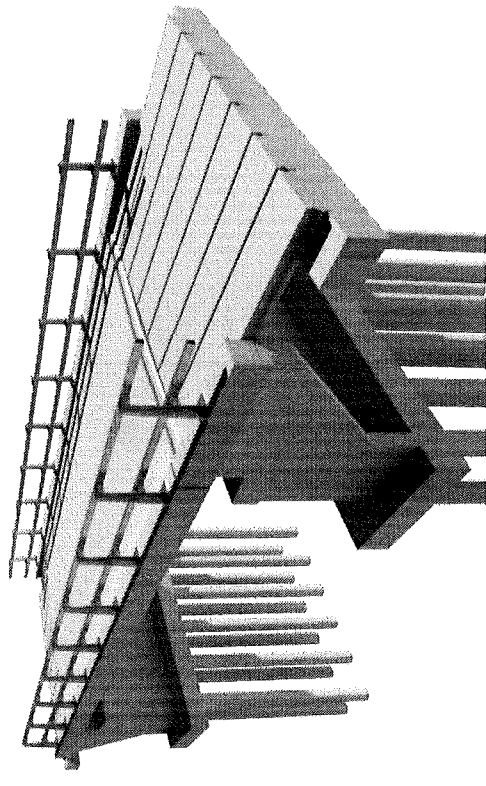
■ Current VTrans Project Delivery

- Paper Plans
- Two-Dimensional Plan Views



■ Digital Delivery

- Three-Dimensional Digital Model
- Greater Accuracy
- Clash Detection Capabilities
- Constructability Reviews
- Construction Phasing
- Automated Machine Guidance



Project Funding Percentages

- Previous Funding Percentages
 - 80% Federal
 - 10% State
 - 10% Municipal
- Anticipated Funding Percentages
 - 85% Federal
 - 12.5% State
 - 2.5% Municipal*









Stakeholder Coordination

- Property Owners
- Town of Chester
- Environmental Regulators
- Utility Companies
- Operating Railroad



Milestone Timeline

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Conceptual Design					
Preliminary Design					
Final Design					
Construction					



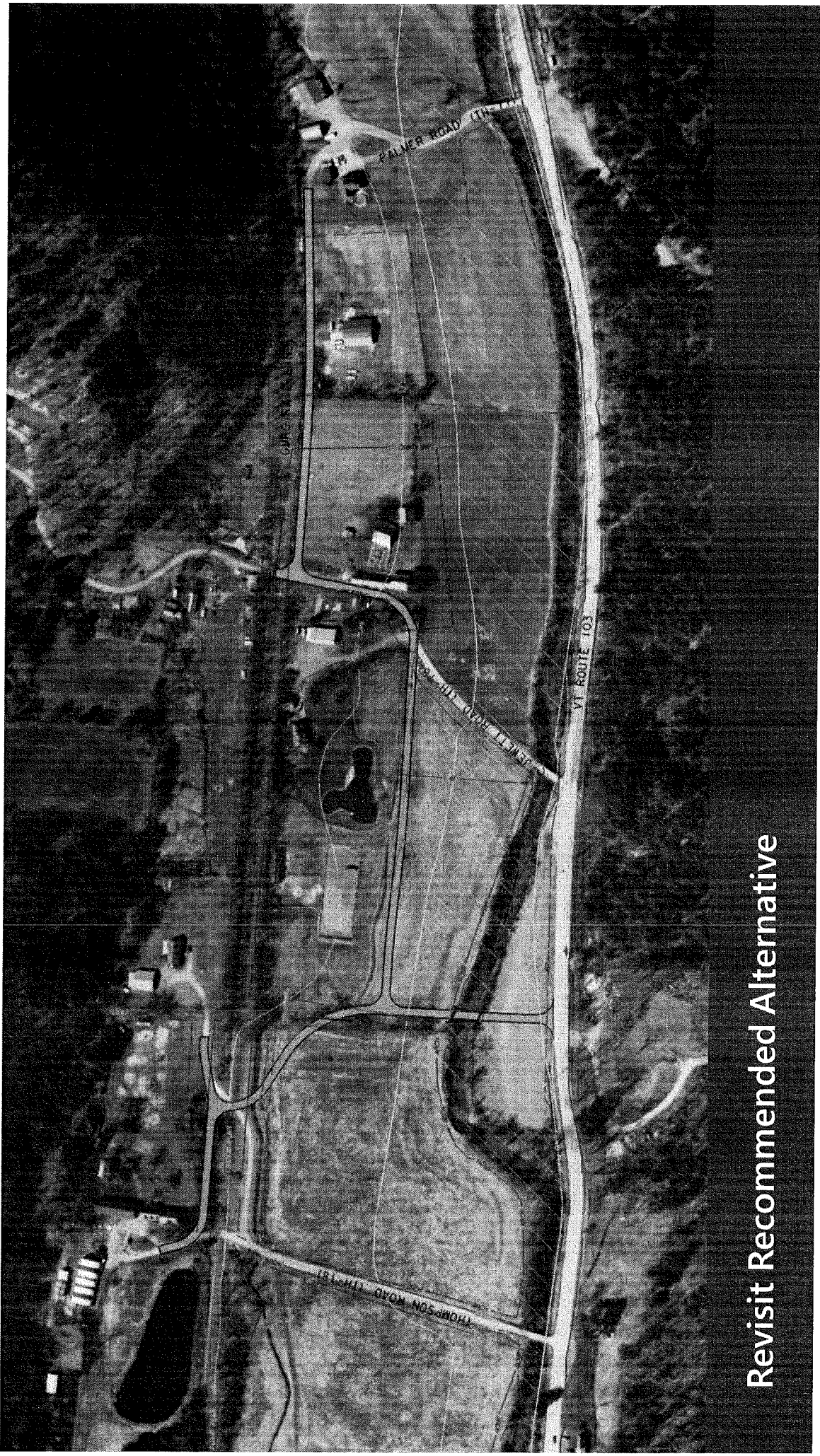
Identification of Destination Nodes



Environmental Resource Constraints



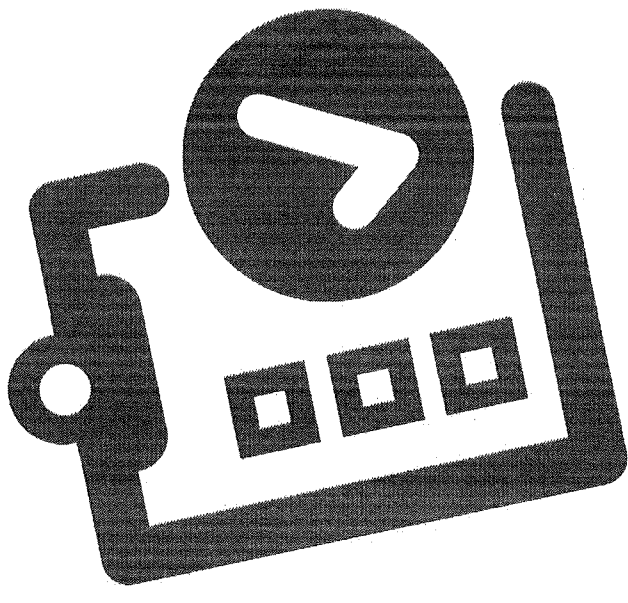
Revisit Preferred Alternative



Revisit Recommended Alternative

Next Steps

- Preliminary Design
- NEPA Documentation
- Environmental Permitting
- ROW Property Acquisition
- Final Design
- Construction



Questions

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www.vhb.com

