

TOWN OF CHESTER  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

May 16, 2018  
Minutes

PRESENT: Arne Jonynas; Heather Chase; Dan Cote; Ben Whalen; Lee Gustafson;  
David Pisha

VISITORS: Ed Knapp; Jeff Holden; Julie Hance; Lillian Willis; David Willis; Shawn  
Cunningham; Suzy Forlie; Ron Chute; John DesLauriers; Patrick Adrian;  
Jim Ravlin

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Jonynas.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2018 Water Commissioner's meeting. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2018 Selectboard Meeting as amended. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

Members present should include Dan Cote.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Jeff Holden, Water/Wastewater Superintendent was present to remind users about the grease in the system. He stated that the town is experiencing large quantities of grease and rags being disposed of in the system. This is costing the users extra money each week to clean out the pumps. Jeff Holden also reminded that items that state they are disposable, does not mean that they can be flushed. He indicated that the town has not been faithfully inspecting grease traps because it is labor intensive, but this may be needed if the problems continue. Restaurants need to make sure that there is some form of trap installed that can catch any form of grease that may be used.

Dan Cote questioned if there is a way to filter out the rags before they get to the pumps. Jeff Holden responded that it just adds one more location that needs to be cleaned out regularly by the town. Lee Gustafson suggested that a notice be installed with water/sewer billing as well as a press release. Arne Jonynas stated that a separate letter to the restaurants would be beneficial as well. Lillian Willis suggested that public tours could be given of the sewer and water plants as a means of education.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Implementation Committee: David Pisha stated that this committee is still meeting on a regular basis.

Water Project: David Pisha stated that the water project should be completed by the end of June.

EMS Building: David Pisha stated that the committee has met again. They are reviewing various options and they are making progress. Lee Gustafson stated that he would like to also obtain a local flood determination for the Pleasant Street site.

Salvage Yard: David Pisha stated that Jim Carroll will be at the June 6 meeting to answer the questions that were brought up at a previous meeting.

Heather Chase stated that she was driving up Quarry Road and noticed that there is a sign that states "No Trespassing, Dead End Road" which is still on the public portion of the road. David Pisha stated that he will be speaking with the grounds keeper to have the sign removed.

Arne Jonynas questioned if a walk through has taken place on the water land. David Pisha stated that he walked the property with Naomi Johnson and Graham Kennedy to determine the boundaries for gravel extraction. Jim Goss has prepared the Easement Deeds which have been forwarded to ANR's attorney.

4. YOSEMITE FIRE HOUSE:

David Pisha stated that the town now owns Yosemite. He stated that the support piers on the rear of the building were not installed correctly. The town has now received the plans from the structural engineer indicating that the piers need to be replaced. The town is now looking for a contractor to do the work.

David Pisha stated that the next decision to be made is relative to the use of the building. This should be determined prior to investing any more funding in structural repairs. Lee Gustafson clarified that the stream alteration engineer would be involved if necessary. Arne Jonynas stated that the money has been budgeted for the first round of repairs.

Lillian Willis presented a power point presentation on a potential use of Yosemite. She stated that the idea of a fire museum came to mind because there is already substantial equipment at the location. She stated that there is only one museum in Vermont which is very small. New Hampshire does have 6 museums mostly on the coast. The closest is in Peterborough, which is a nice museum. Lillian Willis showed photographs of this museum.

Lillian Willis stated that she has spoken with Devan Coleman from Vermont Historic Preservation who indicated that the application for the National Register has been

partially completed. They would like to continue with the application. Lillian Willis stated that in speaking with Devan Coleman, he indicated that being on the National Register would be positive for the town. It would allow additional funding opportunities. He further indicated that there can be modern concessions made for things such as lighting and heating. Discussion also ensued regarding not necessarily needing an elevator for the second floor as those items could be shared via photographs and digitally.

Lillian Willis stated that she feels that a museum would be a good asset for the town as it would be the only original building in the State of Vermont. It could be a draw for the railroad and the walking tours. She indicated that there is support from Chester Fire Department as well as the fire department community. Lillian Willis stated that a flood elevation does need to be done very soon. She feels that a 501c3 should be formed for the museum and a search should be done to find other memorabilia. Once the Selectboard makes a decision, fundraising could begin to help fund the entire project.

Arne Jonynas stated that Yosemite is a great building. He does like the idea of a museum but there are a lot of questions. Lillian stated that they are working on possible parking areas, but the flood elevations are needed. In addition, a man door is needed on the side of the building so that it can be entered in the winter. Dan Cote thanked Lillian Willis for her efforts.

Heather Chase questioned the process that was used to get to the museum idea. She questioned the level of community involvement and brainstorming that might have been done in making this determination. Lillian Willis stated that the museum seemed obvious to the Historic Preservation Committee. She indicated that they have not sought input from the community because the town just received ownership.

Lee Gustafson questioned the process from getting to where we are now to an active museum. He would like a punch list of items. David Pisha suggested that town staff work with the Historic Preservation Committee on determining a to-do list.

The Selectboard agreed to apply for the National Register. They also agreed to proceed with the flood determination.

5. CHESTER DEVELOPMENT FUND POLICY:

Arne Jonynas stated that the Board has received the old and new policies. Heather Chase stated that she is happy with the new confidentiality language. Arne Jonynas stated that the grants section is a huge addition to the policy, but it is being monitored and kept in check.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to adopt the Chester Development Fund Policy. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

6. ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT:

The Board signed the Entertainment Permit for the Fullerton Inn.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Ben Whalen stated that he would like to talk about the playground at the elementary school. He would like an update from the committee to see where they are at.

Dan Cote stated that he would like to see Yosemite remain on the agenda for each of the meetings.

Heather Chase stated that she and Arne Jonynas will be meeting with Springfield Hospital and they will report back at the next meeting. The intent of the meeting is to learn about why the clinic is closing and what process was taken to get to this decision. Ben Whalen agreed with the concerns but expressed his concern that we would not do this to any other business. Heather Chase stated that it is a business, but it is a service also and does have an impact on the community. Lee Gustafson asked Heather Chase to ask what the town might be able to do to help keep the clinic in town.

8. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Julie Hance  
Secretary of the Select Board

Ben Whalen  
Clerk of the Selectboard