

TOWN OF CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 7, 2018
Minutes

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

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Shawn Cunningham; Rosann Sexton; Tory Spater; Nancy Chute; Betsy Bosiak; Steve Sykes; Dick Jewett; Larry Semones

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

The Board agreed to move Item 12 to before the Executive Session. The visioning process was moved to the next meeting when there is a full board.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2018 Selectboard meeting and Executive Session Record. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

Heather Chase mentioned two typos that she found in the minutes.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

There were no citizen's comments.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

EMS Building: Lee Gustafson updated the Board. He stated that the architect and contractor were both present at the last Building Committee meeting. They discussed siting of the building on the Pleasant Street site. They also reviewed the presentation materials that will be used to present to the public. Lee Gustafson stated that they are reviewing a schedule for presenting to the Board as well as the public. He further stated that he is working on creating a Power Point for the Board. The committee is also waiting on final cost estimates.

Arne Jonynas questioned the status of the cell towers. David Pisha stated that Sprint has decided not to move forward at this time. Jim Carroll is still working on the US Cellular contract. David Pisha will be speaking with Jim Carroll tomorrow to go through the last minutes questions. He will also speak with Sprint about where things officially are left.

Arne Jonynas questioned the status of the gravel extraction project. David Pisha stated that he, Graham Kennedy, Naomi Johnson and Jim Goss met to review the town's plans for this project. David Pisha stated that it was a good meeting. Naomi Johnson was left

to prepare some maps delineating boundaries. The project is in line to proceed with an ACT 250 application this winter. David Pisha stated that the dream is to begin extraction in the summer when school is out and will be for a short duration each year.

4. CHESTER TOWNSCAPE REQUEST:

Tory Spater, Nancy Chute and Roseann Sexton were present from Chester Townscape. They were present to discuss a project they are hoping to complete in 2019. Tory Spater began by providing a history of Chester Townscape. Nancy Chute stated that currently, there are only annuals being planted each year. She stated that the committee is hoping to plant a few perennial gardens to reduce overall costs as well as maintenance.

Nancy Chute stated that the committee has hired a landscape architect to design the proposed gardens. The first garden would be at the Information Booth. The photographs are attached to these minutes. The plants that will be used are native to the area and will be pollinators. The cost for this garden is \$2,600.00. In preparation for the garden, they are requesting that the town remove the Burning Bush and the Spirea Bush. John Russell will be building an attractive box to hide the electrical panel. The walkway would be constructed from the granite curbing currently in the town pit. Scott Wunderle has estimated the cost of the walkway at \$7,600.00 which can be reduced if the town will assist. The cost will also include the stone under the drip line around the building.

Chester Townscape is also proposing to do some more permanent plantings around the gazebo on the Green.

Chester Townscape requested that the town provide the following:

Information Booth:

- Remove burning bush and Spirea and fill holes
- Remove debris behind the building
- Remove saplings
- Remove moss on roof

Cemetery Wall:

- Remove scruffy bushes
- Spread 6;8" woodchip layer

They would like the Town to pay the \$7,600 to Scott Wunderle for the walkway and drip edge as well as to contribute towards the overall cost of the plantings

The Board stated their support of the project. They asked David Pisha to get together with Scott Wunderle and Graham Kennedy to discuss what the town can do and what the final bill will be if the town contributes.

5. GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER EASEMENT:

Betsy Bosiak from Green Mountain Power was present to discuss a project on the Andover Road to the town line. The project includes some replacement poles and some new poles. She stated that new poles are needed because of the weight of the new wires. Betsy Bosiak stated that she has reviewed the plans with Graham Kennedy who was in agreement with the final pole locations.

Betsy Bosiak stated that in 1965, the Town of Chester purchased from the land owners a 66 foot right of way from Route 11 to the Andover Town Line. She stated that she will also be speaking with the abutting property owners.

The project will begin once the permitting has been completed and all necessary easements have been received. This could be 6-12 months from now. Once the project begins, it can take approximately 3-4 months to complete. Arne Jonynas stated that he would prefer that the project be completed as soon as possible so that there are no lingering pieces left over to be abandoned.

The Selectboard signed the Easement Deed.

6. APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY TRUSTEE:

Jessica Buchanan is resigning from the Library Board of Trustees. Jessica De Marco is asking for appointment until March 2019.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to appoint Jessica DeMarco as Library Trustee to become effective upon the resignation of Jessica Buchanan. Said appointment is effective until March 2019. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

7. OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE GRANT ACCEPTANCE:

Julie Hance stated that the town was awarded the Open Space Institute Grant for the community planning assessment for the potential purchase of the Tomasso land. The grant award is in the amount of \$20,000 and requires a \$5,000 match which the town used to pay for the appraisal.

Discussion ensued regarding the Board's desire to move forward with the next phase which is the community planning process. Lee Gustafson mentioned that he has been approached with concerns that the town is spending too much money and that this property is not needed. Julie Hance stated that it is important for people to understand that this process is not being used to reach a pre-determined end result. This community planning process is being used to determine whether or not the town is interested in purchasing. At the end, the town may discover that it is not feasible.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to authorize David Pisha to sign the letter of acceptance. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to sign the Resolution accepting the grant. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

Dick Jewett stated that there is a large section of land near Chase Brook Road that has a beautiful stand of sugar maples. He suggested that there be discussion about tapping the maples verses using for timber.

8. CATERING LICENSE:

Arne Jonynas stated that there are two catering licenses for the Stone Hearth Inn that are being signed by the Town Clerk. These are for information only.

9. VISION PROCESS:

This item was moved to the next agenda awaiting a full board.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION; WAYFINDING

A motion was made by Heather Chase to find that the public disclosure of contract negotiations regarding the wayfinding plan will necessarily involve communications of and relating to the specific terms of said contract, disclosure of which could place the Town of Chester at a substantial disadvantage in any further negotiations. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(A) for the purposes of negotiating and reviewing the terms of the wayfinding plan contracts. I further move that the Selectboard finds that the public disclosure of the negotiations could place the town at a disadvantage. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed. Both Julie Hance and David Pisha were invited into the Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to exit Executive session at 8:22 p.m.. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: TOWN MANAGER REVIEW

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to enter Executive Session for the purposes of conducting a review of the Town Manager. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to exit Executive session at 8:28 p.m. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

12. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA:

The budget process will begin at the next meeting. Lee Gustafson is hopeful that there will be an EMS Building Committee presentation at the next meeting if time allows.

13. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to adjourn. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Ben Whalen
Clerk of the Selectboard