



Town of Chester

Newsletter

January-March

Winter 2019

www.chestervt.gov

Town Manager's Message

Town Clerk

New dog tags have arrived at the Town Office and are available for 2019 registration. Please bring a copy of your dog's updated rabies certificate along with payment on or before April 1, 2019. A rabies clinic and dog registration will be held on March 9, 2019 at the Town Garage from 10:30 am to Noon. The cost of the clinic is \$10, and cost for registering a dog is \$9 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$13 for one that is not.

Petitions are available for open Elective Offices and can be picked up at the Town Clerk's Office. Petitions should be returned to the office with 25-30 signatures by January 28, 2019 at 5pm. Petitions to have an article on the Town Meeting Warning must have 120 – 130 signatures and are due back in the Town Clerk's Office by January 17, 2019 at 5pm.

Town Meeting will be held March 4, 2019 at 6pm at the Town Hall (upstairs), and the Election will be on March 5, 2019 from 9am-7pm at the Town Hall (upstairs). More information will be available soon at www.chestervt.gov.

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

As always at this time of the year the Selectboard is heavily involved in reviewing the 2019 budget they will present at Town Meeting. They have been working on it now for the past two months. When they are getting close to a final draft to present to the voters, they go over it item by item. This is not an easy job. But within a week the document should be finalized.

Soon the Town Report will be available, and I urge you to study it closely to see what has been happening in 2018 and what is planned for the 2019.

The Planning Commission has wrapped up its work on a new Town Plan. The revisions are being forwarded to the Selectboard. Public hearings will be held on it starting in February. I would invite you to attend these hearings to learn more about what is being proposed.

Dufresne Group has been retained to complete a scoping study regarding the possibility of a sidewalk or walking path on Church Street. This idea has been talked about for some time so hiring Dufresne will be a big step forward toward answering the feasibility of such an idea.

Tax sales will be held on February 19th at 11:00 AM here at Town Hall. Anyone interested in participating or just seeing how the process works is welcome to attend.

An appraisal of the Tomasso property has been completed. It shows a value of \$2,980,000. The Town will be researching a variety of funding sources for the purchase of this property should a decision to proceed be ultimately made. A grant from the Open Space Institute will be used to gauge community support for the project in the coming months. If you are interested in learning more about this process, please contact Town Hall.

A committee appointed by the Selectboard to study the construction of a new EMS building has been working hard studying the possibilities. This committee is also studying the condition of the Town Garage. One conclusion that has been reached is that instead of building a new Garage, renovating the current facility makes the most financial sense but still will provide decades of useful life.

As planning continues, the goal is to hold public meetings on the project to inform the public and take questions and concerns into further consideration. These meetings will likely happen mid-year at the earliest, so watch for announcements and plan to attend. The committee looks forward to your input.

Chester Townscape

A Committee of Chester Community Alliance, Inc.



Chester Celebrates Winter

The early snows of November put down an unexpected, determined blanket of white for the winter, but not before volunteers from Chester Townscape had planted tall white allium bulbs and more daffodils at the Brookside Cemetery wall and other shorter spring-flowering bulbs around the Civil War monument and at the new landscaping near the swinging bridge. Before those hardy, delicate flowers can appear, however, residents and visitors will enjoy the evergreen wreaths, garlands, and other decorations that were put in place at favorite Chester public places to proclaim the joyful holiday season and provide continual cheer over the long winter months. Chester Townscape also contributed again to funding for the Lights on the Green. Special thanks go to Sarah Yake of Salon 2000 for decorating the Depot Gazebo and to Nancy Rugg of the Fullerton Inn for decorating the Gazebo on the Chester Green.

Chester Ambulance Service

Thank you for the pleasure of serving this community in 2018. Have a safe, healthy and happy 2019! Here are a few reminders for you to keep safe when shoveling and to help make it through power outages during the winter months.

Safety when shoveling:

- Dress appropriately, good footwear, make sure you are visible
- Take it slow and take breaks
- Push snow rather than lift it if possible
- Lift with legs, not back and do not twist
- Stay hydrated, do not shovel right after eating
- If you experience any pain, discomfort or dizziness STOP!

Prepare for power outages:

- Discuss with your medical professional for guidance on medical devices that need electricity or medications that need to be refrigerated
- Only use generators out doors at least 20 feet from windows and doors
- Do not use gas stoves to heat homes
- Have flashlights and batteries, do not use candles for light due to risk of fire
- Disconnect electronics the risk of “surges” can cause damage
- Make sure you have nonperishable food & H2O

Please be sure your house number is always visible for Emergency Services.

Two Requests for the Public. First, CHPC is seeking any and all ideas for uses for the very large 44' x 84', sawn-timber, three-story Jeffrey barn on Route 103. Second, CHPC is seeking people who have items to contribute to the future fire museum so the future layout can be planned. Also sought is detailed information on those firemen whose names are on the coats presently in the building and labeled D. Casey #17, Knight, and CFD HESSIE. The hope is to make the coats that will be on display have more meaning to those visiting the museum. Anyone with information on any of these topics is strongly encouraged to contact Committee Chair Lillian Willis at 875-1340 or at lbwillist@comcast.net.

Chester Historic Preservation Committee

The Chester Historic Preservation Committee (CHPC) is continuing to assess the Town's historic buildings for necessary repairs and improvements to make those structures more attractive, functional, and accessible. A recent addition to the CHPC team as Committee Advisor is Carolyn Frisa, a Chester resident, professional conservator, and owner of Works on Paper in Bellows Falls. As a conservator, she is not only experienced in how to handle, display, store, and conserve historical objects, but also has considerable knowledge on museum environmental conditions, funding sources, and display and monitoring equipment that will be helpful in creating the Yosemite Chester Fire Museum. CHPC members are delighted to have Carolyn join the committee.

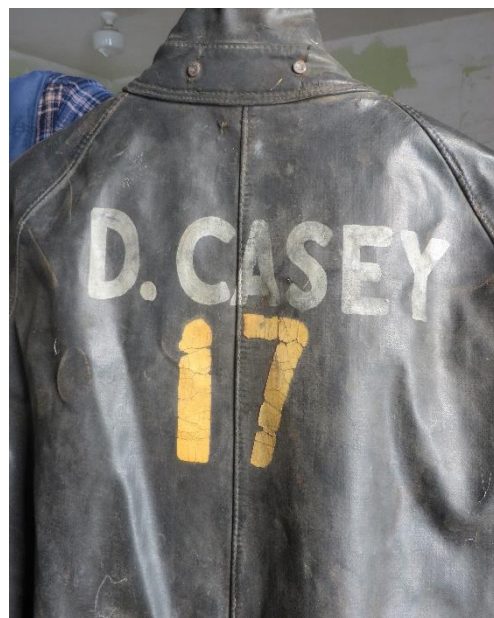
Updates. Yosemite Fire House. Because the street-side door on Route 103 is continually covered in the winter by snow and ice, CHPC needs to have a "man" door installed in one of the sliding doors on the south side of the building that will allow entry during the long winter months for estimates on plaster and other repairs and for investigation and planning for the museum layout. The Town Manager is looking for a contractor for that job because access now is important. During the slow winter months is the best time for that planning and for examining and inventorying some historic materials that were delivered to the future museum by the Chester Fire Department. **Town Hall.** CHPC is working on recommendations for colors and decorative improvements to the great room on the second floor and also on designs for a renovated kitchen that will be more attractive and functional, but also cost effective. Both those improvements will make the second floor more welcoming and pleasant for Town functions and for potential new programs and rentals. **Jeffrey Barn.** The long-desired Condition Assessment, accomplished through a matching grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont, was performed on November 2, 2018, by timber framer and carpenter Silas Treadway, and the report from him was received on November 25. At last all of the historic Town-owned buildings have had that basic assessment made. CHPC will review the report at its regular January meeting. In considering whether the building should be stabilized and restored or dealt with in another manner, it is essential to determine what future uses are possible because they will be key in securing potential funding and a Town commitment for restoration or modification. Treadway confirmed prior comments that the barn was expensive to build because it was very well built. Its structure is also still remarkably sound, in spite of the large hole inside and external bulge caused by the irresponsible placement of overly heavy equipment. But for the Town to make the building a priority, the Town needs to have a purpose for the building.



Carolyn Frisa, professional conservator who recently joined the Chester Historic Preservation Committee, examines some of the coats that will be on display at Yosemite.



The Chester Fire Department recently delivered an old CFD banner to be displayed at the future Yosemite fire museum.



Fireman's coat labeled D. Casey #17. CHPC would like information about this fireman and others whose coats are presently at Yosemite. Individuals or family members with other memorabilia they would like to donate to the future museum should contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340.

Chester Winter Carnival

February 15, 2019

- 8pm- GM Boosters Comedy Night at the American Legion (adults only)

February 16, 2019

- 10am-12pm: Troy Wunderle's Circus at CAES
- 11am-4pm: CAES PTG will have food/drinks for sale
- 12pm: Sledding, skating and more at the Pinnacle
- 12pm-3pm: Sleigh Rides with Smokeshire Farm at the Pinnacle
- 12pm-4pm: Southern Pie Company pie tasting located at 287 Main Street. Tasting will cost \$5.00 per plate. The Proceeds to benefit the Chester Recreation Dept. Free Face painting
- 1pm: Disc Golf at the Pinnacle
- 5pm-8pm: Southern Pie Company will sell coffee, hot chocolate and pieces of pie
- 6pm-8pm: The Chester Conservation Committee will run a night time snowshoe hike at the Pinnacle
- 6pm-8pm: Bonfire/Music/Skating Party at the Pinnacle.

February 17, 2019

- 10am: Broom Hockey at the Pinnacle



Whiting Library



Whiting Library located on Main Street in Chester is delighted to welcome new Youth Services Librarian Stephanie Kaufman. After several months, many applicants and interviews Stephanie will be joining the staff of Whiting Library and offering her services to the children, teens and families of the community.

Until recently Stephanie designed library programs in the Catskill Mountains of New York state, and served in two New York state libraries in a variety of duties. She engaged in all the circulation and advisory duties, developing crafts projects for all ages, as well as technology assistance.

Stephanie holds a Bachelor of English from the University of Albany and is enrolled in a Master program in Library Science. She assumes her role on January 2nd assisting our youngest patrons and their families in choices of books and offering crafts and programs.

Please come and welcome her! Open house Wednesday January 23rd from 3-5pm.