

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECTBOARD MEETING

March 15, 2017
Minutes

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

VISITORS: Julie Hance; William Lindsay; Neil Allen; Randy Miles; Frank Bidwell;
Shawn Cunningham; Gail Stewart; Cathy Hasbrouck; Amy Mosher;
Brandy Todt; Brian Mosher; Kelly Arrison; Huzon Stewart; Ruthanne
Batchelder; Marilyn Mahusky; Tim Roper; Barre Pinsky; Roy Spaulding;
Jan Moot; John DeBenedetti; Lillian Willis; Suzy Forlie; Mary Semones;
Nancy Eddy; Maureen Savage; Justin Savage; Derek Suursoo; Nancy
Rugg; Malcolm Summers; Claudio Veliz

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Arne Jonynas.

There were no deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

March 1, 2017:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2017
Special Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

March 1, 2017:

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2017
Special Selectboard Public Hearing. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Frank Bidwell stated that the Appointment Policy appears to be taking a long time. He
suggested that when the Town starts reviewing its other policies, they look at VLCT
model policies first.

Frank Bidwell stated that he has not received word back regarding his appointment as a
Budget Committee member. He would like to know the process that is used in the future.
David Pisha stated that he was informed by the Town Attorney that you cannot be a
committee of 1 member.

Frank Bidwell stated that he is wondering when the Selectboard would hear from the
Historical Society regarding their paperwork turning the building over to the town. He
stated that he is hopeful that the town will take efforts to ensure that the building is
protected.

Dan Cote stated that as a Selectboard member he cannot always attend meetings. He thanked Barre Pinsky and David Pisha for their efforts in the new setup.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Master Plan: David Pisha stated that there was a Community Workshop this past weekend. He stated that there were concerns regarding an outside company creating the Master Plan. He assured everybody that the consultant is present to coordinate and offer his opinions and expertise, but it is driven completely by the community.

Yosemite Fire House: David Pisha stated that the Historical Society has signed the Quit Claim Deed for the Yosemite Fire house which has been sent back to the attorney who will be filing with the Court.

4. ROTARY REQUEST:

Malcolm Summers and Nancy Rugg were present from the Chester Rotary Club requesting use of The Green on September 16 and 17, 2017 for the fall festival. They are also requesting closure of The Common on Saturday from 9:00 – 4:00 and all day Sunday. They would like for there to be no parking on Route 11 from the Baptist Church to the Chester House. Mr. Summers stated that the Rotary will be providing insurance for the event. The Rotary is requesting that the 2 handicap parking spaces at the end of The Green are to be used solely for handicap access. They request that Chief Cloud will enforce no parking along Main Street. The Rotary will provide security for the event. Main parking for the event will be in Newsbank Main Building, Baptist Church, Chester Andover Elementary School, etc. They are also asking for Chester to apply for a grant for the bus company to shuttle people through town. David Pisha stated that he spoke with The Current who informed him that they do not provide this service. Malcolm Summers also requested that the Lazy Cow Ice Cream truck be parked along the Common streetway for the event. He stated that they will be having music and they are asking that there not be any other music allowed, other than what is coordinated with the Rotary.

Arne Jonynas stated that most of this is fine. However, they cannot grant permission for use of other property.

Malcolm Summers requested that in the future, the Rotary be allowed to gain permission from the Town Manager and not the Selectboard. This is to make the process easier.

A motion was made by Dan Cote to approve the request of Malcolm Summers for the Fall Festival. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

Ben Whalen stated that he is hesitant on the bussing until there are questions answered regarding the town and insurance.

Dan Cote asked that the Town Manager research a way for organizations, like this, to come to him and filter out the information. Ben Whalen stated his agreement, but that he would like these organizations to come before the Board which allows public comment.

5. UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT BYLAWS:

Arne Jonynas stated that a motion was made at the last meeting to move these bylaws forward tonight. Heather Chase stated that the choices are have another hearing, move for voter approval or move them forward to adopt. Dan Cote stated that he has heard from 3 citizens that the Board stated that they were told there would two public hearing. Arne Jonynas stated that this correction was made early in the process. He feels that the word has been out there enough and that this process has been advertised. Lee Gustafson stated that several people have approached him and asked him to move them forward.

Marilyn Mahusky stated that she would like to make one last brief comment. Arne Jonynas stated that he does not feel that it is appropriate for further comment on the document. Marilyn Mahusky argued her point. She then presented her comments in writing to the Board.

Claudio Veliz stated that he has information that he would like brought up prior to the vote. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of taking additional public comment. Arne Jonynas stated that he is not willing to accept further public comment at this time. The Board agreed.

Barre Pinske stated that he would like to see the vote proceed. Arne Jonynas stated that this commenting is okay because it is relating to the vote. He encouraged unity regardless of the decision.

Amy Mosher stated that she was unaware of the requirement for only one public hearing. She is questioning when the Selectboard was given notice. Ben Whalen stated that this is referenced in the minutes. Heather Chase stated that she believes that a copy of the Statute was given to the Board. Amy Mosher stated that she has additional comments. She stated that she is referencing the Planning Commission statement relative to the Town Plan should remain in the document.

Heather Chase stated that she believes that there has been confusion. She would like to allow for one additional meeting.

Lee Gustafson stated that he has heard from many people about this document and that there has been many comments made. He would like to see it move forward.

Frank Bidwell stated that he does not necessarily agree with the changes to the Bylaws. However, it is time to move forward and stop this.

Brian Mosher stated that he has not had the time to participate in the public hearings. He argued that the memo provided that there would be two public hearings. He feels that there should be more than one hearing.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to accept the Unified Development Bylaws as written. Seconded by Ben Whalen. Following discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Dan Cote stated that he would like to provide his key points to the Planning Commission for them to report back by July 1. He clarified that the Planning Commission cannot be forced, but this list could provide direction to them. Ben Whalen agreed that this is a living document. Heather Chase stated that this is true, but once adopted it is in effect until it's amended. She stated that she would like all comments to be brought back to the Planning Commission. Heather Chase stated that she would like to strive to have a better planning process in the future and not see it take too long to address the remaining issues. Heather Chase stated that she also feels that the Town needs to heal and that all of us have different viewpoints.

Amy Mosher stated that she would like to ensure that whoever makes the final revisions will make the one change mentioned in her letter.

The Board agreed that Dan Cote's points will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES:

Arne Jonynas stated that the Board has been provided with 3 different versions of the Appointment Policy, one allowing open session interviews, one allowing executive session interviews and one allowing an option.

Ben Whalen stated that this has been an interesting process and he has learned several different perspectives. He stated that this Board has been elected to represent the best for the community.

Arne Jonynas stated that he does not feel that it is fair to ask applicants to hold their interview in open hearing. He feels that the Planning Commission experience demonstrated that open sessions are not always controlled. Heather Chase stated that she feels that Executive Session would be more appropriate due to whether or not people would be willing to participate.

Frank Bidwill requested that people be able to provide comment. The draft policy addresses this. Frank Bidwell also requested that part of this process be made public.

Marilyn Mahusky stated that she feels that public comment is important. She stated that she wants the Boards to allow for more public comment which should not be only written.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to approve the Public Office Appointment Procedure using Executive Session. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

Ben Whalen read the policy into the record so that everybody could hear the language. Barre Pinske stated that he feels that anybody interested in serving on a Board should be willing to represent the community as a whole not just personal interest. Dan Cote stated that he still does not feel that Executive Session is appropriate, but he will agree just to move this along.

Lee Gustafson suggested that the last sentence of the 2nd to last paragraph be removed so that comments can be reviewed any time during the interview.

The Board took a recess so that Julie Hance could make the requested change. When reconvened, the Board signed the Policy.

7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL PLAN:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to adopt the Annual Financial Plan. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

Lee Gustafson noted that Popple Dungeon Road is spelled incorrectly. Julie Hance will correct.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to adopt the Certificate of Compliance for Road and Network Inventory. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

8. WHITING LIBRARY APPOINTMENT:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to appoint Stephanie Whitney-Payne as Trustee of the Whiting Library. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

9. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS:

Arne Jonynas read the list of Appointments. The list is attached to these minutes.

A motion was made by Dan Cote to appoint the individuals presented on the list. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

Dan Cote asked these references to Selectmen be changed to Selectboard.

10. NEWSPAPER OF RECORD:

Arne Jonynas stated that there are two organizations asking for appointment as the Newspaper of Record. The Vermont Journal was present and stated that their online presence has grown. He stated that they are distributing over 30,000 printed newspapers. Arne Jonynas noted that the website is a great improvement over last year.

Shawn Cunningham from the Chester Telegraph was present. He indicated that they are the paper for record for Grafton and Windham and the school. They are up over 52% from last year. He indicated that the future is in the online newspaper. He feels that it is worth making the change.

Cathy Hasbrouck stated that she has concerns that there are a lot of people that still don't use the internet. She asked if there is a way to print their report.

Ben Whalen was remembering from last year. He stated that there was a lot of discussion over the definition of a newspaper of record. Shawn Cunningham stated that he will be in Montpelier tomorrow testifying on the definition. Arne Jonynas stated that he would like to stay with the printed paper.

Dan Cote suggested that the Town use both the Vermont Journal and the Chester Telegraph.

David Pisha was asked to gather the cost information relative to the Town using both papers. The Board agreed to recess this until the next meeting. Ben Whalen requested that David Pisha find out if there needs to be only one paper of record appointed or if 2 can be appointed.

11. LIQUOR LICENSE;

A motion was made by Heather Chase to sign the Second Class Liquor License for WAWD d/b/a the Stone Hearth Inn. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

12. OUTSIDE CONSUMPTION PERMIT:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to sign the Outside Consumption Permit for WAWD d/b/a the Stone Hearth Inn. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

13. ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT:

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to sign the Entertainment Permit for WAWD d/b/a Stone Hearth Inn. Secnded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

14. NEW BUSINESS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

It was agreed that Dan Cote's points for the Planning Commission can wait until the Planning Commission appointments have been made. This discussion of expectations could be done at a joint meeting.

Ben Whalen stated that with the Laundromat closing the Town will need to find another posting location. The Board suggested the Hardware Store and Lisais Market.

The Planning Commission appointments should be moving forward. Frank Bidwell stated that he thinks that this should be moved along quickly. Heather Chase suggested that all questions be provided to Julie Hance prior to the packet so that they can be assembled and distributed to the Board.

David Pisha stated that he has checked with Springfield who does not set a time on their agenda. He stated that Springfield does set a timeline for the end of the meeting. Heather Chase stated that she would like to know why VLCT recommends this as their best practice.

15. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Heather Chase
Clerk of the Select Board