

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, December 7th, 2017
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman’s Additions and Deletions
Public Comment
Approval of Minutes
Items for Signature
Maintenance Update
Age Friendly Program, Phase II
Roundtable
Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Trask called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:01pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Cass Buckley
Jack Cannon
Steve D’Angelo
Dick Trask

Selectmen absent:

Jeremy Owens

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Tony Amato, Maintenance Supervisor
Maddy DiIunno, SNHPC
Todd Fahey, AARP
Andrew Hadik
Deborah Munson
Nancy Myette
Sylvia von Aulock, SNHPC
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times
And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Trask led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions and Deletions

Selectman D’Angelo would like to report on today’s Departments Heads meeting.

1.5 Public Comments

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:02pm.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

An approval sheet for the previous week’s meeting minutes is in the signature folder.

2.2 Items for Signature

Chairman Trask urged all members to review and sign items in the Signature Folder.

III. New Business

3.1 Maintenance Update - Tony Amato, Maintenance Supervisor

Maintenance Supervisor Amato appeared before the Selectmen to update them on Maintenance Department activities since his last visit in October.

These activities included:

- Upgrading the stage lighting in the MPR to LEDs including the rental of staging, \$700
- Reroofing the Police Department hip roof, \$140
- Replacing Police Department front and back doors, \$4,600 – these are steel and have been primed; they will be painted in the Spring
- Having the eight Maintenance Garage six-pane windows repaired at Fremont Glass, \$480 – they should be ready in 3-5 weeks
- Residing most of the Wason Pond Barn with the help of the Rockingham County Workers – one side and two gable ends are left to finish when lumber and Workers are available – all materials and lunches are paid for by the Wason Pond Commission. Extra windows were found, so there is no need to have the unsatisfactory ones repaired.
- Winterization of Wason Pond cottage, playground water fountain, and snack shack, \$300
- Inspection of all 88 fire extinguishers in Town-owned buildings
- Building of two flower boxes out of scrap lumber
- Building of a ramp into the Groundskeeping section of Wason Pond Barn for the water cannon, which was also winterized

Upcoming projects include:

- Placing old books from Room 20 into sealed Rubbermaid bins – outside - and cleaning cabinets all while wearing safety masks, estimated at \$350. Maintenance Supervisor Amato will change the fan frequency from four times a day to constantly on from 8am to 4pm.
- Installing a new floor in the Stevens Hall kitchen, estimated at \$250
- Painting the MPR bathroom floors and hallway with epoxy paint, estimated at \$100
- Removal of a window in the Police Department stock room and the building of a cage
- Replacing worn boards on the MPR bleachers with sanded and stained extras stored in the Wason Pond Barn, estimated at \$300
- Building more flower boxes
- Replacing the fence at Edwards Mill Dam, as it was taken down by the contractor who performed the Phase I work and now all parts cannot be located. This work will take place in the Spring; the snow fence will be left up until then.

A topic that needs more discussion is the fact that the new addition to the Fire Department, which was built in 2014, has no sprinklers. Maintenance Supervisor Amato procured a quote to have them installed. This should go into next year’s Budget on the “Major Projects” line.

Vice-Chairman Cannon also asked that the bottled water budget line be looked into as it is quite high; Maintenance Supervisor Amato stated that the Recreation Summer Program also used that water, and they had quite a few more campers this year. Next Fiscal Year’s budget will take this increase in usage into account.

Maintenance Supervisor Amato departed the meeting at 7:18pm.

3.2 Age Friendly Program, Phase II – Sylvia von Aulock, Todd Fahey

Ms. von Aulock and Ms. DiIunno from the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission and Mr. Fahey from AARP appeared before the Selectmen to gauge their interest in being a part of Phase II of the “Becoming Age-Friendly” program.

The program has been going on for the past year with support from the New Hampshire DOT and AARP. Residents of the fourteen communities served by SNHPC were invited to assessment meetings, and a report on their findings from the meeting with Chester residents is available on their website at http://snhpc.org/pdf/BAF_Chester.pdf.

Chester’s report showed that positives include recreational activities, communications, and property tax relief for seniors and veterans; and similar to many other rural communities, negatives include lack of public transportation and affordable housing.

Phase I was Assessment. Funding has been arranged for Phase II, which will build on the findings and come up with strategic plans; only three communities will be chosen for this Phase, and there will be no cost to the chosen communities. If the Selectmen would like to be considered, they should write a letter of interest to SNHPC by mid-January.

AARP has a network of “Age-Friendly Communities” from Hawaii to Maine; some local ones include Newport VT, Portland ME, and Salem MA.

Vice-Chairman Cannon opined that Chester was age friendly, and did a remarkable job of providing for children and seniors, as did Selectman D’Angelo. Vice-Chairman Cannon agreed that the one thing lacking was public transportation, but is unsure on how that could be solved. Selectman Buckley stated that the Planning Board had discussed the transportation question, and one suggested solution was volunteer drivers; however, volunteers are hard to come by. Selectman D’Angelo added that grants used to be available to assist Towns in providing services; these are no longer provided.

Vice-Chairman also noted that a laundry list of things to implement will be of no use without funding or instructions on how to implement. Selectman Buckley suggested selecting and focusing on a few of the ‘domains of livability’.

Planning Coordinator Hadik stood and was recognized. He noted that the local and regional assessment was available on the Planning Board’s web page, noting that many of the regional items do not apply to Chester. He agreed that housing, which is 80% residential and 20% multi-family, may not be affordable; the Town should be making changes to its Open Space Development Ordinances, and SNHPC’s help would be much appreciated.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to draft a letter expressing the Town of Chester’s interest in

being considered for Phase II of SNHPC’s Age Friendly Program; Chairman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

Ms. von Aulock, Ms. DiIunno, and Mr. Fahey departed the meeting at 7:49pm.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Vice-Chairman Cannon:

- The 300th Anniversary Committee’s logo contest has been extended to December 31st, 2017. Some submissions have been received, and the Committee would like to see more. Artists are encouraged to submit; logos should be mailed to Town Hall.

Selectman D’Angelo:

- There was a Department Heads meeting this morning. One topic was the Town’s Snow Day procedure, which is a two-hour delay on days that Chester Academy is closed. Information is disseminated via WMUR. A notification system named NIXLE was discussed and should be researched. It was also suggested that Road Agent Oleson and his liaison, Selectman Owens, and Police Chief Berube be the ones who determine if Town Hall and other buildings should close entirely. Chairman Trask would like to discuss this subject again when all five Selectmen are present.
- He would like to know what the role and purpose is of the Wason Pond Commission, as he believes that the Conservation Commission and Recreation Department oversee the property. It was suggested that members be invited to attend a Selectmen’s meeting in the near future.

Selectman Buckley:

- Nothing to report.

Chairman Trask:

- The ZBA has had a resignation, and is looking for new members.
- The newly-forming Strategic Land Protection Committee is also looking for members.
- The newly-forming Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee will be having a walk-through of the Spring Hill Farm property on Sunday, December 17th, at 9:00am, and then meeting the next night (Monday, December 18th) at 7pm. Members will be chosen to be appointed from those who continue to attend meetings. Selectman D’Angelo questioned the need for this committee, stating that the Heritage Commission could oversee the property.
- A letter was received from the Attorney General about the complaints made against the Selectmen and the Police Chief by the holdover tenant of Spring Hill Farm. The Attorney General’s investigation concluded that no violation of the law occurred and the file was closed.
- Primex has once again offered to lock in the Town’s rates increase at a maximum of 7% over three years. Finance Director Smith will be asked to report back on what recent years’ increases have been – and why - before this question is decided. Vice-Chairman Cannon noted that the Town has had to go back to them before to challenge the Experience Modification Rate for Workers’ Compensation insurance; the Town is often rated too high.

4.2 Non-Public Session

Selectman Buckley moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Public Employees and (e) Pending Litigation; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 8:05pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 8:29pm.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

Chairman Trask moved that the minutes to the first non-public session, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for a period of one (1) year; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

Chairman Trask moved that the minutes to the second non-public session, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for a period of six (6) months; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

Selectman Buckley moved that the minutes to the third non-public session, on Public Employees, be sealed for a period of one (1) year; Chairman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

V. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, December 21st, 2017.

Selectman D’Angelo moved to adjourn the meeting; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda
Recording Secretary