

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, December 21st, 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
Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee Appointments
Snow Day Procedure
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 7:02pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Cass Buckley
Steve D’Angelo
Jeremy Owens
Dick Trask

Selectmen absent:

Jack Cannon

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Maryann Boulter
Joe Castricone
Tiffany Coroka Gillen
Joe Krasowski
Emily Kunelius
Kendall Kunelius
Rich LeBlanc
Nancy Myette
Maria Oakley
Michael Oleson, Road Agent
James Piper
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director
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 7:03pm.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

An approval sheet for a 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 Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee Appointments – Corinna Reishus

Recreation Director Reishus appeared before the Selectmen to update them on the activities of the newly formed Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee.

They have met twice now, and those who were interested in becoming regular members or alternates were identified at their last meeting. They also met this past Sunday to walk the trails off of Towle Road.

Selectman D’Angelo stated that he had been unaware of many things about the Spring Hill Farm property, and would be interested in accompanying them should another walk be scheduled. He added that he had visited Lamson Farm in Mont Vernon this fall during their annual event and would like to see Spring Hill Farm utilized in a similar way; he believes that it has great potential for recreation activities. Recreation Director Reishus noted that according to the Conservation Easement on the property, permitted uses are farming, forestry, recreation, and education.

Chairman Trask asked those persons being appointed to join the Selectmen at the meeting table.

- Maryann Boulter is a 16-year resident, and a paralegal.
- Selectman Buckley would be the representative from the Board of Selectmen.
- Joe Castricone is a 34-year resident, a former Selectman, and current Chair of the PACT Committee. He would like to see Chester’s residents get full use of the property.
- Tiffany Coroka Gillen is an educator, focusing on bettering communities and the environment. She is very interested in Agriculture, and would be the representative from the Agricultural Commission.
- Joe Krasowski is a 17-year resident, and focuses on Chemical Engineering and Business.
- Emily Kunelius returned to Chester two years ago; she has worked on farms and is interested in seeing Spring Hill Farm come to life.
- Kendall Kunelius has a background in agriculture, as her family owned a greenhouse/garden center; she focuses on growing plus business management. She has a degree in Equine Management, and is a professional lumberjack.

- Maria Oakley is a 10-year resident, and an artist and art teacher. She believes that Spring Hill Farm is underutilized by the community. She would be the representative from the Recreation Commission.
- James Piper is a 7-year resident who studied agriculture for four years, and has farmed all around the world. He believes that Spring Hill Farm has the potential to be much more productive than it is currently.

Mr. LeBlanc requested that he be appointed as a member and a representative of the Spring Hill Farm Board of Trustees; however, he had not attended the meetings and the membership has already been chosen. Members representing the Selectman and the Conservation Commission are also members of the Spring Hill Farm Board of Trustees, so it will be sufficiently if unofficially represented. Mr. LeBlanc was encouraged to attend meetings as a member of the public so that his voice may be heard.

Chairman Trask moved to appoint Joe Castricone, Tiffany Coroka Gillen, and Kendall Kunelius to the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee as Regular Members for a three-year term to expire December 20th, 2020; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.

Chairman Trask moved to appoint Joe Krasowski, Emily Kunelius, and Maria Oakley to the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee as Regular Members for a two-year term to expire December 20th, 2019; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.

Chairman Trask moved to appoint Maryann Boulter to the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee as a Regular Member for a one-year term to expire December 20th, 2018; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.

Chairman Trask moved to appoint Selectman Buckley to the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee as a Regular Member for a one-year term to expire December 20th, 2018; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman Buckley abstaining and Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.

Chairman Trask moved to appoint James Piper to the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee as an Alternate Member for a three-year term to expire December 20th, 2020; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.

The Selectmen thanked the newly appointed members. Chairman Trask reminded them to visit the Town Clerk’s office to be sworn in, and suggested that they return to a Selectmen’s meeting in three months or so with a one year, three year, and five year plan for the property and advise the Selectmen as to their recommendations. Recreation Director Reishus noted that they would be electing a Chair and Vice-Chair at their next meeting, and that she would step away sometime after that; Selectman D’Angelo also suggested the drafting of bylaws.

Recreation Director Reishus and the Spring Hill Advisory Committee members departed the meeting at 7:31pm.

3.2 Snow Day Procedure

According to the current snow day procedure, when Chester Academy is closed, Town Hall has a two-hour delay. Chester Academy has already closed for tomorrow, but the snow is not scheduled to begin until 8am; it doesn’t make sense to open two hours late. The policy needs to be ‘tweaked’ to cover all

eventualities, and as Selectman D’Angelo said, not just for snow events – any events that could make keeping regular hours an issue. He believes that Road Agent Oleson and Police Chief Berube should consult and make a recommendation to the Selectmen on a case by case basis. Selectman Buckley is willing to be their liaison. The Town’s web page can be updated on the fly by BOS AA Doda, as can Channel 21 by Mr. Castricone.

Road Agent Oleson joined the Selectmen at the meeting table to discuss snow-related items insofar as they relate to the Highway Department. He noted that as the roads are extremely cold, Saturday’s expected rain will likely turn to ice. No complaints have been received from residents.

He and Maintenance Supervisor Amato have worked out the clearing of the gas pumps at the Fire Station between them and he believes that the issue is settled. Maintenance Director Amato has created a ‘snow clearing map’ for the Maintenance Department; BOS AA Doda will provide a copy to Road Agent Oleson.

Selectman D’Angelo stated that one day last week he noticed that the pavement in front of the Maintenance Garage was icy, and he was concerned that employees going there would slip and hurt themselves. Road Agent Oleson stated that the Maintenance Department was responsible for clearing that area, but that he was willing to back his truck in afterwards to salt it, or the Maintenance Department could keep sand on hand there to sand it. He added that it needs to be cleared during snow events in order to avoid ice.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Chairman Trask:

- The Planning Board has recommended that \$1,005.10 in Police Department Impact Fees be expended to make the first payment of a 5-year “Taser 60 Program” that will allow the Police Department to save ~\$2,100 on Taser purchases over the life of the program. This program includes batteries and does have an out clause.

Chairman Trask moved to allow \$1,005.10 in Police Department Impact Fees to be expended for the first payment on the “Taser 60 Program”; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.

- A request has been received from the Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway Council, in the person of Jean Methot, asking for a donation of \$200 to support development and maintenance of a website as an educational and marketing tool for the byway. Selectman Buckley spoke in favor of supporting those who are keeping the history of the Town alive.

Selectman D’Angelo moved to make a contribution of \$200 to the Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway Council; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.

- Finance Director Smith had provided the Selectmen with details of the last three years’ insurance premiums in order to determine if they were interested in locking in rates with Primex; they are not.
- A letter has been received from the New Hampshire Lottery, instructing the Selectmen on how a Warrant Article can be created to ask the residents if they would be interested in allowing Keno in the Town. Keno would only be allowed in taverns and restaurants with an active liquor pouring license, of which Chester has one. There was no interest in discussing this subject. Residents

who are interested in allowing Keno in Chester may certainly draft a petitioned Warrant Article.

Selectman D’Angelo:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Owens:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Buckley:

- Nothing to report.

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 Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 7:59pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:11pm.

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

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

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

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

V. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, January 4th, 2018.

Chairman Trask moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda
Recording Secretary