

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 2020
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I. Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman’s Additions or Deletions
Public Comment (10 minutes)
Approval of Minutes
Items for Signature
Spring Hill Farm
Transfer Station
Emergency Management Update
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Vice-Chair Myette called the meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 PM.

Under the emergency provisions of RSA 91A, this meeting is being conducted electronically via dial-in, (929) 436-2866, internet at <https://zoom.us/j/770832311> as well as broadcast on Channel 20 and streamed on <http://vod.chesterctv.com>

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen Present:

Stephen Landau (Remotely)
Steve D’Angelo
Jeremy Owens (Remotely)
Chuck Myette
Joseph Hagan (Remotely)

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda

Members of the Public Present, at various times:

Phil Gladu, Emergency Management Director
Christine & Nicholas Ortins of Geary Farms, LLC. (Remotely)
Emily Kunelius, Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee Chair (Remotely)
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times (Remotely)

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

None

1.5 Public Comment

As no members of the public wished to be heard public comment was closed at 7:17 PM.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

An approval sheet for the previous meeting’s minutes was sent electronically this afternoon.

2.2 Items for Signature

All members reviewed and signed the items in the signature folder submitted electronically earlier this afternoon.

III. New Business

3.1 Spring Hill Farm

Emily Kunelius reported that Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee put out an RFP for the High Tunnel and received one response which was discussed at this week’s meeting.

Christy and Nicholas Ortins will be growing vegetables and also want to use the piece of property between the high tunnel and the road, one acre approximately. They have started a food-truck business which will have its licensing complete shortly and will operate off-site, and wish to use the vegetables they have grown in that business.

Christy noted she and Nicholas have been expanding at their parents’ farm properties. Emily Kunelius added the food truck would be a great addition to the Fall Festival. Vice-Chairman Myette directed those interested to visit their website at Geary Farms. Selectman D’Angelo noted the cost would be \$500 for the season. Selectman Landau noted he still has two pieces of equipment out there that he needs to retrieve.

Selectman Landau motioned to allow Christy and Nicholas Ortins to use the high tunnel at Spring Hill Farm and the one-acre between the high tunnel and road for growing vegetables. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll vote was taken Landau – aye, Owens – aye, Hagan – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Myette – aye, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Emily Kunelius indicated the lease would be signed and submitted.

3.2 Transfer Station

Vice-Chair Myette indicated the transfer station is only taking garbage/trash and not recyclables at this time. They are only taking brush and waste oil in addition to household trash. The Board is looking for other methods to help the public deal with the recyclables for the next few weeks. The Board of Selectmen ask that people remain patient and please do not litter trash on the sides of the road. A complaint was received for dumping on Harantis Lake Road. One possibility is to have Waste Management bring in a trailer and have everything hauled to Auburn.

3.3 Emergency Management Update

Vice-Chair Myette held up a pink mailer that was going out to residents in the mail concerning the status of the Town municipal services during the COVID-19 emergency. The Board of Selectmen will be meeting twice a week during the emergency to keep residents up to date, on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Phil Gladu noted the Governor issued a stay in place order today which asked that non-essential businesses be closed. More information is available online at the State for which businesses are considered essential and non-essential.

Selectman D’Angelo noted many caregivers and responders are being exposed to the virus and coming down with it. With such a small force, the Town can’t afford to lose one or two of its responders. The Department is asking questions before responding to calls and wearing masks.

Selectman D’Angelo asked Selectman Hagan how first responders, who should take priority, could get tested and he will get more information to Town Administrator Doda tomorrow. The test is a viral culture and takes days to get the results back. A new lab has opened today which will speed up testing however there is still a shortage of tests.

IV. Roundtable

Vice-Chair Myette noted he had an invoice for \$3,350 for removal of trees from Spring Hill Farm. Selectman D’Angelo reminded only town employees with authorization from the Board of Selectmen could engage in a work order. Selectman Landau was okay with the tree work and would rather take the trees down at the farm than have a liability during the next Fall Festival.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to authorize payment of the \$3,350 invoice for the tree work at Spring Hill Farm. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Landau – aye, Owens – aye, Hagan – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Myette – aye, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated CART services were being limited to essential services only and recommended patrons call ahead.

V. Potential Non-Public Sessions

Selectman Landau indicated he had one non-public under finance. Selectman D’Angelo indicated he had one under emergency management and Chairman Owens indicated he had one under reputation and would break and reconvene.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to go into non-public session at 7:47 PM pursuant to 91-A:3(II) (c) and (i). Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Hagan – aye, Owens – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Myette – aye, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting room, teleconference and internet were closed to the public at 7:47 PM. Emergency Management Director Gladu remained in the meeting room.

Emergency Management Director Gladu departed the meeting at 8:11 PM.

Vice-Chairman Myette motioned to come out of non-public session at 9:56 PM; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken, Landau – aye, Hagan – aye, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Myette – aye, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to seal the minutes to the first non-public session on Emergency Situations for a period of thirty (30) days; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes to the second non-public session on Reputation for an indefinite period; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Owens motioned to seal the minutes to the third non-public session on Reputation for an indefinite period; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting room was reopened at 9:58 PM.

VI. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Myette moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary