

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Monday, April 13, 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
Emergency Management Update
Transfer Station Recycling Update
Spring Hill Farm
Town Clerk’s Office
Roundtable
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Owens called the meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:06 PM.

Under the emergency provisions of RSA 91A, this meeting is being conducted electronically and will be recorded, 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 (Remotely):

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

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda (Remotely)

Members of the Public Present Remotely, at various times:

Recreation Director Corinna Reishus

Police Chief Aaron Berube
Fire Chief Gregory Bolduc
EM Director Phil Gladu
BOS Administrative Asst. Janis Jalbert
Penny Williams

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Owens led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

1.5 Public Comment

As no members of the public wished to be heard public comment was closed at 7:16 PM.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

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

2.2 Items for Signature

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

III. New Business

3.1 Emergency Management Update

Phil Gladu reported the Emergency Management conference calls are much shorter now lasting about 10-15 minutes as opposed to two hours. A lot of PPE gear came in. Things appear no worse or no better.

3.2 Transfer Station Recycling Update

Vice-Chair Myette reported the Transfer Station opened to the public on Friday night at 5 PM and took about 2 tons of recyclables. Operations were the same on Saturday with about another 2 tons of recyclables received. All recyclables but glass which goes on the skid steer were able to be comingled in the ABI truck and taken to Auburn for recycling. Wednesday night was open for trash only. The Transfer Station is hoping to be fully open by April 22nd. The Selectmen thanked Vice-Chair Myette, Rich Czarnec and the Transfer Station staff for all of their hard work.

3.3 Spring Hill Farm

Mike Oleson looked at the bathroom and estimated a complete replacement was needed at approximately \$25,000. Given how many weeks the remodel would take it would not make sense to stage this building as a potential quarantine station. If necessary, they will use the Community Center.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated when the work is done the bathroom could be enlarged and ADA compliant and it made sense for the Advisory Committee to decide what they would like to see and get some bids. Selectman D’Angelo noted there were surplus funds that could be encumbered now so the work could commence in the summer.

Town Administrator Doda indicated it made sense for the Committee to decide what the purpose would be whether a museum or meeting space, ADA compliant or on the historic register. The Committee will be invited to Thursday, April 16th Selectmen’s meeting.

Vice-Chair Myette reported Kristy and Nicholas Ortin have cleaned up the high tunnel and started planting and seem very happy. The electricity has been changed to their names and the pump is running for water. Mr. Oleson is bringing some wood chips to them.

3.4 Town Clerk’s Office

Town Administrator Doda and Building Inspector Myrick Bunker are working to put together an RFP for construction work at the Town Clerk’s office and organizing the changes. Another door will be put on. There would be card readers installed there in the vestibule and the MPR. The card readers for the doors are in the \$10,000 range. Additional work at Town Hall would put another egress door from the Town Administrator’s office and to complete the walls in the Finance office. Some of the cost may be recoverable from FEMA.

IV. Roundtable

Vice-Chair Myette walked Wason Pond with Dick Lewis to inspect for the wooly adelgid damage reported by the student who did the inspection and found evidence of 20-30 trees affected on the east side of the pond. The pests are in the light/early stages and there was no evidence at the top of trees where the damage starts. For now it will be monitored. A good stretch of cold weather may stunt any spread.

Vice-Chair Myette reported Fish & Game went out on Sunday and stopped ATVs. The gate at Pomp Road was discussed. The bottom of the road does not have much visibility, the top would require 15-20’ more materials for the gate. Maintenance could dig the post holes and install pressure treated posts and gate or the Town could get a bid. Chief Bolduc will be consulted as to Fire Department access.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated he walked Wason Pond on Sunday and observed a few dead trees near trails and now that so many more hikers are using these trails the trees should be felled. They can be left on the ground to become part of the ecosystem. Vice-Chair Myette will reach out to Dick Lewis for an estimate. Mrs. Reishus noted if someone volunteers to do the work, they should fill out a volunteer form.

Selectman Landau reviewed a one-time painting application process for Stevens Hall and will pass the information along to maintenance but feels the cost would be too high. The repairs would need to be done first. Paint is peeling on all sides but especially the side closest the Library.

Selectman Landau reported the holiday Bunny Run went well and he was very impressed by it and got good feedback. There were about 18 cars in the procession, and it was well received. Something similar could be repeated in May. Chief Bolduc indicated an anonymous donor offered to cover the fuel cost for that event to the Town, plus any processions for birthday parties and he has coordinated the receipt of that donation with Town Administrator Doda.

Selectman Landau motioned to accept the donation with the Town’s appreciation and thanks. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman D’Angelo thanked the staff, Chiefs, Mrs. Lufkin and Town Administrator Doda for getting the Town way ahead of the curve with the pandemic and for all their hard work. The Selectmen commented that even the Zoom meetings seem seamless now and it seems fortuitous that the Town decided to hire a Town Administrator who was then able to coordinate this.

Chair Owens indicated the following meetings were coming up:

Tuesday, April 14th at 7 PM – Conservation Commission (Zoom)
Wednesday, April 15th at 7 PM – 300th Anniversary Committee (Web-Ex)
Thursday, April 16th at 7 PM – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting (Zoom)

V. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoijer
Recording Secretary