

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2020
Virtual Meeting
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
300th Anniversary Committee Appointments
Emergency Management Update
Wason Pond Commission
Revisit Building Closures
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 7:00 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
Jeremy Owens
Joseph Hagan
Steve D’Angelo
Stephen Landau

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda (Remotely)

Members of the Public Present (Remotely), at various times:

Town Treasurer Rhonda Lamphere

Police Chief Aaron Berube
BOS Admin. Asst. Janis Jalbert
EM Director Phil Gladu
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Elizabeth Lufkin
Recreation Director Corinna Reishus
Jean Methot
Chris Hadik
Jack Cannon
Ed Stuart
Leslie Hammond
Penny Williams
Ken Biel
Chester CTV

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Owens led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

None

1.5 Public Comment

Chair Owens opened the meeting to public comment at 7:02 PM; none was forthcoming.

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 300th Anniversary Committee Appointments

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to appoint Jack Cannon to the 300th Anniversary Committee with a term to expire May 18, 2023. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Owens – aye, Hagan – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Hagan motioned to appoint Chris Hadik to the 300th Anniversary Committee with a term to expire May 18, 2023. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Owens – aye, Hagan – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Myette motioned to appoint Rhonda Lamphere to the 300th Anniversary Committee with a term to expire May 18, 2023. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Owens – aye, Hagan – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Landau motioned to appoint Jean Methot to the 300th Anniversary Committee with a term to expire May 18, 2023. Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Owens – aye, Hagan – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Myette motioned to appoint Ed Stuart to the 300th Anniversary Committee with a term to expire May 18, 2023. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Owens – aye, Hagan – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously

Mr. Methot asked how they would be sworn in and Mrs. Lufkin indicated it can be done over the phone with a witness and confirmation.

3.2 Emergency Management Update

Phil Gladu reported cases of COVID-19 state wide are less than 3,500 with 172 deaths. There are 11 cases reported in Chester with eight active. Hair salons are reopening by appointment with requirement of masks. Last Thursday there was a webinar about grants. Mr. Gladu noted they will meet Wednesday to get grants submitted. Any necessity for BOS approval depends on the grant.

3.3 Wason Pond Commission

Mr. Hadik reported the Commission met at 6 PM and had voted in favor of requesting the reopening of the parking lot with some restrictions which follow state park guidelines. Mr. Hadik noted the seven conditions voted to be implemented by the Commission are:

- Parking -
Limited to lot adjacent ball field to left of entrance
lines to be striped
to be monitored
- Signage
with current information on distancing, face coverings when able and distance, no groups larger than 10, etc.
- Temporary Closure of

playground
ball field and
beaches
(until further assessment)

Mr. Hadik noted the Commission would like the recommendations to be effective May 22, 2020, if ready. There is no date set for Phase 2 pending governmental updates until this phase has been monitored.

Mr. Hadik advised the Commission would like the Board of Selectmen to assist them with:

- No parking signs on North side of 102
- Use of Town’s portable signs to indicate “Beach Closed” and whatever additional info will fit or the funds to rent such a sign
- Volunteers/Staff to be extra eyes out there

Vice-Chair Myette asked if parking by the fields would-be one-way traffic and Mr. Hadik indicated on pass through, only in and out one entrance.

Vice-Chair Myette asked if the Commission wanted it to be effective May 22nd and Mr. Hadik indicated yes, if and when things are in place. Mr. Hadik noted the Commission would like the Selectmen to put a sign on the side of 102, facing the road maybe.

Mr. Gladu asked if there would be a sign by the parking area and Mr. Hadik noted maybe on the ballfield facing the parking area.

Selectman D’Angelo asked what section would be closed and Mr. Hadik noted the physical areas would be roped off. The other beach would only be for launching kayaks. The goal is to not have people congregating. Fishing would still be allowed where it is not roped off. Mr. Gladu noted there is plenty of fishing area outside the beach.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if the access by the Community Center would be blocked off and Mr. Hadik responded yes, for now. Selectman D’Angelo indicated the area would need to be blocked by more than just a rope, someone cut it to load a kayak already. Mr. Gladu indicated the Fire Department would need to be able to move any barrier. Chief Berube expressed concerns about using the entrance as an exit as the DOT limited the entrance to one-way because of sight distance. Vice-Chair Myette noted the original plan was to have a one-way to have people come in through the Community Center. Mrs. Reishus noted there is no sign saying people can’t leave that way right now.

Chief Berube opined anything we do is moving in the right direction. Vice-Chair Myette noted it is a safer way to do it and still use the larger lot. Mr. Hadik added to limit the size of the parking area. Selectman D’Angelo clarified the Commission is suggesting only using field parking. Mr. Hadik indicated for now the Commission would like to access and exit in the field lot.

Selectman Hagan asked to go over the recommendation of the Commission.

Selectman Landau asked if there were any portables there and Mrs. Reishus noted guidelines don't recommend.

Selectman Landau asked how Ranger Wright could monitor the lot and the beach. He would need to be provided with help or some form of transportation. Selectman D'Angelo asked how soon candidates could be obtained and Mrs. Reishus indicated college students are basically out now. Mrs. Reishus recommended four kids doing shifts monitoring and touch base about a parking attendant. Not just planning on hiring a few kids. Mr. Hadik noted the most important coverage would be weekends. Maybe hired someone to do eight hour shifts on weekends and another for 30 hours. Selectman Hagan indicated this might qualify for reimbursement. Chief Berube agreed it was definitely an option and to see what we have for funding in grants being offered.

Ms. Hammond noted it wasn't important which lot we used, but more that people aren't having to cross Route 102. If Mrs. Reishus is overseeing ranger assistants, she has the ability to oversee.

Chair Owens noted only one kid qualifies under police. Chief Berube indicated new attendees report to Ranger Wright, not as a supervisor, but a resource for them to reach out to. It was tough to find someone to do all his hours. Vice-Chair Myette noted an understanding of the hours of coverage should be completed. Chief Berube indicated calls for service are usually later in the day.

Vice-Chair Myette asked about volunteers and Mrs. Reishus noted volunteers for park attendants would be good but not for weekends.

Selectman D'Angelo recommended limiting the hours open and recommended 8 or 9 AM to close at 7 or 8 PM. Mr. Hadik indicated early morning is not an issue, maybe close early since its tough to round up people. Chief Berube asked if there were any restrictions in the By-Laws and Vice-Chair Myette noted there were none in the docs for the pond itself.

Selectman D'Angelo noted the no-parking sign could be going towards Raymond to keep cars from blocking view – would that help? Chief Berube indicated it would complicate things more and believes no parking signs would help and he has those ready.

Selectman Landau commended the Commission on doing a very good job. If people don't social distance on trails then it isn't our responsibility.

Selectman Landau noted it was his recommendation to use summer Rec. people for maintenance and have a presence there. Selectman Landau noted he was happy with what the Commission has thought of and is sure they will look at it and let us know if there is a problem.

Vice-Chair Myette motioned to allow the reopening of parking as of May 22nd with the Commission's conditions. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion.

Selectman D'Angelo indicated he would prefer to table the motion until Thursday to make sure everything is ready first.

Vice-Chair Myette withdrew his motion.

Vice-Chair Myette added that he thinks the work will be done by Friday. Selectman D’Angelo noted there is a lot to be done. Mrs. Reishus indicated maintenance has an agenda to put up the signs and stripe parking.

Selectman Hagan motioned to allow the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission to reopen the parking under the recommended restrictions when ready and changes made, mutatis mutandis. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye – D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, Owens – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman D’Angelo asked the Road Agent be notified to put up the no-parking signs.

Selectman Landau asked Mrs. Reishus how many candidates were available and Mrs. Reishus indicated she only talked to them about July 1st start with two under maintenance, two under recreation and one under the police department (maybe) and three are still being worked with.

Selectman Landau moved to have two work under recreation and rest work for maintenance or Chief with the Selectmen to handle salaries when they know who they work for. Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken D’Angelo – aye, Myette – aye, Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Reishus noted she already discussed salaries with them and Chair Owens directed to touch base with Town Administrator Doda.

3.4 Revisit Building Closures

Chair Owens noted the Stay at Home Order is in effect until May 31st.

Selectman Landau recommended waiting until at least the 31st. The Board meets again on June 1st and could keep closed until then and do a limited reopening.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated the Board could discuss employees the Thursday before. Town Administrator Doda noted the glass is installed but the door has not been.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if only employees were coming into Town Hall. Mrs. Lufkin noted no public has been in. Selectman D’Angelo asked about handling voter registrations and Mrs. Lufkin indicated the Executive Order came out with a downloadable form to change party affiliation online – it just has to be witnessed.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if another newsletter was planned and Mrs. Lufkin indicated no.

Selectman Hagan indicated registered independents can vote at either primary.

Town Administrator Doda noted she would update the closure through May 28th.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Selectman Landau noted the Village Cemetery Trustees would like to get the Cemetery ready for the 300th Anniversary and would like to do building and painting of gates. Half the work is done.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to expend up to \$2,000 for repairs. Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Hagan noted if help has to come from other than in-house to go to some people in Town.

Selectman Landau indicated the Village Cemetery trustees are currently using an older vehicle (19-20 years old) that had first belonged to the Fire Department, and then the Maintenance Department. Repairing it completely would not be worthwhile but they will do enough work for it to pass inspection and rather than renting a trailer each year for \$1,000 instead purchase a used one for not much more and register it.

Vice-Chair Myette noted the tree cutting at Wason Pond is more than halfway done.

Vice-Chair Myette asked if any Memorial Day Service is planned. Selectman Hagan will discuss it with Dick Trask.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated the Board talked about a June 20 Town Meeting. Tupelo Music Hall did a live broadcast this weekend and something similar with a streaming service could be done. Selectman D’Angelo recommended putting ten people in classrooms and doing a Zoom meeting with those classrooms. Vice-Chair Myette indicated an outdoor drive-in could be done. Town Administrator Doda noted Emergency Management has been talking about this and she recommends the drive-in idea.

Chair Owens noted excessive speeding on Route 121 has been reported, which he has also witnessed himself, now with less law enforcement ability. However, Selectman D’Angelo noted the Town was unable to put any sort of signage on the State Highway.

Vice-Chair Myette noted some are asking about the work being done at Spring Hill Farm fields; rocks are being pulled so haying can be done.

Chair Owens noted the following meetings were coming up:

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee 7 PM

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 300th Anniversary Committee 7 PM

Thursday, May 21, 2020 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting 7 PM

4.2 Potential Non-Public Sessions

Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II)(a) public employees and (I) legal advice. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:31 PM.

The meeting was reopened at 9:04 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Owens motioned to seal the minutes to the first non-public session, on Legal Advice, for an indefinite period of time; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.

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

V. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer
Recording Secretary