

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 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  
Realignment of Board  
Wason Pond Fencing  
Formation of 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
Liaisons  
Contracts  
Special Election of District 4 Seat  
Current Fiscal Year Budget  
County Worker Projects  
Roundtable  
Non–Public Sessions  
Adjournment

*1.1 Call to Order*

Vice-Chairman Trask called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00pm.

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen present:

Cass Buckley  
Jack Cannon  
Steve D’Angelo  
Jeremy Owens  
Dick Trask

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Jean Methot  
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Coordinator  
Jay Rowden, Chester NH Baseball & Softball Association  
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times

*1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

Vice-Chairman Trask led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*1.4 Chairman’s Additions and Deletions*

Fencing at Wason Pond will be discussed with Recreation and Baseball; there will be non-public sessions under (c) Reputation.

*1.5 Public Comments*

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:01pm.

**II. Old Business**

*2.1 Approval of Minutes*

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

**III. New Business**

*3.1 Realignment of Board*

**Selectman Cannon nominated Vice-Chairman Trask to serve as Chairman; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

**Chairman Trask nominated Selectman Cannon to serve as Vice-Chairman; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

*3.2 Wason Pond Fencing*

Recreation Coordinator Reishus and Jay Rowden of Chester NH Baseball & Softball Association (CBSA) appeared before the Selectmen to discuss the proposed protective fencing at Wason Pond. This subject had been raised last week, and further information had been requested.

The CBSA has solicited quotes to install backstops and fencing along the sides of the baseball diamonds; the lowest bid was from the company that had installed the existing fencing, Sturdy Fence. Photographs and diagrams were shown and explained to the Selectmen. Money has been set aside for this purpose; the plan has not changed.

**Chairman Trask moved to allow the expenditure of the Wason Pond Recreation Capital Reserve Fund for backstops and fences as in the plan; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion for discussion purposes.**

Selectman D’Angelo asked if the fences would have “Do Not Climb” signage; Recreation Coordinator Reishus will have to ask the Wason Pond Commission, as signage is covered by the Easement.

Selectman Buckley asked if there was sufficient money in the Capital Reserve Fund to perform the work; there is not, but the CBSA is also contributing funds. Chairman Trask asked if any other funds were available, perhaps from the Chester Charitable Foundation; Recreation Coordinator Reishus stated that she is always looking for that sort of thing.

Chairman Trask proposed amending his motion to allow the acceptance of any donated funds toward the work; Selectman Buckley seconded the amendment. The Selectmen gave unanimous consent, and the motion now reads:

**Chairman Trask moved to allow the expenditure of the Capital Reserve Fund for backstops and fences as in the plan, *and to accept any donated funds towards this work*; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion for discussion purposes.**

The backstop will not have a hood; that was considered to be cost prohibitive, plus the fields are

intended to be used by smaller children whose batted balls are unlikely to need that much protection. Vice-Chairman Cannon is concerned, however, that as the fields are open to all, adults playing there might send balls onto Route 102 resulting in accidents and cracked windshields. Mr. Rowden does not think this is likely, as there is a gap of ~150 feet between the field and Route 102; however, the risk should be mitigated if at all possible.

The question was called. **The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

Recreation Coordinator Reishus and Mr. Rowden departed the meeting at 7:11pm.

### *3.3 Formation of 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee*

Jean Methot appeared before the Selectmen to discuss a number of items.

#### 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been meeting since June of 2016; they would like to be an official Town committee. The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will begin in October of 2021 and last for a year, with an event each month, such as a play, a costume ball, etc. He expects to need ~40 subcommittees, and would like all Town organizations to sponsor an activity. Currently the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is holding a Logo Contest.

**Chairman Trask moved to create and designate the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee as an official Town Committee; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

**Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to appoint Jean Methot to the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee as its Chair; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

**Chairman Trask moved to appoint Tim Bortz, Jack Cannon, Chris Hadik, Rhonda Lamphere, and Ed Karjala to the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

#### Daffodil Project

Mr. Methot thanked the Selectmen for allowing daffodils to be planted on Town property. The current plan is to plant them at the Cemetery, the Monument, and at the 121/121A Triangle.

The Historical Society will be selling daffodil bulbs starting next week and ending at the end of September; bulbs will be delivered in October, which is the optimal time for planting. They hope that both individuals and businesses will purchase these bulbs and use them to beautify the roadsides. Order forms are available at the Library; anyone who purchases \$100 worth will receive a memorial brick as well. There is an address on the form for payment to be mailed in, but Mr. Methot will ask at the Library if they are willing to accept payment there as well. Additionally, the Historical Society’s office at Stevens Hall is open each month on the second Saturday.

#### Town Flag

Mr. Methot is willing to have a Town Flag created, using the seal, should the Selectmen wish. All he needs to know is what size and style.

#### Stagecoach Scenic Byway

He spoke with Beaman Cole, an artist who resides in Chester, about possibly painting a mural of a carriage with horses on the side of the MPR. The Selectmen were uncertain; it would most likely need touching up or repainting in a number of years. They would like to know the cost and see a rendering.

The Towns that this Byway passes through – Atkinson, Hampstead, Sandown, Derry, Chester, and Auburn – have formed a committee and are working on creating a website. They are looking into accepting ads to help defray the cost of the website. The Historical Society donated \$100 towards this project last year as the Byway promotes historical sites. The Committee would like Towns to contribute \$200 to the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Foundation Fund, which is a 501(c)(3), in the next Fiscal Year. Selectman D’Angelo suggested that developing an App would be a good idea.

#### Digitizing Records

The Town Clerk has records dating back to the 1700s that are too fragile to handle regularly. They were dried and cleaned up in ~1987; at that point the Church of Latter Day Saints took microfiche copies, and one can request to view them for a fee. Town Clerk Newnan gave Mr. Methot a proposal for record digitization at a cost of ~\$7,000. The Historical Society is willing to contribute to this project, especially as many of these records are hand written which means that extra work is needed to make them searchable. It is also possible that grants are available.

#### Monument

The Monument to WWII, Korea, and the Vietnam War in front of the Post Office is overgrown; Mr. Methot asked Maintenance Supervisor Amato to cut down two trees in its area, but he was loath to do so without the permission of the Selectmen. He did trim back; the Selectmen should inspect to see if further work needs to be done.

Mr. Methot would like to return to see the Selectmen in early September. He departed the meeting at 7:51pm.

#### *3.4 Liaisons*

A draft copy of current and suggested liaisons is in each Selectman’s folder; this list should be perused and any desired changes communicated to the Administrative Assistant.

#### *3.5 Contracts*

The Ricoh contract is already in hand, and has been sent to Town Counsel for approval. Town Clerk Newnan will be procuring contracts from Avitar (tax collection, assessing, building inspection, and eventually planning) and Block 5 (telephones and IT); these will be sent to Town Counsel once received.

#### *3.6 Special Election of District 4 Seat*

None of the three towns affected by the passing of William Polewarczyk (Auburn, Chester, Sandown) has petitioned for a Special Election as of yet. The Supervisors of the Checklist estimated the cost for a Special Election to be \$3,225.76; should a Primary be necessary, this would double. The Secretary of State has been approached and is of the opinion that hand-counted ballots and a reduction in the number of Ballot Clerks is a possibility, due to the historic smallness of such an Election.

Once one of the towns affected petitions for a Special Election, all three must comply. The Selectmen will wait to see if another Town petitions first.

#### *3.7 Current Fiscal Year Budget*

The budget is a little overspent as far as what is left at this point in time, but Finance Director Smith does not see any need to put a spending freeze in place as of yet. She will be providing weekly updates from now on.

### *3.8 County Worker Projects*

The County Workers will be in Town four days next week, and a list of projects has been compiled by Maintenance Supervisor Amato. They are scheduled to spread mulch at the playground on Monday and Tuesday. One job not on the list was roadside cleanup; this will be suggested to Road Agent Oleson again. It was reiterated that the Department that uses the workers pays for their lunch, and this is the only cost involved with their work.

## **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

### *4.1 Roundtable*

*Vice-Chairman Cannon:*

- The rope swing has reappeared at Wason Pond. Rules signage is in place, but enforcement is an issue. It was opined that many of the problems are caused by people from out of town who were turned away from Pawtuckaway due to overcrowding. Vice-Chair Cannon will speak with Police Chief Berube about the possibility of having a police presence on site, but other than that, responsibility for Wason Pond rests with its Commission.

*Selectman Owens:*

- Nothing to report.

*Selectman D’Angelo:*

- Nothing to report.

*Selectman Buckley:*

- Nothing to report.

*Chairman Trask:*

- Nothing to report.

### *4.2 Public Comment*

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 8:08pm.

### *4.3 Non-Public Sessions*

**Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

The meeting room was closed at 8:09pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 8:25pm.

**Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

**Chairman Trask moved that the minutes to the all four non-public sessions on Reputation be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

## **V. Adjournment**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda  
Recording Secretary