

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, March 18, 2021
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
Town Pound Clean Up
Wason Pond Pounder
Spring Hill Farm Plans/ Activities
Stevens Hall Update
Roundtable
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

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

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 (Present Remotely):

Chuck Myette
Steve D’Angelo
Stephen Landau
Joseph Hagan

Selectmen absent:
Jeremy Owens

Town Administrator Debra Doda (Present Remotely)

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

Alex Bartels
Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Patrick Connolly

Gary Goudreau
Buddy Menard
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director
Beth Sautter
Kristina Snyder
Robert St. Amand
David Veale
Maria Veale
Penny Williams, Raymond Area News
PACT

and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

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

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

Selectman Landau would like to add an update on Stevens Hall to the agenda this evening.

1.5 Public Comment

Vice-Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 7:01pm.

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:02pm.

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 Town Pound Clean Up

Robert St. Amand proposed cleaning the town pound and bringing more attention to the location. This would consist of a general cleanup of the interior, removing debris and brush. Also erecting a sign with the date and general information.

Selectman Landau confirmed the date of 1805 is engraved in lintel stone.

Vice- Chairman Myette indicated the road on the side of the Town Pound was an old Class VI road owned by the Rands. There is an easement around the area so the boundaries will need to be

checked on. Vice-Chairman Myette asked what resources and or funding would be needed for the project.

Mr. St. Amand will be providing the funding for the sign and has volunteers lined up to help with the cleanup. The cleanup would be a weekend project after the wet season is over.

Selectman D’Angelo questioned what the purpose was for the town pound. Mr. St. Armand stated that town pounds were a place to take an animal to that had escaped until the owner picked the animal up.

Selectman Hagan is in support of the project. Check with the Historical Preservation Commission about the possibility of getting a marker placed at the town pound. In *RSA 236:41: Section 227-C:4 X, Considering proposals to erect highway historical markers* states no such marker shall be put in place without division approval. The division may make cooperative agreements with towns and historical organizations to place historic markers under RSA 236:44.

Town Administrator Doda will work with Mr. St. Amand on the sign and get him in touch with Recreation Director Reishus for the volunteer paperwork.

Selectman Landau motioned to allow Mr. St. Amand to revitalize the town pound as a volunteer for the town. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – absent, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.

3.2 Wason Pond Pounder

Maria and David Veale and Patrick Connelly joined the meeting to present the Wason Pond Pounder.

Maria Veale explained the 10th and final Wason Pond Pounder was scheduled for last May and needed to be canceled due to Covid-19. Before the team restarts the planning, they would like the Board’s thoughts on having 1000+ people together in September.

Vice-Chairman Myette stated it is a large group of people, but it is spread out over hours and they come and go during that time. We are trying to plan for the town fair a few weeks before this event.

Recreation Director Reishus mentioned the guidance is still recommending no more than 100 people. Hopefully, the guidance will change by September so the activities can happen.

Ms. Veale inquired if the town would be following the same guidance as the state or not. Vice-Chairman Myette pointed out the Board of Selectman have followed the guidance in the past.

Selectman Hagan believes this is a healthy and bright group that will follow the guidance. If things get worse, they can postpone but for now we can give them our support in allowing them to plan for the event.

Selectman D’Angelo commended the group on the extraordinary job they do in putting it together. He commented it may be better for the group to have it in the Spring of 2022.

Patrick Connelly expressed they would like to have the final Wason Pond Pounder wrapped up this year but only if it is safe to do so.

3.3 Spring Hill Farm Plans / Activities

Beth Sautter summarized the activities and planning for Spring Hill Farm. Ryan Neal tapped the trees on Lane Road and maple sugaring should be finished soon. The Trust is in the process of applying for grants, one with AARP to help make the house ADA accessible and the 1772 Foundation for some foundation work on the barn.

Buddy Menard and Alex Bartels have approached the Spring Hill Farm Trustees about raising cattle on the farm. They have worked out an agreement to share the responsibility with the Trust to hay all the fields in return for 50% of the hay to feed their cattle.

Mr. Menard and Mr. Bartels started raising beef together and need more property for more cattle. They are interested in having more people come to the farm. In the future they would like to hold events on the farm such as bottle feeding the calves with any donations going back to the farm. With Covid-19 this and other educational activities are on hold.

Vice-Chairman Myette advised the memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been sent to the attorneys. This document explains who the parties involved are and how it will work with sharing the buildings, fields, and equipment. It is a fair cooperative agreement with labor to get the momentum for more activities on the farm.

Selectman Landau, liaison to Spring Hill Farm, feels this is a very good experiment for us and a great use of the farm.

Selectman D’Angelo agrees this is a great thing for the farm. He thanked Mr. Bartels for his service, and he appreciates their interest in Spring Hill Farm.

Selectman Landau motioned to accept the agreement as written by the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee and agreed upon by the Trust. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – absent, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.

Kristina Snyder is interested in having a plot or garden of milkweed at the farm on a walking trail near the pond. A milkweed garden will not only attract endangered Monarch Butterflies and pollinators to the area but also people will come to see the beauty of the garden. We can educate people about the Monarch Butterflies and explain how Spring Hill Farm is helping them.

Ms. Snyder reported that recently federal bills were signed for funding to help save the Monarch Butterflies. There are non-profits that will give you the seeds for the milkweed to get started.

Selectman D’Angelo believes it is a great idea for the under-utilized path at Spring Hill Farm.

Vice-Chairman Myette mentioned Ms. Snyder is also working on getting a fishing line receptacle set up at Wason Pond. Ms. Snyder stated the Chester Rod and Gun Club have donated to the cause.

3.4 Stevens Hall

Charters Brothers and Gary Goudreau spent a large portion of the day walking Stevens Hall with various contractors.

Mr. Goudreau has been reading up on what the town has for options when looking at replacing items in a historical building. He is advising a meeting may need to be set up with the state or local historical committee for clarification.

Town Administrator Doda will reach out to the State Historic Preservation Office for guidance.

Selectman Hagan questioned if any meeting should be during a regular board meeting so the town can attend and see what we are doing with the building.

Mr. Goudreau reported that Ron Peik is not concerned with the cistern in the basement. He is more focused on the water infiltration from the roof.

Charters Brothers had a slate contractor come look at the roof. The building currently has a Monson Slate which could last about 300 years. He did notice some mismatched and broken slate on the roof that can be fixed using the slate he has in stock.

Selectman Landau expressed how impressed he was with the slate contractors. The building will have scaffolding up on two sides of the building at a time for the roof repairs. The painter will be using a lift instead of scaffolding.

Mr. Goudreau advised that most of the copper on the roof will need to be replaced. Ice damming is an issue but there are a few options we can look at to help with that.

Selectman D’Angelo questioned if gutters were necessary on the building since ice dams are multiplied with the use of gutters.

Mr. Goudreau advised this would be a question we would ask the historical people. If we do have to leave them up there, we would need more down spouts on the building.

The insulation contractor confirmed there is no insulation in the walls. Spray foam in the walls and loose fill in the attic would help with the heat loss in the building.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if the roof would need to be vented with the foam insulation. Mr. Gaudreau advised it would be difficult to provide ventilation as the rafters are 2X6’s. However, foam insulation is a closed cell and does not need to be vented.

Mr. Goudreau advised the gutters would be a question for the Historical Preservation. He advised if the gutters need to stay on the building more downspouts would need to be added. He also mentioned the possibility of hiring a civil engineer to get water away from the stone wall.

Mr. Goudreau will keep the board up to date on the Stevens Hall project.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Vice-Chairman Myette reported the new Fire Department members are eligible for the vaccine.

Selectman Landau requested the budget and warrant articles be finished and sent to the Budget Committee soon. He is proposing to increase the Historic Building Capital Reserve Fund to \$300K and only having one Steeple Repair at Chester Congregational Church Warrant Article. Both articles can be amended at the Town Meeting if needed.

Selectman D’Angelo was hoping to have a timetable and estimate on the work needed for Stevens Hall.

Town Administrator Doda will place the Warrant articles on the agenda for next week.

Selectman Landau has a non-public on reputation.

Selectman Hagan has nothing to report.

Selectman D’Angelo has a non-public based on the Town Administrator’s weekly report.

Vice-Chairman Myette announced the following meetings are coming up:

Monday March 22, 2020 ZBA – 6:00pm

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 300th Anniversary Committee – 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 Planning Board – 7:00pm

Thursday, March 25, 2021 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting at 7:00pm

4.2 Non-Public Session(s)

Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II) (a) public employees (c) reputation, (d) property, and (e) pending litigation. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – absent, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens-absent.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:36pm.

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 10:27 PM.

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

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Public Employees, for a period of ninety (90) days. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll

call vote was taken, Owens – absent, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.

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

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fourth non-public session, on Public Employees, for an indefinite period. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – absent, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.

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

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

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

V. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis A. Jalbert
Recording Secretary