

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting  
Thursday, October 7, 2021  
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  
Wason Pond Leash Ordinance Public Hearing  
Recreation Commission Appointments  
Chester’s Local Mitigation Plan Update Agreement  
Chairman’s Announcements  
Roundtable  
Potential Non-Public Sessions  
Adjournment

*1.1 Call to Order*

Chairman Myette called the meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:01pm.

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen Present:

Chuck Myette  
Steve D’Angelo  
Stephen Landau  
Jeremy Owens  
Steve Couture

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Mark Desiderio  
Dwayne Demerit  
Kathy Dircks, Recreation Commission  
Chris Hadik, Wason Pond Commission  
Liz Lufkin, Town Clerk/ Tax Collector  
Nancy Myette  
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director  
Jason Walsh (Remotely)  
John Wright, Dog Officer

and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

51  
52 *1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*  
53

54 Chairman Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
55

56 *1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions*  
57

58 None  
59

60 *1.5 Public Comment*  
61

62 Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 7:02pm.  
63

64 As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:03pm.  
65

66 **II. Old Business**  
67

68 *2.1 Approval of Minutes*  
69

70 An approval sheet for the previous meeting’s minutes was sent electronically.  
71

72 *2.2 Items for Signature*  
73

74 All members reviewed and signed the items in the signature folder.  
75

76 **III. New Business**  
77

78 *3.1 Wason Pond Leash Ordinance Public Hearing*  
79

80 Chairman Myette opened the public hearing at 7:03pm.  
81

82 Selectman Landau recommended changing Wason Pond to Wason Pond Conservation and  
83 Recreation area if the ordinance is to be adopted.  
84

85 Chairman Myette read the proposed ordinance. (Attached to the minutes)  
86

87 Mr. Chris Hadik, Wason Pond Commission Chairman, stated the Wason Pond Commission has  
88 requested the Board of Selectmen to adopt this ordinance just for the Wason Pond Area. He  
89 mentioned the date is 1980 and not 1994 for the adoption of RSA 466:30-a.  
90

91 Mr. Hadik explained dogs on a leash has always been a rule but not enforced. John Wright, Park  
92 Ranger and Animal Control Officer has had many issues with dogs off leash. Mr. Hadik mentioned an  
93 incident occurred where an unleashed dog attacked a dog on a leash. The Commission is also  
94 concerned about the safety of the people using the area. The area contains a park for children and a  
95 community center used by the seniors.  
96

97 Selectman Landau inquired what the definition of a service dog is. Vice-Chairman Owens indicated  
98 there is a difference between service dogs and therapy dogs.  
99

Mr. Dwayne Demerit explained a service dog is a working dog and has a vest that specifically says, “Do Not Touch”. Mr. Demerit pointed out the ordinance does not say the dogs cannot swim at Wason Pond and people have brought their dogs there for years to swim. There is a sign now at the small beach saying no dogs.

Chairman Myette advised a definition was prepared by the New Hampshire Governors Commission on disabilities stating “A service dog that has been individually trained to provide assistance to an individual living with a disability. The tasks performed by the dog must be directly related to the person’s disability.” Selectman Couture advised the definition of a service dog should be added to the ordinance.

Mr. Hadik clarified in the ordinance there is no provision to take off the leash to go swimming. Chairman Myette advised there are regulations for no dogs on beaches from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Mr. Hadik indicated no dogs are allowed on the big beach year-round and the small beach during those dates. Any other places along the shoreline are fine for dogs or horses to swim but dogs will need to be on a leash.

Selectman Couture suggested the ordinance go to the Wason Pond Commission after corrections for approval before the Board of Selectmen approves the final ordinance. Selectman D’Angelo requested the ordinance be posted on the website.

### *3.2 Recreation Commission Appointments*

Ms. Kathy Dircks, Recreation Commission Chairperson introduced Mr. Mark Desiderio to the Board as the newest member of the Recreation Commission. Mr. Desiderio has been attending the quarterly meetings.

Ms. Dircks explained she would be appointed as a representative on the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Commission and Mr. Desiderio would be a representative of the Recreation Commission on the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee.

Mr. Desiderio mentioned he is new to the town and chose Chester for the schools and of course the scarecrows. He would like to give back to the town by volunteering.

**Selectman D’Angelo motioned to appoint Mark Desiderio as a regular member of the Recreation Commission with a term to expire on May 31, 2024. Selectman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Selectman D’Angelo motioned to appoint Mark Desiderio as a representative of the Recreation Committee on the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee with a term to expire on May 31, 2022. Selectman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Selectman Couture motioned to appoint Kathy Dircks as a representative of the Recreation Committee on the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Commission with a term to expire on May 3, 2022. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.**

150  
151 *3.2 Chester’s Local Mitigation Plan Update Agreement*  
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153 Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lufkin pointed out the local hazard mitigation plan needs to be updated  
154 every five years. The total cost to update the plan is \$10K with \$7500.00 from a grant and the  
155 remaining \$2500.00 is the town’s match. The town’s portion will be in kind and will come from the  
156 town’s time and effort put into the plan. The state delegated the pricing which is set by population.  
157 A contractor has been identified for the project and they will do all the recording for the town.

158  
159 Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lufkin mentioned having Department Heads, Selectmen, Chester  
160 Academy, and the public’s help with this project.  
161

162 ***Selectman Landau motioned to accept the terms of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program***  
163 ***as presented in the amount \$7,500.00 to update the community’s local hazard mitigation plan***  
164 ***acknowledging the total cost of the project to be \$10,000.00, in which the town will be***  
165 ***responsible for a 25% match (\$2,500.00). Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call***  
166 ***vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – aye, Landau –aye. With all***  
167 ***in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***  
168

169 Chairman Myette stated the Select Board, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Pre-Disaster  
170 Mitigation Grant Program as presented in the amount \$7,500.00 to update the community’s local  
171 hazard mitigation plan. Furthermore, the Board is acknowledging the total cost of the project to be  
172 \$10,000.00, in which the town will be responsible for a 25% match (\$2,500.00).  
173

174 **IV. Selectmen’s Business**  
175

176 *4.1 Chairman’s Announcements*  
177

178 Chairman Myette announced the following meetings for next week:  
179

180 Tuesday, October 12, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting at 7:00pm  
181 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee meeting at 7:00pm  
182

183 Wednesday, October 13, 2021 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm  
184

185 Thursday, October 14, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting at 7:00pm  
186  
187

188 Chairman Myette announced the following events:  
189

190 Saturday, October 16, 2021 Lions Club Food Drive 8:00am to 2:00pm  
191

192 Sunday October 17, 2021 Hazardous Waste Day 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Transfer  
193 Station  
194

195 Saturday, October 23, 2021 Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic and Drug Take Back Day at the  
196 Transfer Station from 10:00am to 2:00pm  
197

198 Saturday November 6, 2021 Scouting for Food at the Transfer Station  
199

Saturday November 13, 2021                      Scouting for Food at the Transfer Station

*4.2 Roundtable*

Vice Chairman Owens:  
*Nothing to report.*

Selectman Couture suggested notifying the landowner who placed a gate and signage on a Class VI Road to remove the items. Selectman Landau pointed out that the road is not maintained by the town, but the authority for gates and signs on the roads belongs to the town.

Chairman Myette mentioned the road in question is a thruway and not a dead end. Selectman Landau mentioned Class VI Roads are subject to gates and the gate can stay if the Board approves but it needs to be unlocked.

The Board agreed to allow the Building Inspector to contact the landowner if possible and have them remove the gates and signage. If the landowner is not found either the Highway Department or Maintenance Department can remove them.

Selectman Couture has one non-public on reputation.

Selectman D’Angelo has one non-public on reputation.

Selectman Landau has two non-publics on reputation.

Chairman Myette has one non-public on reputation.

*3.1 Wason Pond Leash Ordinance Public Hearing (Continued)*

***Selectman Couture motioned to continue the Public Hearing until November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.***

***Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – aye, Landau –aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

*4.3 Non-Public Session(s)*

Chairman Myette announced there are five non-publics on reputation.

***Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II) (c) reputation. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – aye, Landau –aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

The meeting was closed to the public at 7:53 PM.

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:07 PM.

*Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of one (1) year. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – aye, Landau –aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

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

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

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

*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 Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – aye, Landau –aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

#### **V. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis A. Jalbert  
Recording Secretary