

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting  
Thursday, March 31, 2022  
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 Pounder  
Facilities Rental Fees  
300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/ Town Fair Discussion  
Policies  
Release of Impact Fees - Recreation  
Chairman’s Announcements  
Roundtable  
TA Report  
Action Items  
Potential Non-Public Sessions  
Adjournment

*1.1 Call to Order*

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

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen Present:

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

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief (Remotely)  
Mark Desiderio, Recreation Commission  
Kathy Dircks, Recreation Commission  
Chris Hadik, 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
Rhonda Lamphere, 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Stacy Manfrates (Remotely)  
Nancy Myette  
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director  
David Veale  
Maria Veale

and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

### *1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairman Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### *1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions*

Release of Impact Fees was added to the agenda.

### *1.5 Public Comment*

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

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

## **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.

## **III. New Business**

### *3.1 Wason Pond Pounder*

Ms. Veale mentioned the Wason Pond Pounder was started in 2011 with proceeds funding the Wason Pond field construction. When the field construction ended it was evident the event would go on. The proceeds shifted to donations to local charities. The 10<sup>th</sup> and final Wason Pond Pounder is scheduled for May 21, 2022. It was noted the runners will not be utilizing the causeway bridge, just spectators and/ or volunteers for the event.

It takes about nine months of prep to have a successful pounder starting with monthly meetings and then weekly meetings a few months prior to the actual event. Total donations thru 2019 from the event have totaled two hundred forty-four thousand four hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$244,475). Chester charities have received 41% of the donations. They are also asking the participants to bring in nonperishable food items to be given to 68 Hours of Hunger.

The Wason Pound Pounder Board would like to request an ordinance preventing dogs or horses at Wason Pond on the day of the event with a town employee on site to enforce it. Since this is the last

pounder, they will need access to the barn until all the pounder supplies have been disseminated. There is a possibility of another group taking over the event in the future, but it is not confirmed.

Chairman Myette thanked the group for all their time and donations over the years. He stated the ordinance would be considered and it would be posted in advance of the event that the park is closed to dogs and horses on that day. Chairman Myette indicated the barn could be utilized until everything is either disseminated or the Town will work with a new group in the future.

Selectman Landau mentioned if there is an ordinance for that day it should include all livestock and not single out dogs and horses.

### *3.2 Facilities Rental Fees*

Recreation Director Reishus mentioned the fees for the rental of the town buildings have not changed since 2014. These forms are the same forms the town has been using with a few language changes during the pandemic. Vice Chairman Couture suggested a revisions date on the bottom of the form.

The language for Covid -19 precautions should be updated. Vice Chairman Couture wondered how to enforce adherence to the precautions, but the town is unsure what people have to adhere to for Covid-19. Recreation Director Reishus will reach out to Primex for a recommendation on the wording on the forms.

Selectman D’Angelo inquired why residents and charities are being charged. Recreation Director Reishus advised townspeople are not required to pay and charities are waived. Also, there is no charge for Wason Pond, however the deposit is higher. For events in town with more than 50 attendees, they are required to have a meeting with the Technical Review Committee, have a police detail and portables dropped for the event.

Recreation Director Reishus mentioned the recreation revolving account currently has \$1300.00 in deposits from various groups that use the facilities on a regular basis. Selectmen Landau suggested the deposit money should go to the Town and not Recreation. Then the responsibility of the money is on the town. Selectman D’Angelo advised after a few events with no incidents the deposit money and insurance should be waived for townspeople and charities. This would streamline the process.

Recreation Director Reishus inquired if the Board is ok with out of towners renting the facilities. Vice Chairman Couture questioned if it is worth the town’s resources to rent to out of towners. Selectman D’Angelo advised the priority is for Chester residents and others can be bumped. Vice Chairman Couture mentioned they cannot be bumped if the town is charging for the use of the facilities.

Selectman Landau pointed out Stevens Hall is not making money on the rentals and feels it should not be rented to non-Chester residents. Selectman Owens suggested making it very clear who can use Stevens Hall.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if someone from town renting the facilities would be covered by the town’s insurance. He would like someone from the insurance company to come and speak with the Board. Recreation Director Reishus mentioned some participants in the clubs or groups that meet in our facilities are non-residents.

Selectman D’Angelo requested that any changes to the rental fees or forms be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

### *3.3 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/ Town Fair Discussion*

Chairman Myette mentioned there has been a change and the Board is looking for an update on the Town Fair and 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Mr. Hadik mentioned the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and Town Fair Committee had considered a joint event. The 300<sup>th</sup> is ok with a similar smaller event without the Town Fair Committee participating in the event.

Recreation Director Reishus stated in consideration of town resources, the Town Fair Committee was asked to merge the Town Fair and the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The Town Fair is commonly held on the Saturday following Labor Day, however the 300<sup>th</sup> requested September 24<sup>th</sup> in order to get all the school bands and other acts scheduled for the parade. Town Administrator Doda mentioned the first responders did not have the resources for two large events in the same month.

There was a meeting with the Police Chief at the fields with the 300<sup>th</sup> and the entire platform changed. Mr. Desiderio advised the biggest issue for the Town Fair is the beer tent and how much space is needed. Mr. Hadik mentioned the area for the beer was found to not be enough space. If limited to one tent people would drink fast and go back out to the festivities. Ms. Lamphere inquired why the beer is an issue when the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee has it under control with the Police Chief.

Vice Chairman Couture, in listening to the two groups, pointed out the biggest issue is when the beer tent was opened to a much larger space.

Selectman Owens stated the event is clearly different than the past and it’s not the worst thing to have a different event this year. Mr. Desiderio feels the 300<sup>th</sup> is a grand event and the Town Fair could not fit in the area.

Selectman Landau pointed out with everything the 300<sup>th</sup> has planned along with the fireworks, there is not much space left for the Town Fair events. Chairman Myette requested the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee keep the Board informed about the parking and logistics of the event.

Mr. Desiderio mentioned the Town Fair Committee has discussed bringing some of their events to the Spring Hill Fall Festival. Chairman Myette stated there cannot be a Town Fair at Spring Hill Farm. Recreation Director Reishus indicated it would be a few agricultural games or a few farm animals.

### *3.4 Policies*

Town Administrator Doda advised Town Counsel made some changes to the social media policy.

***Selectman Landau motioned to approve the social media policy as amended by Town Counsel. Vice Chairman 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.***

Selectman D’Angelo questioned why the town is going forward with this policy; town counsel did not approve of some of the items the Board would like taken out. Vice Chairman Couture stated this

is relevant to the town employees and what they do or don’t post on social media. His understanding of this policy is it can be enforced if the town employee puts something on social media that was not authorized.

Town Administrator Doda presented the revenue collection and deposit policy. This was last updated in 2013 and it outlines the process in how the town collects and deposits money.

### *3.5 Release of Impact Fees – Recreation*

Chairman Myette reviewed the request to release impact fees for the engineering of the Wason Pond Bridge. The Conservation Commission is splitting the cost of the engineering.

***Vice Chairman Couture motioned to approve the release of \$31,250.00 in Recreation impact fees for the preliminary engineering and bid package program for the Wason Pond Causeway Bridge project. Selectman Owens 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.***

Selectman D’Angelo questioned the release of impact fees for engineering prior to the engineering for the weight limit on the current bridge structure. Chairman Myette advised the bridge is temporary and the permit is only good for six months. A new permit will need to be pulled every six months to continue to utilize the bridge. With engineering on the temporary bridge structure, the permit will not need to be pulled as often.

Town Administrator Doda mentioned the estimate of cost for how much weight the temporary bridge can handle has not been received. This still needs to be approved by Town Counsel once the Board of Selectmen have reviewed.

Chairman Myette suggested the Revenue Deposit policy be reviewed and placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Selectmen Landau suggested adding to the town in 5.2. It would then read the “TC/TX notifies the check writer, by certified receipt returned letter, that his/her check did not clear and that the original amount of the returned check is now owed to the Town of Chester along with applicable fees, which include a \$25.00 returned check fee, bank charges, postage, and any legal fees.”

## **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

### *4.1 Chairman’s Announcements*

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Monday, April 4, 2022	Wason Pond Commission Meeting at 7:00pm
Tuesday, April 5, 2022	300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting at 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 6, 2022	Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm School Board Meeting at 7:00pm
Thursday, March 31, 2022	Board of Selectman Meeting at 7:00pm

Saturday, April 23,2022

Rabies Clinic from 9:30-12:00 at Town Hall. Hosted by ARK  
Animal Homecare - please call ARK

You must be pre-registered to participate. The Town Clerk's Office will be open during the clinic for  
dog licensing only.

#### *4.2 Roundtable*

Selectman Landau  
*Nothing to report*

Selectman D'Angelo stated he was selected as a committee volunteer for finance and revenue for  
2023- 2024 New Hampshire Municipal Association Legislative Policy Process. He will be attending  
the meeting tomorrow. He would like the Board's opinion on some of the items they will be  
discussing at the meeting.

Selectmen D'Angelo mentioned the possibility of all NH towns not getting the room and board tax in  
the future. He suggested sending a letter to the governor to not support this. Chester counts on that  
revenue every year. Vice Chairman Couture advised before a letter is sent to get more details.

Vice Chairman Couture asked for an update on the grants. Town Administrator Doda advised she is  
filling out grants and letters of intent for other grants. Town Planner Hadik (not present) is also  
filling out potential grants for the town.

Vice Chairman Couture was happy to see the Recreation Department, School, and Chester Baseball/  
Softball were in agreement with the field usage and maintenance of the town field. He inquired if  
the field drainage had been assessed. Recreation Director Reishus advised maintenance is working  
with a local contractor on pricing. It was also mentioned the fencing on the fields is in need of  
repairs. This item will go on the Capital Improvement Plan in the future.

Selectman D'Angelo asked that a list of impact fees be given to the Board.

Chairman Myette mentioned the Road Agent needs an answer on whether Fremont Road will be put  
on the list for a wear course. Without a wear course it was noted the town would not be able to  
request a sufficient bond for the road. The company that destroys it can be charged but not for the  
full amount. All members were in agreement to have a wear course put on Fremont Road.

Selectman Owens  
*Nothing to report*

#### *4.3 Town Administrator's Report* *Nothing to report*

#### *4.4 Action Items* *Nothing to report*

#### *4.5 Non-Public Session(s)*

Chairman Myette announced four non-public sessions.

***Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II) (c) reputation and (e) pending litigation. 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.***

The meeting was closed to the public at 9:10PM.

***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.***

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:55 PM.

***Vice-Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of thirty (30) days. Selectman Landau 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.***

***Vice-Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of thirty (30) days. Selectman Landau 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.***

***Vice-Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the third non-public session, on Pending Litigation, for an indefinite period. Selectman Landau 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.***

***Vice-Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the fourth non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of six (6) months. Selectman Landau 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.***

## **V. Adjournment**

***Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. 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.***

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis A. Jalbert  
Recording Secretary