

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Thursday, September 28<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  
Items for Signature  
Appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Zoning Board of Adjustment – New Employee Hiring  
Appointment to Conservation Commission  
Conservation Commission Representatives to Spring Hill Farm Trustees  
Highway Department Update  
Acquisition/Disposition of Surplus Equipment  
Roundtable  
Non-Public Sessions  
Adjournment

*1.1 Call to Order*

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  
Steve D’Angelo  
Jeremy Owens  
Dick Trask

Selectmen absent:

Jack Cannon

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Ted Broadwater, Conservation Commission  
Courtney Cashman  
Phil Cassista, Conservation Commission  
Billie Maloney, ZBA  
Deb Munson, Conservation Commission  
Chuck Myette, Conservation Commission  
Nancy Myette  
Michael Oleson, Road Agent  
Baron Richardson, Conservation Commission  
Kevin Scott, ZBA  
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times  
And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

*1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairman Trask led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*1.4 Chairman’s Additions and Deletions*

There were neither additions nor deletions.

*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.

*2.2 Items for Signature*

Chairman Trask urged all members to review and sign items in the Signature Folder.

**III. New Business**

*3.1 Appointment to Zoning Board of Adjustment*

Courtney Cashman appeared before the Selectmen with ZBA Chair Billie Maloney and ZBA Vice-Chair Kevin Scott in order to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Mrs. Cashman moved to Chester last year; although she has various skills and work experiences, her current occupation is as a parent. She has attended a number of ZBA meetings and a site walk, and is interested in becoming more involved in the community. She has yet to read the ZBA Handbook or Zoning Ordinances, as she does not have copies; ZBA Chair Maloney is in the process of finding these for her.

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to appoint Courtney Cashman as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year term to expire May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

Mrs. Cashman departed the meeting at 7:06pm.

*3.2 Zoning Board of Adjustment – New Employee Hiring*

**Selectman D’Angelo moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Employment; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

The meeting room was closed at 7:07pm. ZBA Chair Maloney and ZBA Vice-Chairman Scott remained in the meeting room.

The meeting room was re-opened at 7:14pm.

**Selectman Buckley moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

**Chairman Trask moved that the minutes to the first non-public session, on Employment, be sealed for a period of one (1) year; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to hire Nancy Hoijer at the wage discussed to fill the vacant ZBA Administrative Assistant position; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

ZBA Chair Maloney and ZBA Vice-Chairman Scott departed the meeting at 7:15pm.

### *3.3 Appointment to Conservation Commission*

Ted Broadwater, Phil Cassista, Deb Munson, Chuck Myette, and Baron Richardson appeared before the Selectmen to be re-appointed to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Broadwater has been on the Conservation Commission for ~18 months; he likes being of service to the community, and has learned quite a bit.

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to reappoint Ted Broadwater to the Conservation Commission for a two-year term to expire September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

Mr. Cassista has been on the Conservation Commission for ~6-7 years.

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to reappoint Phil Cassista to the Conservation Commission for a one-year term to expire September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

Mr. Richardson has been on the Conservation Commission since being recruited by Maureen Lein and Cam Lockwood at Town Fair ~18 years ago.

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to reappoint Baron Richardson to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term to expire September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

Ms. Munson has been on the Conservation Commission for ~3.5 years; she is also a Library Trustee and Chester’s representative to the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission for the last ~2.5 years.

**Selectman Buckley moved to reappoint Deborah Munson to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term to expire September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Chairman Trask abstaining and Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

Mr. Myette has been on the Conservation Commission for 23 years; he also serves on the Agricultural Commission, the Spring Hill Farm Board of Trustees, the Strategic Land Protection Committee, and the Wason Pond Commission. Selectman D’Angelo opined that this was a large number of boards and asked how he had enough time to devote to all of them; Mr. Myette replied that this is his passion and that he gave time to each board equally.

**Selectman Buckley moved to reappoint Chuck Myette to the Conservation Commission for a one-year term to expire September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was two in favor with Chairman Trask and Selectman D’Angelo abstaining and Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

Chairman Trask inquired about the Strategic Land Protection Committee (SLPC) which has been functioning as a sub-committee of the Conservation Commission; he believes this is contrary to the Warrant Article by which it was formed. Mr. Myette replied that it had been originally formed by members of the Conservation Commission and has continued in that fashion. Chairman Trask is concerned that the only land being considered is for conservation; Mr. Richardson noted that the name of the committee contains the word “protection”.

Mr. Myette explained that the SLPC had been established in order to help with the preservation of prime farmland against development and in favor of wetlands and wildlife. The SLPC could certainly look at land for cemeteries, ballfields, a police station, etc. He and Mr. Broadwater are currently the only members of this Committee, with Selectman Owens as their liaison, but they would be happy to accept more members. The Warrant Article specified that there should be a member of the Planning Board and a member of the general public on the SLPC also.

Selectman D’Angelo noted that having committee members appear for re-appointment is a good time for members of the public to learn about boards and committees and their need for members. Mr. Myette suggested that the Selectmen disseminate a written policy on appointment and reappointment to Board and Committee chairs in order to avoid the current situation. Selectman D’Angelo replied that it is addressed in the RSAs and keeping members’ appointments current avoids problems should a legal challenge arise.

Mr. Broadwater, Mr. Cassista, and Ms. Munson departed the meeting at 7:40pm.

### *3.4 Conservation Commission Representatives to Spring Hill Farm Trustees*

Mr. Myette stated that he and Mr. Richardson are interested in being considered Conservation Commission representatives to the Spring Hill Farm Board of Trustees, as the Trust documents specify; although it is not necessary that they be officially appointed, he had requested to discuss this in the interests of transparency. Selectman Buckley opined that Mr. Richardson would be a great addition to the Spring Hill Farm trustees.

Chairman Trask is concerned that Mr. Myette is Chair of both the Conservation Commission and of the Spring Hill Farm Trustees; he believes that this is a conflict, and wondered if Mr. Myette would be acting in the best interests of the trust, or of the taxpayers? Selectman Buckley dissented; he believes that the Chair of a committee has no more influence than any other regular member, and also that Spring Hill Farm is a conservation mechanism already. Mr. Richardson added that Mr. Myette recuses himself when necessary.

Mr. Myette and Mr. Richardson departed the meeting at 7:45pm.

### *3.5 Highway Department Update*

Road Agent Oleson appeared before the Selectmen to update them on the Highway Department’s activities.

The Highway Department has been mowing roadsides, shoulder leveling, and cold patching on an ongoing basis. They plan to crack seal in October. Also scheduled for October is a drainage project on

Shattigee Road – two catch basins and culvert will be installed, to a design by Dubois & King requested by the Planning Board and at a cost of \$40-\$50k, to mitigate road issues being caused by water coming down a driveway built within the past couple years. To avoid issues like this in the future, all driveway designs must be reviewed and approved by both the Building Inspector and the Road Agent.

Road Agent Oleson has ordered his salt for the winter; two companies service New Hampshire at identical prices, and he has chosen the one who has provided good customer service in the past.

Plow contracts are in place; he has the same crew as last year, and the price was increased by the 3% CPI.

All plows are in pretty good shape; they will need sandblasting and painting in the Spring. Chairman Trask suggested utilizing the Rockingham County inmates for that work; he will keep them in mind.

Paving work agreed to 6-7 weeks ago has been completed. Bellwether, Fiddlehead, Purington, Sheepwash, and Trillium were all shimmed and wear coursed. Isinglass was shimmed only and will be wear coursed next year. These roads should last another 10-12 years at this point and will move to the bottom of the list in the CIP.

The hole in the Maintenance Garage parking area will be hot patched at the cost of a few hundred dollars, and in the Spring if there are sufficient funds remaining in the budget it will be paved. The quote was reasonable and the company reputable.

A 600-700 foot section of Harantis Lake Road was paved at a cost of \$22k. This road often needs cold patch; his plan is to pave as much every year as he can.

He inquired about the town-wide road pavement evaluation that was approved out of the CIP at Town Meeting this year; this evaluation should take place before the winter in order that he knows which roads will be worked on next year. Planning Coordinator Hadik will be asked to check with SNHPC again to see what their schedule is.

Selectman D'Angelo stated that he continues to have concerns about Road Agent Oleson's invoicing. He would prefer weekly to monthly invoices, and failing that, he would like much more detail on the invoices, suggesting that instead of merely saying 'crack fill' that the invoice should list each road that received crack fill work. Road Agent Oleson dissented, stating that in that particular case, crack fill will take place on every road in Town and listing them would cause the invoice to be 20 pages long rather than two. Work that takes place on specific roads only is already detailed, and in cases where it cannot be, one can review the Highway Department employees' time sheets to see where they were working on any given day.

Selectman D'Angelo also asked why the Town was paying Road Agent Oleson \$35/hour to chip brush; the reply was that the employees needed assistance, and that it was his job to see that the work was done.

Selectman Owens asked why Selectman D'Angelo continually brings this subject up with Road Agent Oleson; he believes that it's unprofessional. Selectman D'Angelo asked Selectman Owens why he was defending Road Agent Oleson, inquiring if Selectman Owens was in Road Agent Oleson's pocket; this comment was protested against by both Selectman Owens and Road Agent Oleson.

Selectman Buckley opined that Road Agent Oleson maintains the road to a better standard than necessary; Road Agent Oleson countered that he, not the Board of Selectmen, is the person who receives complaint calls from residents dissatisfied with the roads. If the Selectmen are unhappy with his work, they do have the option of cutting off his department's funding.

Road Agent Oleson departed the meeting table at 8:08pm.

### *3.6 Acquisition/Disposition of Surplus Equipment*

The Police Department is in the process of acquiring a ‘side by side’ UTV from a military surplus outfit at no cost. It may need some repairs. They plan to use it for Wason Pond patrols, parades, large events, etc. Once it has arrived, the BOS will be asked to accept it on behalf of the Town.

Selectman Buckley wants to be sure that this is considered a temporary extra vehicle, not one that needs to be replaced once it reaches the end of its useful life.

## **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

### *4.1 Roundtable*

*Selectman D’Angelo:*

- He apologized to Road Agent Oleson and Selectman Owens for losing his temper.

*Selectman Owens:*

- Nothing to report.

*Selectman Buckley:*

- Nothing to report.

*Chairman Trask:*

- The Road Name Advisory Committee is in need of three or four additional members. Interested parties should contact the Selectmen’s Office.
- \$5,200 to repair doors in the Police Department was in last year’s CIP and was encumbered at the end of FY2016-2017. The original contractor has been unable to make time for this work, so Maintenance Supervisor Amato solicited another quote, which is \$1k less. The Selectmen were in favor of this work being performed by the second contractor.
- A quote was solicited for a solar powered, wireless security camera system at Wason Pond. It is prohibitively expensive, however, so other options will be explored.
- He would be interested in purchasing a used dump trailer if one can be found inexpensively, as the Town has been renting one quite a bit lately.

### *4.2 Non-Public Sessions*

**Selectman Buckley moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Pending Litigation for two items; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

The meeting room was closed at 8:19pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 8:37pm.

**Selectman Buckley moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

**Chairman Trask moved that the minutes to the second non-public session, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for a period of one (1) year; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

**Chairman Trask moved that the minutes to the third non-public session, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

**V. Adjournment**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Chairman Trask moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda  
Recording Secretary