

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, October 5th, 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
Appointments to the Agricultural Commission
Appointments to the Wason Pond Commission
Audit Response
Acceptance of Soccer Scoreboard
Payroll Deduction Life Insurance Offering
Spring Hill Farm
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
Jack Cannon
Steve D’Angelo
Jeremy Owens
Dick Trask

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Jodi Boeske, Agricultural Commission
Steve Boeske, Agricultural Commission
Tiffany Coroka, Agricultural Commission
John Dalrymple, Wason Pond Commission
Jeff Geary, Agricultural Commission
Chris Hadik, Wason Pond Commission
Kevin Kistler, Wason Pond Commission
Chuck Myette, Conservation Commission
Nancy Myette
Darrell Quinn, Wason Pond Commission
Baron Richardson
Herb Rowell, Wason Pond Commission
Jay Sweet
Gary Van Geyte, Agricultural Commission

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, which includes the contract for the Town’s new website designer.

III. New Business

3.1 Appointment to the Agricultural Commission

Jodi Boeske, Steve Boeske, Tiffany Coroka, Jeff Geary, Chuck Myette, and Gary Van Geyte appeared before the Selectmen to be appointed to the Agricultural Commission.

Mr. Van Geyte is Chair of the Agricultural Commission, and has been a member since 2011, as have Mr. Geary and Mr. Myette. Mr. Boeske and Mrs. Boeske have been on the Agricultural Commission for three years. Ms. Coroka has recently joined.

To a question by Selectman D’Angelo, Mr. Van Geyte responded that the Agricultural Commission facilitates communications between the Town’s farmers and the Board of Selectmen. They disseminate information via their liaison, Chairman Trask, and the Town’s Annual Report.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to appoint to the Agricultural Commission the following persons with positions and terms:

Jodi Boeske – Alternate – Two Year Term to expire October 4th, 2019
Steve Boeske – Regular – Three Year Term to expire October 4th, 2020
Tiffany Coroka – Alternate – Three Year Term to expire October 4th, 2020
Jeff Geary – Regular – Three Year Term to expire October 4th, 2020
Chuck Myette – Regular – One Year Term to expire October 4th, 2018
Gary Van Geyte – Regular – Three Year Term to expire October 4th, 2020

Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

Mrs. Boeske, Mr. Boeske, Ms., Coroka, Mr. Geary, and Mr. Van Geyte departed the meeting table at 7:10pm.

3.2 Appointment to the Wason Pond Commission

Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Hadik, Mr. Kistler, Mr. Myette, Mr. Quinn, and Mr. Rowell appeared before the Selectmen to be appointed to the Wason Pond Commission.

To a question from Selectman D’Angelo, Mr. Myette responded that although the group had originally been founded as an Advisory Committee to research the acquisition of the Wason Pond property, they had been transitioned by a Warrant Article at Town Meeting 2006 into a Commission. Their current function is to oversee both the Recreation and Conservation parts of the property – making decisions about the use and maintenance of the land and buildings - with the guidance provided by the Conservation Easement.

Insofar as buildings are concerned, the original plan allows for a gazebo to be built by the beach, as well as restroom and storage areas; existing buildings may be maintained in kind. The repair of the dam and the construction of the Covered Bridge were both allowed per the Conservation Easement. There is some dispute about the expected date for construction of the gazebo, as it shows up in the CIP both in 2018 and in 2023. The Commission is still discussing whether this will be built by the Timber Framers Guild, a regular contractor, or by volunteers.

Selectman D’Angelo also inquired about trail maps. The original maps/markers were a Boy Scout project, but there was no provision for maintenance; the trails still exist, but are not clear. Mr. Myette has been in contact with a person who is interested in this project, and it will be discussed at the next Commission meeting. This is a separate item from the Trail Mapping project as begun by Conservation Commission member Aaron Hume.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to appoint to the Wason Pond Commission the following persons with positions and terms:

John Dalrymple – Alternate – Three Year Term to expire October 4th, 2020
Chris Hadik – Regular – Three Year Term to expire October 4th, 2020
Kevin Kistler – Regular – One Year Term to expire October 4th, 2018
Chuck Myette – Regular – One Year Term to expire October 4th, 2018
Darrell Quinn - Alternate – Three Year Term to expire October 4th, 2020
Herb Rowell – Regular – Two Year Term to expire October 4th, 2019

Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

Per the Warrant Article, one member of the Wason Pond Commission must be a Selectman; as their Liaison, Chairman Trask will be appointed for the remainder of his current term.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to appoint Dick Trask as a regular member of the Wason Pond Commission for a one year term to expire May 16th, 2018; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Trask abstaining; motion carried.

Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Hadik, Mr. Kistler, Mr. Myette, Mr. Quinn, and Mr. Rowell departed the meeting table at 7:22pm.

3.3 Audit Response

The Selectmen read over Finance Director Smith’s responses to the audit. Selectman D’Angelo’s only question was about the Great Hill Cemetery Trustees, saying that it is a subject that needs to be addressed. Is there a possibility that the two sets of Cemetery Trustees could be merged? It does not appear that they can be grandfathered.

The Selectmen agreed that the responses were satisfactory and able to be sent to the Auditors.

3.4 Acceptance of Soccer Scoreboard

The Booster Club sells snacks during soccer games as a fundraiser. They used some of these funds to purchase a portable battery operated scoreboard, and wish to donate it to the Town. Selectman Buckley stated that as this is a donation to the Town, not a purchase, the Town is not obligated to replace it should it cease to function.

Selectman Owens moved to accept the gift of a battery operated scoreboard from the Booster Club; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

The Selectmen thanked the Booster Club for their donation.

3.5 Payroll Deduction Life Insurance Offering

An employee has requested that the Finance Department deduct life insurance premiums from payroll; the Finance Department has no objection. This life insurance will be provided by the same company that administers the Town’s 457 plan.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to allow the Finance Department to deduct life insurance premiums from payroll; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

3.6 Spring Hill Farm

The Selectmen agreed that their plan for Spring Hill Farm is for it to be a working farm and as little burden to the taxpayers as possible. Selectman Buckley reported that at the last meeting of the SHF Trustees, they had been loath to make any plans due to the uncertainty around the Selectmen’s willingness to work with them. The Selectmen confirmed that they would like to start working together with the Spring Hill Farm Board of Trustees as soon as possible to accomplish these goals.

Selectman D’Angelo reported that he had visited Mont Vernon this weekend for their annual Lamson Farm Day, which is much like our Town Fair. Lamson Farm is a property that was donated to the Town in the 1970s. The Farm is overseen by a Commission, and consists of a barn and a house as well as 200 acres of land. The property is used for farming activities such as haying and timber harvesting; it is also used for recreation activities such as hay rides, weddings, cross country skiing, etc. Much of the house is used as a museum and can be visited with an appointment.

Mr. Myette noted that there are a few other similar properties in New Hampshire – some towns mentioned were Wilmont, Stratham, Hudson, and Bedford.

As there is no RSA governing a Town operating a farm, the Legislature passed a resolution in 1978 to allow it. Selectman Buckley asked if it was prohibited for a Town to run a Farm; Selectman D’Angelo stated that as there is no home rule, it is indeed prohibited. Mr. Myette noted that Attorneys had drafted the original trust documents for Spring Hill Farm with the involvement of the Attorney General; no issue

was ever mentioned.

Chairman Trask would like to see more residents involved in the farm; he would like to see events that benefit the residents that support it with their tax dollars. Selectman Buckley agreed, stating that in his opinion the Trustees were highly motivated to make something happen at Spring Hill Farm.

There was some conversation about how residents could learn about the Town’s conservation properties, including Spring Hill Farm. Information can be found in the Town’s Annual Report and on the Website. Selectman D’Angelo noted that he had recently picked up a Scarecrow Map; if that could be created, why not a map of conservation property?

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Vice-Chairman Cannon:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman D’Angelo:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Owens:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Buckley:

- Nothing to report.

Chairman Trask:

- Chester Academy is having a flag burning ceremony on Wednesday, November 8th, 2017 at 2:00pm at the Softball field. Attendees are encouraged to wear their military uniforms. Flags to be destroyed should be brought to the school before November 8th. One may telephone 887-3621 x 301 with questions.
- Library Director Kandace Knowlton procured bids during the prior Budget Season to replace the library windows; the Town approved the withdrawal of \$9,958 to perform this work via Warrant Article #8 at this May’s Town Meeting. Library Director Knowlton would like to utilize the lowest bidder, a local, reputable contractor who has confirmed that his price is still valid. All of the Selectmen were in favor of this.
- A letter of praise for the Transfer Station was received by a resident. It was agreed that the Transfer Station employees ensure that the Town receives the most income possible by enforcing the separation of recyclables.

4.2 Non-Public Sessions

Selectman Buckley moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation for two items and (e) Pending Litigation for one item; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 7:51pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 8:21pm.

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

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the minutes to the first non-public session, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the minutes to the second non-public session, on Reputation, be sealed for a period of one (1) year; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the minutes to the third non-public session, 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, October 12th, 2017.

Selectman Owens moved to adjourn the meeting; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda
Recording Secretary