

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, October 19, 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
Dugout Repair at Town Fields
Bryan Remillard – Edwards Mill Dam
Roundtable
Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Trask called this meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 19, 2017.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Steve D'Angelo
Jeremy Owens
Dick Trask
Jack Cannon

Selectmen absent:

Cass Buckley

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Corinna Reishus
Kevin Kistler
Jason Sharp
Tim Archer
Nancy Myette
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Trask led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, emphasizing “You will stand.”

1.4 Chairman's Additions or Deletions

Chairman Trask acknowledged Jean Methot who appeared on behalf of the 300th Anniversary committee to announce that the daffodils ordered had arrived and would be available for pickup by those who had placed orders, at the old Highway garage on Friday evening from 6-8 pm and on Saturday morning from 9 am to 12 pm. Vice-Chairman Cannon asked how many they had sold and Mr. Methot reported that there were 5,095 bulbs sold.

Chairman Trask reminded that the Adopt a Garden program is looking for anyone interested in starting and taking care of gardens in public areas, anyone interested could come in and fill out a form.

Chairman Trask advised that there would be two non-public sessions under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) employment and RSA 91-A:3, II c) welfare application.

1.5 Public Comment (10 minutes)

None.

II. OLD BUSINESS

2.1 Approval of Minutes

Chairman Trask urged all members to read the minutes and indicate their approval.

2.2 Items for Signature

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

III. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Dugout Repair at Town Fields – Tim Archer, Jason Sharp

Recreation Director Reishus appeared with Mr. Archer, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Kistler to discuss the proposed plan filed with the building inspector to make repairs to the dugouts. The dugouts are falling apart. The plan is to fill in the holes, build on top of what is there, similar to softball, use the existing foundation wall.

Selectman D'Angelo asked if the new proposal would offer protection to the kids who were sitting, protection from foul balls, netting or batting cage. Selectman D'Angelo also inquired as to the liability waiver of the volunteers participating in the reconstruction. Vice-Chairman Cannon directed that the volunteers sign a waiver of liability in case anyone gets hurt. Recreation Director Reishus reported that she had already sent that out.

Selectman Owens advised that the timetable was for this fall or next spring and that the building inspector will need to sign off.

Vice-Chairman Cannon inquired how long the project would take the volunteers? Mr. Kistler advised that it should take three weekends to complete.

Selectman D'Angelo motioned to accept the project, as designed in the plans. Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded his motion. Voting 4 in favor, with none opposed; motion carried.

Recreation Director Reishus asked permission to establish a trust account for donated funds received on behalf of the Recreation Department. Vice-Chairman Cannon suggested that it should have a limit, a ceiling of how much the account can maintain to allow for matching funds, not that there would be any limit to the amount of donations being accepted.

Vice-Chairman Cannon motioned to allow a Trust account to be created to accept donated funds on behalf of the Recreation Department with a ceiling of \$20,000.00 in the fund at any given time, adjusted at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman D'Angelo seconded his motion. Voting four in favor and none opposed; motion carried.

3.2 Bryan Remillard – Edwards Mill Dam

Chairman Trask acknowledged that Mr. Remillard was not present.

IV. ROUNDTABLE

Selectman D'Angelo advised that he had attended a meeting of the Joint Loss Protection Committee on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at the Chester Public Library chaired by Chief Berube, (hosted by Kandace Knowlton who provided a tour of the building). Some of the items discussed were requested to be brought forward to the Selectmen's meeting were:

- testing of the air quality in Room 20
- security
 - o prior Dept. of Labor study;
 - o door locks and deadbolts/keypad;
 - o wiring of Recreation Office panic button;
- Community Center
 - o handicapped ramp rebuild
 - o bump switch access
 - o removal of railing
- maintenance of MPR floor

Selectman D'Angelo reported that there were concerns raised concerning the air quality in Room 20 where some documents had been stored. Chief Berube suggested that Selectman D'Angelo, who had experience in this area, to coordinate with Mr. Amato to select a company who could provide testing to see what the source of the problem is. Selectman D'Angelo advised that he understood there must be at least three components present: temperature, moisture and a food source such as the cellulose in the paper. Selectman D'Angelo recommended Boston Environmental who would

charge \$500.00. Chairman Trask offered that the moisture problem was likely resolved when the documents were moved from Stevens Hall basement where the moisture problem existed. Selectman Owens advised that if it has been identified it needs to be done. Vice-Chairman Cannon advised that the main concern is how much study do you actually get for \$500 versus \$5,000.

Selectman D'Angelo advised that there were issues with people when locks were frequently changed and they would like to have installed a numeric keypad similar to that at the BOS office.

Selectman D'Angelo advised that the building inspector identified that the handicapped accessible ramp at the Community Center was non-compliant with ADA requirements and would like to have it replaced by a contractor who had expertise in this area. The Selectman were in 100% agreement that a proposal should be obtained. Additionally, the bump switch has been identified as an area of concern, because you cannot get it unless someone lets you in and with the motor burning out.

Selectman D'Angelo advised that kids were climbing on the railings at the soccer field and could get hurt. Selectman Owens directed that the railings served no purpose so Mr. Amato could immediately remove them.

Selectman D'Angelo advised that the Department of Labor study had been raised again that was looked at before. Vice-Chairman Cannon reported that a lot of ideas had been previously considered such as installing a phone in the lobby and Deb Doda could dig all of those out when she returned and that it might need to become a CIP item.

Selectman D'Angelo advised that the wireless panic button for the RC office was not transmitting as it was too far away and should be wired.

Selectman D'Angelo advised that there was a problem reported with water visible along the MPR wall at floor level and someone needs to look at this. Selectman Owens agreed they needed to figure out the cause.

Chairman Trask presented a copy of a proposal for Spring Hill; Farm that was put together by a resident. Chairman Trask stated that it was a wonderful presentation and vision statement that identified some potential classes that could be taught, such as bread making, canning, freezing, knitting and community events to name a few.

Chairman Trask stated that Busche Academy would allow parking on Halloween night on their property, hopefully the fire department will assist with that again this year, recommended asking the Chief to come in and discuss.

Selectman Owens raised the issue of whether to continue the payment of the 55% of rent received, to the Spring Hill Farm Trustees.

Selectman D'Angelo motioned to discontinue any future payments to the Spring Hill Farm Trust at this time. Selectman Owens seconded his motion.

Vice-Chairman Cannon stated that they have been trying to work things out but there is a divisive element in Trustee Wamsley and recommended not making future payments until he resigns or the trustees remove him. Chairman Trask opined that it would be a bad idea to link that condition.

Selectman D'Angelo advised that he had reviewed the documents and there is no requirement to continue to do business with them.

Voting were four in favor and none opposed; motion carried.

Selectman D'Angelo suggested that Recreation Director Reishus could put together an advisory committee for managing activities at Spring Hill Farm which could include members from the Recreation Commission added Selectman Owens, and a member from the Agricultural Commission advised Chairman Trask, such as Baron Richardson or Cindy LeBlanc who have offered to help. Selectman D'Angelo recommended that they put together an outline of their roles and responsibilities.

Selectman D'Angelo motioned to have Recreation Director Reishus set up an advisory committee to manage the activities at Spring Hill Farm. Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded his motion. Voting four in favor and none opposed; motion carried.

Chairman Trask asked what to do about the Trust? Selectman D'Angelo voted to do nothing at the moment, "baby steps"; Vice-Chairman Cannon stated that "we are not there yet." Selectman Owens stated that he would like to continue to get interaction. Chairman Trask stated that he would like to see a good faith effort put forth by the trustees, with no further disparaging newspaper articles by the trustees "pouring gasoline on the fire." "Let's open the farm up to the public where it belongs."

Selectman D'Angelo recapped his visit to the town-owned farm at Mont Vernon and the proposals dropped off by the member of the public and would like to see some of those events move forward, farm to table dinners, activities for the kids, CSAs, a farm stand, classes from flower-arranging to herbs and bee keeping, composting, "fairy garden" scavenger hunts, camping for the kids, concerts and the hay/sleigh/sledding previously promised and some trail mapping.

Selectman Owens stated that Selectman Buckley, who was not present, had expressed an interest in putting together a Q&A session at PACTV concerning Spring Hill Farm. Selectman Owens advised that the Selectman haven't been able to answer questions for the past few months due to the pending legal matters and would like to be able to address Why the decision was made and Plans going Forward. Selectman Owens advised that their decision was the best decision for the taxpayers, "its not about feelings or the vocal minority" and that discussion would be forthcoming.

V. NON-PUBLIC

Selectman D'Angelo, by roll call, moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a), Public Employees, and RSA 91-A:3 II (c), Reputation. Selectman Owens seconded his motion. The Vote was 4 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting room was closed to the public at 7:45 pm.

Vice-Chairman Cannon motioned that the minutes be sealed for six months. Chairman Trask seconded his motion, voting four in favor and none opposed; motion carried.

The meeting room was reopened at 8:30 pm.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Meeting Room.

Selectman D'Angelo motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded his motion. The vote was four in favor; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer, Recording Secretary