

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, August 29, 2018
203 Middlesex Ave.
Community Meeting Room
Chester, CT

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, and Selectman Grzybowski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - tabled.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Lauren reported that the Board of Fire Commissioners recently appointed Robert Bandzes to the Commissioner seat vacated by Joel Severance. Since it is the BOS's responsibility to appoint Fire Commissioners, the Board of Fire Commissioners has requested that the BOS validate their appointment. The appointment has gone through the RTC.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to appoint Robert Bandzes to the Board of Fire Commissioners as a full member with a term to expire 11/19/19. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CES SOLAR PROJECT PERMIT

Lauren reported that she received a letter from the Building Official requesting that the Chester Elementary School, as part of the municipality, be exempt from the Building/Electrical Permit Fee associated with the solar project at the school. The school would still be required to pay all appropriate state fees.

Lauren Gister made a motion to waive the Building/Electrical Permit Fee for the solar project at Chester Elementary School. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that James Gryzbowski is the Facilities Director at Chester Elementary School.

MUNICIPAL BALLOT

Discussion on the Municipal Ballot was tabled until the 9/26/18 BOS meeting. The goal is to send the item to a Town Meeting in the current calendar year.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Charlene reported on the recent Main Street Committee meeting including:

- The Chester Fair went well with minor policing incidents.
- Three potential parking designs for the "Chester Wall" area were presented.
 - Design One - discarded as it came too far out into the street.
 - Design Two – two parking spots lost as a result of moving in the parking area.

- Design Three – leave the majority of the parking area “as is” but move the handicap parking spot to the other side of the street to expand the sidewalk in this area. There may be handicap van accessibility issues if the handicap parking spot is relocated.

No vote was taken on any of the designs; however, Committee members who participated in the site walk recommended Design Three. The architects will provide a simple sketch of Design Two and Design Three for discussion at the next Main Street Committee meeting (9/11).

Liability concerns were discussed regarding placement of tables and chairs in the expanded sidewalk area outlined in Design Three. Note that the BOS determines the final plan for Main Street.

James Grzybowski reported on the following:

- The elementary school is ready to open on 9/30/18. The kitchen suppression system alarm was accidentally set off today.
- The solar project at CES is substantially complete.
 - No additional information available yet on costs associated with tree removal.
 - More trees identified for removal than originally anticipated.
 - James will discuss further with the contractor.
 - Tree work will not be done when school is in session.
 - Roof damage has been repaired at the expense of the contractor.
- Fire Fighters Grant – The Department will pursue grants to acquire SCOTT equipment (breathing apparatus) and a water access tank to be utilized at Cedar Lake.

Lauren reported on several concerns regarding trees including:

- Potential blockage/damming due to fallen trees in Jennings Pond, Pattaconk Brook and other waterways in Chester.
 - Many of these trees are on private property but some are not.
 - Concerns will be discussed with the Tree Warden including options for clearing the trees, responsible party and costs.
- Emerald Ash Borer Beetle is killing Ash trees and we are seeing the death of some Oak trees as well. Approximately Twenty percent of Chester’s roadside trees are Ash, so this is a major concern. This is a state-wide concern but it is uncertain if there are any state or regional funds available to address the matter. The additional \$15,000 budgeted for trees will not be enough to address the matter.
- POCD – A second survey has been developed and will be posted in the paper, Facebook, and various other websites and social media outlets. Hard copies are available at the Library and Town Clerk’s office. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled 9/27. A draft of the POCD is due in November. Public Hearings/Town Meetings are required for approval.
- The \$53,000 LOTCIP grant for work at the Meetinghouse has been approved and the check has been received from the State.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Lauren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk