

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018
CHESTER TOWN HALL
203 MIDDLESEX AVENUE
CHESTER, CT

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister and Selectwoman Janecek.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2018 BOS meeting. Lauren Gister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE CITATION REVIEW

Included in the BOS packet was Town Ordinances pertaining to the Traffic Authority, hearing procedures and an update of the procedures associated with a review of a citation, developed by Betty Perrault.

Citation history in Chester indicates that in 2018, approximately 50 town tickets were issued. Of those 50, 3/5 have been paid. Some unpaid tickets are Chester residents. Enforcement of infractions to “out of town” individuals was discussed. Lauren reported that the Town of Westbrook has connected their town tickets to the Tax Collector’s office. She will follow-up on this protocol.

Lauren reported that she met with members of the Citation Board and the Resident State Trooper regarding a checklist for individuals to be included on the citation along with the protocol for scheduling a hearing. The BOS discussed the possibility of sending a letter, including protocols, to individuals who have not paid their ticket. The documentation will be reviewed and discussed further by the BOS.

For comparison purposes, the BOS packet had copies of several towns’ citations including Chester, Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Clinton. Other towns’ citations are for vehicle infractions only; Chester’s citation includes boating and snow violations. The various fines associated with infractions, and due dates of same, were briefly discussed by the BOS. Fines are typically doubled if not paid within the allotted timeframe.

Next steps include: a thorough review of documentation/Ordinances by BOS, BOS to consider changing the format of the citation (include an envelope), clarification on protocol for paying and/or appealing the citation; any changes to the document would need Town Meeting approval.

This item will be discussed further at a future BOS meeting.

MUNICIPAL BALLOT

Lauren reported that the BOS may wish to propose making ZBA, Inland Wetland, WPCA and all alternate seats appointed, not elected, positions. The BOS, BOF, BOE, Library Trustees, P&Z, Town Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector would remain elected positions.

Lauren reviewed the past Town Meeting minutes regarding the status of various positions; she noted that residents want their elected representatives to answer to the Legislative Body of the Town. While agreeing with this notion, Lauren reported on the difficulty in filling seats (people do not wish to run and be “political”). Consequently, the ballot remains blank and individuals are appointed anyway.

The BOS discussed the protocol used for nominating individuals to Boards/Commissions. Unaffiliated voters and voters from “other” parties do not have a relationship with either the DTC or the RTC but are willing to serve the community. Currently, we do not have a mechanism to offer them (approximately half of our registered voters), this opportunity. The importance and requirement for equal representation on Boards/Commissions was stressed.

Charlene suggested placing an ad in the newspaper, town wide e-mail, etc. asking individuals to contact the Town if they are interested in serving.

Charlene suggested using the same protocol as Deep River, appointments made at a Town Meeting. Those in attendance at the Town Meeting vote on the nominations. Lauren will follow-up with First Selectman MacDonald on the Deep River protocol.

The goal is to be more inclusive and totally transparent in the protocol used to fill vacant seats on Boards/Commissions.

This item will be discussed further and voted on at the next BOS meeting. A Town Meeting in November will be scheduled for town discussion and vote. The possibility of a Referendum vote on the item was briefly discussed. If requested, a Referendum can be scheduled. Note that there is a substantial cost associated with holding a Referendum.

SELECTMEN’S REPORTS

Charlene reported that the Main Street Committee reviewed 3 parking proposals for the “Wall” area. A configuration was chosen and will be sent to the designers for development of a permanent plan.

The plan chosen eliminates a portion of the sidewalk by the “Wall” and includes 6 parking spots. There was unanimous approval of the plan. At the appropriate time, merchants, residents, etc. will be updated on the timeline and planning of the project.

A copy of the plans will be posted on the website and will be available in the Selectman’s office for public review. The Committee will meet again in 2 weeks.

Lauren reported on the following:

- The new survey for the POCD is out. Feedback on the survey includes concerns about the complexity of the document. Several individuals have had difficulty in finishing the survey.
 - The next Task Force Meeting (rep. from every Board and Commission) is scheduled 9/27/18 @ 6:30 p.m. This is the last Task Force meeting scheduled.
 - 10/11/18 (tentatively) – P&Z meeting – Malone & McBroom will have a draft POCD document to present to P&Z for their review.
 - P&Z will hold special meetings in October and November to work on the document.

- Proper protocol used to fill Commission vacancies and FOIA requirements vis a vis meetings was discussed. The First Selectman's office is scheduling a training session with FOIA representatives – date to be determined.
- A meeting to discuss Emergency Procedures (pre-winter planning) will be scheduled. The importance of residents signing up for notifications was discussed. Lauren will include this in the next Chester Events article. A separate mailing list may be developed for emergency only notifications.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Lauren Gister made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter and the potential negotiation of a contract. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Session resumed.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lauren Gister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk