

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING
TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 26, 2018
Community Meeting Room, Chester Town Hall
Chester, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Grzybowski and Scott Mills, Tree Warden.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Scott Mills, Tree Warden, presented a list of trees that need to be removed. He estimated approximately 100 trees, many in the Cedar Lake Road area, need attention. He requested an extension of his hours to facilitate the project. Mr. Mills provided an update to the BOS on the tree work being done and/or scheduled with a tree contractor. Scott has been working with the tree contractor to address the tree work that is too extensive for the public works department to handle.

Mr. Mills reported that the contractor provided a price of \$6,000 for the North Quarter Park tree work. There are also several trees in the Maple Street area that need to be addressed. Lauren will follow-up with the Director of Public Works regarding same. Lauren requested that Mr. Mills provide a cost estimate for tree work; both in house and contractor. Mr. Mills reported that Eversource has been proactive and helpful in removing trees.

STORMWATER REQUIREMENTS AND ORDINANCE FOR TOWN MEETING IN 2019

Lauren distributed a draft Stormwater Ordinance and Citation Hearing Procedure (attached), template provided by Jacobson & Associates for BOS review. No BOS action is needed at this time. This item will be discussed further at a future BOS meeting.

Lauren will follow-up regarding the possibility of the same Citation Review Board procedure for Storm Water and Traffic violations.

BALLOT CHANGES FOR TOWN MEETING IN 2019

Lauren updated the BOS on the proposed changes to the Ballot, including issues relative to the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA). The Town currently has no Ordinance related to the BAA; however their role is that of an administrative review board discussing the validity of assessments. Members are typically elected to the position. Lauren will investigate the role of this Board further and discuss with the Town Attorney.

The BOS is recommending that the Board of Finance and Planning and Zoning “seats” remain elected positions.

As previously reported, little response was received regarding proposed changes to the ballot. Information on the proposed changes was posted on the Town’s website and in the Valley Courier. The Selectmen reported that they received positive feedback verbally from several individuals.

CITATION REVISIONS - This item was tabled to a future BOS meeting.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Lauren reported that the Retirement Board does not currently have sufficient members necessary to establish a quorum. Several other Boards/Commissions are in need of representatives including Region 4 Grounds/Maintenance (this board is currently developing a Capital Plan for the schools), ZBA (2 alternate positions are open), Citation Review Committee and the Middlesex County Revitalization Committee. An e-mail “blast” will be sent out to solicit individuals interested in serving on Boards/Commissions.

SELECTMEN’S REPORTS

Lauren reported on the following:

- POCD – draft has been distributed and is also on the Town’s website. There is a 65 day review and comment period. A Public Hearing on the Plan is scheduled 2/25/19.
- Interviews are scheduled for the Tax Clerk position. There are 7 candidates and any town resident/applicant will be interviewed. The Hiring Committee consists of Lauren, Madeline and Deb.

Lauren Gister made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion on the BOS’s position regarding the purchase of the 33 Liberty Street property. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lauren reported that the Town’s application for the Municipal Liability Relief Program; i.e. Brownfield Relief, has been accepted. This program holds the Town exempt from past actions on property and provides protection for the Town **IF** the 33 Liberty Street property is purchased by the Town. Per the BOF’s request, Lauren has talked to an Environmental Consultant regarding the property.

The lack of a Phase I Environmental Study prior to the Town taking ownership of the property will preclude Chester from getting Federal remediation funding and possibly State funding as well. The risk associated with the lack of the Phase I report is concerning to the BOS. These items will be addressed at the Town Meeting on 12/27/18.

Lauren Gister made the following motion: the BOS spent 2.5 weeks investigating the 33 Liberty Street property and wanted to give the Town an opportunity to discuss the property; however, based on the inaction of the sellers and the uncertainty caused by the lack of a Phase I Environmental Study, the BOS feels that they cannot recommend moving forward further with the purchase at this time. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 28, 2018

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/28/18 BOS meeting as presented. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

James Grzybowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski, Clerk