

Chester Main Street Project Committee

Special Meeting, May 21, 2019

Page 1 of 2

1. Call to Order

The Chester Main Street Project Committee held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Joplin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Seating of Members

In attendance were Michael Joplin, Ed Meehan, Chuck Mueller, Leslie Strauss, Jeremy Ziemann and Charlene Janecek.

3. Discussion of content and criticisms during public presentation

Karin Badger noted Option A was a better design and safer. Chester should be walk friendly and wanted the Selectmen to be visionary.

Susan Wright noted the CT Tourism Conference is in favor of Option A since it is being promoted nationwide. This is not an easy decision but aesthetically people should be visionary.

Jillian Belnap noted she drives a school bus and that area is the narrowest. She would like to see every inch possible to get through.

Laura Grimmer noted she had no opinion about the plaza area. The bigger issue is time frame.

Selectman Gryzbowski noted the travel lane will be 11½ feet.

4. Discussion and possible vote on design and hardscape at Chester Wall

5. Possible vote on option – parking area in asphalt vs. hardscape of Belgium Block and granite
Motion by Meehan, second by Strauss, that the Committee recommend Option B to the Selectmen. In favor – 2, Opposed – 3. Motion Failed. Motion made and seconded that the Selectmen consider and approve Option A. In favor – 3. Opposed – 2. Abstained – 1. Motion Passed.

6. Final recommendations to Jacobson Associates and Kent & Frost to move forward with 70% construction documents to 100%

Selectman Gryzbowski noted he would like to see the list of remaining items that need to be covered so the Committee can get moving on this and get approvals.

Chairman Joplin noted he will talk to Brian Kent and Jeff Jacobson about any open issues. The punch list includes street lights, trees, electrical, piping for one business. It is not known yet about Spring and Maple Streets.

Chuck Mueller noted the only outstanding idea is eliminating the cobblestone.

Chester Main Street Project Committee

Special Meeting, May 21, 2019

Page 2 of 2

7. Request to Jacobson and Kent & Frost to tell us what else they need from the Committee in order to have 100% construction documents by September 15th

The Committee requests the Selectmen encourage Jacobson to move forward with final design as soon as possible in order to get working by the end of February. Bid documents need to be at ConnDOT by December 1st or earlier if possible. Chuck Mueller noted documents should be ready to go in September. Chairman Joplin noted he will meet with Jeff Jacobson to push and ask what is necessary to complete by August.

Selectman Gryzbowski and First Selectwoman Gister met with CT Water Company who is favorable to do the water main October 15 to November 15th.

Motion by Meehan, second by Janecek, to request that Board of Selectmen meet with Jacobson and Chairman Joplin to expedite a time frame to produce bid documents in a timely manner seeking August 1st deadline. Unanimously Approved.

Leslie Strauss asked what money is going to be available to property owners. Chairman Joplin noted that is an unknown figure. The property owners have been told to look into testing their sills. Laura Grimmer noted there needs to be a plan for reimbursing everyone who has a problem whether they have funds or not.

Chairman Joplin noted the biggest void is Simons. Using them as an example – Simons owns the void with the public sidewalk. If the town were to pay for repair of the wall, then anyone else should get money from the town as well.

8. Bills for Payment – none.

9. Approval of Minutes – April 23, May 1 and May 14, 2019

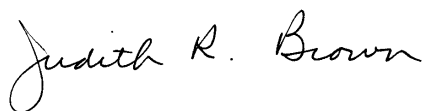
Motion by Mueller, second by Meehan, to approve May 14, 2019 Minutes as amended. Unanimously Approved.

10. Audience of Citizens – citizens commented throughout the meeting.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Meehan, second by Strauss, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary