

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
Chester Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, and Selectman Grzybowski and Karina Garrity, Press.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

The recently reinstated Central Region Tourism District is in need of a Chester representative. No party affiliation is necessary for the “seat”.

Lauren Gister made a motion to appoint Shubert Koong to a 3 year term on the Central Region Tourism District. Jamie Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROPRIATIONS

As previously reported, the Town realized a greater than anticipated end of year surplus. Lauren provided an update on the proposed projects for the use of these funds to complete projects in the current year instead of waiting for the next fiscal year’s budgeting process.

Meetinghouse Floor – Skip Broom, Historic Builder/Contractor has inspected the Meetinghouse and is currently developing a report relative to the scope of the work and cost estimates for same. Note that the Meetinghouse is on the Historic Register.

Brownfields – currently awaiting cost estimates for Phase II of the Skyview Property.

Main Street Project – Lauren is working on an estimate of the funds that will need to be released for the Main Street Project for projects that need to be completed prior to the receipt of grant money or that the LOTCIP grant cannot be utilized to pay for.

Tree work – discussions continue with the Tree Warden relative to an on-going list of trees that must be addressed. Jamie identified one tree on school property that needs attention.

It is anticipated that the BOS will make a recommendation to the BOF for the release of funding at their September or October meeting. A Town Meeting is necessary for final approval.

MAPLE STREET PARKING LOT AND WALKWAY

Lauren reported that the repairs to the Maple Street Parking Lot and Walkway have started. The grading is being completed and the path is being “rolled” in preparation for paving.

Jacobson and Lauren have been discussing options for lighting. The current walkway lights will remain and there will be 3 additional lights (one at bottom and two at top). A lighting specialist is being

consulted to provide recommendations for lighting in the parking lot. It is hoped that the antique lights will be preserved and moved to an appropriate location. Costs for lighting have not yet been determined.

Jamie reported that he has received positive feedback from residents about the work that has been done in the parking lot/walkway area.

MAIN STREET PROJECT UPDATE

Lauren reported that she is waiting for the easement documents from the Town Attorney. The Inland Wetland Commission has reviewed the project and their minor comments are being addressed by Jacobson. The 8-24 review by P&Z is scheduled for September 12th.

Charlene reported that the Main Street Committee met last night with Conservation Commission representatives to discuss plantings. Their suggestions for native plantings are being reviewed by Brian Kent, Landscape Architect. Note that Scott Mills, as Tree Warden, makes the final decision on what plantings are used in the project.

Jamie commented that many native plants are too high and need more space than what is available. Also, they need to withstand road conditions; i.e. salt.

FREEDOM TRAIL PROCLAMATION

The Celebration dedicating the Judge Motley Preserve and Former Home as a Heritage Site on the Connecticut Freedom Trail is scheduled on Sunday, 10/6 @ 2:00 p.m. at the Cedar Lake site. A copy of a proposed proclamation for the event was distributed to BOS members. Lauren encouraged the BOS to “wordsmith” the document and provide input on same. The final proclamation will be discussed further at the 9/25 BOS meeting.

APPROVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT RESOLUTION

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adopt the annual Emergency Management Performance Grant Resolution, which states, in part:

RESOLVED, that the BOS may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Lauren S. Gister as First Selectwoman of the Town of Chester is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the BOS and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

Jamie Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Lauren reported that the Kings Highway drainage project has started (4 new catch basins) and questions regarding the project developed by the Inland Wetland Commission have been addressed. It is anticipated that the project will be complete within the next 10 days.

A group of merchants, property owners, town staff, and restaurant owners will meet to discuss “survivability” during the Main Street project. Their first meeting is scheduled next Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

Jamie will be traveling to Pennsylvania to inspect the ambulance. The vehicle will go directly to Whelen for the installation of the lights. It is anticipated that the vehicle will be in service on 10/1. Due to maintenance issues on the current ambulance (the vehicle is out for service), we are currently utilizing an ambulance on loan from the Town of Clinton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 8/28/19

Jamie Grzybowski made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/28/19 BOS meeting as amended. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correction – Page 3 – Note that both Jamie and Charlene provided an update on the Main Street Project.

ADJOURNMENT

Jamie Grzybowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk