

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, October 2, 2019
Chester Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, and Selectman Grzybowski.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS- None.

APPROPRIATIONS

As previously reported, the Town realized a greater than anticipated end of year surplus. Lauren provided cost estimates for projects including \$25,000 in cost share for the dredging of Chester Creek (this item already voted on by BOF and forwarded to Town Meeting).

Additional items to be considered for funding include:

- Meetinghouse Floor – no “firm” cost estimates available at this time (approximately \$40,000)
- Brownfields - Skyview property - approximately \$28,000 for Phase I and Phase II
- Natural Hazardous Mitigation Plan update – working with COG for joint update for 15 member towns
- Tree Work – current budget will be depleted by Thanksgiving – anticipated \$20,000 in additional funds necessary for Spring work
- Release of Main Street Funds - for projects that need to be completed outside of the grant (approximately \$4,000 for easements/legal fees, additional engineering, construction management relative to “walls”, test pits, easement map, SHIPPO, Jacobson’s participation at additional meetings as requested by Main Street Committee, bidding process) – approximately \$32,300.00.

The BOS will discuss further and take action at the next BOS meeting.

MAIN STREET PROJECT UPDATE

Lauren reported that the easements are in progress relative to streetlights, drainage, and 18 temporary construction projects. Attorney Bennett recommends that the easements not be signed until the easement map is finalized. On 10/8, the Main Street Committee will vote to approve the final map. Once the Main Street Committee has approved the final map, the BOS can take appropriate action.

Design and bid documents relative to the project are to be forwarded to RiverCOG and DOT on 10/15/19.

The Water Company received no response to their RFP for “night work” (possibly due to costs associated with keeping the asphalt plant open); therefore, the Water Company has a contractor to do the work in

sections, (100-120 feet open at a time). No additional details of the project are available at this time; however, the contractor has requested information relative to permits.

Jamie expressed concern about the “temporary patches” that may be used by the Water Co. (see temporary patches in Essex) and compaction rates. Jamie will follow-up on the project with the Water Company.

FREEDOM TRAIL PROCLAMATION

As previously reported, 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. Charlene and Jamie will represent the BOS at the event.

A copy of the Proclamation for the event was available for BOS review.

Jamie Grzybowski made a motion to approve the Proclamation as presented. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SEPTEMBER 25 FLOOD CLAIM UPDATE

Lauren reported that the FHWA paperwork is being finalized. The Federal Highway funds have been obligated. Final figures have yet to be determined.

RATIFICATION OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Lauren reported that the Animal Control officer was hired jointly by the 3 towns in March. All applications, etc. were done in Essex due to the location of the dog pound.

Lauren Gister made a motion to ratify Kaitlyn Sikora as Animal Control Officer for the Town of Chester; term March 15, 2019 through January 1, 2020. Jamie Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN’S REPORT

Jamie reported that Chester Hose took receipt of the ambulance. They are in the process of inspections and then the vehicle will be sent to Whelen for additional work.

Lauren reported:

- EEE/Mosquitos – Lauren recently met with the Health District and discussed the possibility of spraying. To date, Chester has not and does not plan to spray. All advice indicates that spraying is not good for other insects, birds, etc. and not effective long term; however, a joint letter from Legislators to the State encouraged the State to spray. It is anticipated that the forecasted cooler weather will help to alleviate the risk. Chester does have a trapping station.
- Beavers – it was reported that the beaver dam at Jennings was removed by a resident; however, it was rebuilt. Lauren is researching options to address the concerns relative to resident and property well-being.
- Bear sightings – at least two adult bears have been seen in Chester. One of the bears is tagged. Lauren is pursuing an educational program with DEEP; possibly to be held at Camp Hazen.
- The Cedar Lake Water Shed Committee met and discussed aquatic invasive species. A new aggressive species has been identified and is transferred via boat trailers and motors. Also, Cedar Lake is now used for long distance swimmers, kayakers, crew and paddleboards.

Committee members may suggest that the BOS discuss the use of motor boats on the lake. Lauren will research what other towns do relative to the use of motor boats on lakes.

- Concerts at Cedar Lake - Issues relative to alcohol, dogs, crowd control, etc. were discussed. The possible use of cameras in the area was discussed. The Park and Rec Commission has decided to change the Sunday lifeguard hours to end at 5 instead of 6 so that the lifeguards are not obligated to “police” the concertgoers. Throughout the Summer, lifeguards have needed to involve the police for attendees who refuse to follow park rules.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 9/11/19

Jamie Grzybowski made a motion to approve the minutes from the 9/11/19 BOS meeting as presented. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m. Jamie Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk