

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Chester Meeting House

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Grzybowski, Grant Russell Walsh, Richard Strauss, BOF member, 2 additional audience members, and Virginia Carmany, BOF Chairman.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – none.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Lauren reported that incumbents have verified that they wish to continue on their respective Boards/Commissions.

James Grzybowski made a motion to re-appoint the following individuals:

Board of Fire Commissioners – Robert Bandzes, 4 year term expiring 11/19/23
Board of Fire Commissioners – Richard Schreiber, 4 year term expiring 11/19/23

Citation Board – Elizabeth Perreault, 4 year term expiring 11/19/23
Citation Board – Whitelaw Wilson, 4 year term expiring 11/19/23
Citation Board – Richard Schreiber, 4 year term expiring 11/19/23
Citation Board – Kathryn Merola, 4 year term expiring 11/19/23

Town Attorney – John Bennet, 2 year term, expiring 11/30/21

Conservation Commission – Margaret Wilson, 4 year term, expiring 11/1/23
Conservation Commission – Patrick Woomer, 4 year term, expiring 11/1/23
Conservation Commission – Theodore Taigen, 4 year term, expiring 11/1/23

Town Engineer – Nathan L. Jacobson & Assoc., 2 year term, expiring 11/19/21

EDC – Adam Scott Perl, 5 year term, expiring 11/1/24
EDC – Susan Wright, 5 year term, expiring 11/1/24

Park & Rec – Michael Jay Abramson, 3 year term, expiring 11/1/22

Retirement Board – Van Standke, 3 year term, expiring 12/6/22

Tri Town Youth – Jan Taigen, 2 year term, expiring 11/19/21

Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR PULLMAN & COMLEY

Lauren reported that the Tax Collector utilizes the services of Attorney Adam Cohen, Pullman & Comley, for tax sales. If there is a conflict of interest, Attorney Bennet is called upon to assist in a particular tax sale. A copy of the standard engagement letter with Pullman & Comley for these services was included in the BOS packet. No fee increases are included in the agreement.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to authorize First Selectwoman Gister to sign the engagement letter with Pullman & Comley as presented. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

A copy of the MOA – Homeland Security Grant was included in the BOS packet. These funds are used to purchase radios, equipment, computers, etc.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to authorize First Selectwoman Gister to sign the MOA as presented. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

POLLINATOR GARDEN PRESENTATION

Mr. Grant Russell Walsh presented a proposal for several landscape projects in Chester including a Pollinator Garden, a Seed Project and a Japanese Knotweed Documentation and Removal project.

Grant is a Master Gardener and has expressed an interest in donating his time and talents to Chester, his hometown. He outlined the parameters of the proposed Pollinator Garden at the Water Street parking lot, the proposed Seed Project at Town Hall and the proposal to document and remove Knotweed throughout the town.

Mr. Walsh addressed questions relative to the project(s) from the BOS and audience members. Many of the proposed plantings will be donated and Mr. Walsh is pursuing grants to fund other aspects of the project(s). Zero dollars are needed for the proposed Pollinator Garden and Public Works has been appraised of the proposal.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to move forward with the Pollinator Garden at the Water Street parking lot as presented, at no cost to the Town. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Seed Project and Knotweed Project will be discussed further at a future BOS meeting. This will allow time to discuss the projects with Essex Bank and Public Works.

SELECTMAN'S REPORT

This evening's meeting is Selectman Grzybowski's last meeting as a BOS member. Lauren, on behalf of the Town, thanked Jamie for his outstanding service as a BOS member. He has been an invaluable asset to the team and to the Town. He will continue in his role at the Fire Department and at CES.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23, 2019 MINUTES

James Grzybowski made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/23/19 BOS meeting, as amended. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correction: strike the reference to Attorney Bennet moderating the Town Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk