

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, October 23, 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 Carrie Hull.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Carrie Hull, President Historical Society, reported on a letter sent to the BOS relative to the dam located in the vicinity of the museum, but not owned by the Historical Society. Lauren reported that the owner of the dam will contract with Jacobson and Associates to perform an inspection of the dam. The results of said inspection are unknown.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

ADOPTION OF POLICY FOR ACCESS AND USE OF CRIMINAL RECORD INFORMATION

Lauren reported that adoption of a policy relative to access and use of criminal record information is necessary (CHRI). The Town regularly performs criminal record checks for various reasons, i.e. pistol permits, solicitor's permits, etc. Recommended language, developed by the FBI was available for BOS review and discussion. Mandatory training for administration of criminal record information is available for appropriate town staff.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the Policy for Access and Use of Criminal Record Information as presented. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIN STREET PROJECT UPDATE

Lauren reported on the following relative to the Main Street project:

- Water Main replacement – The Water Co. has completed the main, chlorination, flushing and pressure testing. Results of the testing are not yet available. If test results are favorable, and it is expected that they will be, on 10/28 through 10/31, the Water Co. will be trenching and installing service to buildings. Work will begin at the Maple Street end and proceed to the bridge. The Water Co. will discuss the installation schedule with individual property owners, restaurants etc. to ensure minimal impact to businesses relative to water outages.
- The next meeting of the “Merchant’s Survival” Committee is scheduled for Monday, 10/28. The group will be discussing communication and will review data received from Merchants regarding their concerns. Note that several merchants have not responded to the questionnaire.
- Easements – Lauren anticipates that all appropriate signatures will be received by week’s end.

- The project will be forwarded to RiverCOG and the DOT.
- The status of the hydrant at the flagpole was discussed. When the other hydrant is “live” the one located at the flagpole will be removed.
- Bulletin Board kiosk – Lauren discussed the parameters of the kiosk with a local merchant.

#### DAM AND BRIDGE INSPECTION SCHEDULES

State regulations regarding dam and bridge inspections have been revised in recent years and inspections are both onerous and expensive. Note that the State is responsible for the inspection of some bridges. Jacobson provided records relative to bridge and dam inspections. After review of same, it was determined that the town owns 5 dams, one on a 2-year inspection cycle and the others on 7-year inspection cycles. However, records are incomplete. Additional research will be done to determine the status of bridge/dam inspections. Lauren recommends the development of a plan/schedule for dam and bridge inspections. Said plan will have a budgetary impact. Lauren reported that there is a state program for mitigation but not necessarily inspections.

Oftentimes, residents are not aware that they are responsible for the inspection and maintenance of dams located on their property. Also, state regs were not in effect when many individuals purchased their properties. Information regarding the removal of dams is available.

Lauren recommended public education sessions relative to private dams/bridges located on private property throughout Chester to include possible funding options for inspection/maintenance. Jamie expressed concern that some private bridges are not accessible to emergency vehicles.

#### BEAVER DAM ISSUES

There is a beaver dam located in Upper Jennings Pond (above the dam). A resident has been destroying the dam regularly, the beavers immediately re-build. The BOS expressed concern with the resident’s safety relative to the destruction of the dam. Also, debris remains at the bottom of the dam. Dams are also located at Deep Hollow, Ferry Road and Cedar Lake Road and other areas. Lauren will continue to research options for dams/beavers and BOS will discuss further at a future meeting.

#### SELECTMEN REPORTS

The BOS discussed the following:

- Public information sessions/workshops on:
  - Bears
  - Dams/Bridges
  - Invasive plants, both aquatic and land-based plants on private and town owned property
- The possibility of a small, privately maintained and installed, Pollinator Garden to be located at Water Street will be discussed further at a future BOS meeting.
- Lauren received a request to address early morning noise (snowblowers, weedwhackers, mowers). The difficulties in enforcing a Noise Ordinance were briefly discussed.
- Veteran’s Day – Deep River, Essex and Chester have not come to an agreement relative to a Tri-Town Parade. Chester will have a parade on Monday, 11/11, with a route similar to the Memorial Day Parade. The High School Music Dept. will be involved and perhaps the CES children will walk down to the area. The Town is not involved or responsible for the coordination of the parade.

- Town Meeting scheduled 11/13/19 @ 7:30 p.m. Attorney Bennet will moderate. The time of the Regular BOS meeting scheduled on 11/13/19 will be adjusted accordingly.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 2, 2019 – Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/2/19 BOS meeting. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed

October 10, 2019 – Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/10/19 BOS meeting. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### AUDIENCE

Carrie Hull reiterated that the Historical Society has concerns relative to the dam located near the museum. They do not want to lose the dam, for historical purposes. The Historical Society presented a letter to the BOS relative to their concerns.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Jamie Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Clerk