

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
June 23, 2021
Community Room
Chester Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were First Selectwoman Gister (via telephone), Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Terri Englert, Mike Jordan and Elizabeth Reinhardt, Press.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to add to the agenda an Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

As previously discussed, 3 individuals submitted resumes to fill an alternate seat on the BOF. At the time, after further clarification from the Secretary of State's office as well as 2 legal opinions, it was determined that the vacant seat must be filled by a Republican (to meet minority representation rules). None of the candidates expressing an interest in the seat were R's.

Subsequent to the above, another BOF alternate seat became open as the result of a resignation of a fully seated BOF member. Because there are now two vacancies of the 3 alternate BOF members, these two seats may be filled by the candidates expressing interest in the seat last Spring. Applicants include: Kristina Pollack, Steve Cline and Mike Jordan. Note that the RTC endorsed Kristina Pollack to fill the original alt. seat. All three candidates have been interviewed by the BOS and they are all very well qualified for the position.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to appoint Kristina Pollack to fill the alt. BOF seat vacated by John O'Hare with a term to expire 11/16/21. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Englert made a motion to appoint Michael Jordan to the alt. BOF seat vacated by Andrew Gardner with a term to expire 11/18/25. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that both individuals will have to run for the seat in November.

ORDINANCE APPROVALS TO SEND TO THE PUBLIC HEARING

Copies of three drafts Ordinances; i.e. Use of Cedar Lake, Cedar Lake Beaches and Parking Area, Storage and Collection of Waste Containers in the Village District, and Building Department Fees were included in the BOS packet.

Ordinance Regulating the Storage and Collection of Waste Containers in the Village District - As previously discussed, the term “container” will be used in the Ordinance regulating storage and collection of waste in the Village District. A definition of “container” was also included in the Ordinance.

The purpose of the Ordinance is to limit the time waste containers are permitted on the sidewalk in the Village by requiring that all containers are removed by 9 a.m. The BOS discussed at length applicable entities to which the draft Ordinance applies; i.e. commercial businesses vs. residents/renters. The Ordinance includes the property owner who has some responsibility to the tenants/residents to make arrangements for their household containers removal by 9 a.m.

Lauren Gister made a motion to approve the draft Ordinance Regulating the Storage and Collection of Waste Containers in the Village District as presented and forward same to a Public Hearing, subject to final approval of the language by the Town Attorney. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance Concerning Use of Cedar Lake, Cedar Lake Beaches and Parking Areas

Copies of both the original Ordinance and the revised draft Ordinance were included in the BOS packet. Lauren reported that the original Ordinance was written and adopted in the mid-1970’s. Several areas of the document were outdated (i.e. clearly marked restricted boating area) and were re-written by First Selectwoman Gister. The “fines” associated with violations were also updated. Additional areas of discussion included:

- Prohibition of water skiing – item removed due to 6 mph speed limit.
- Windsurfing – not prohibited
- Parking for Snack Shack – BOS will discuss the possibility of allowing 15 minutes of parking for food pick-up/dining at the Snack Shack.

The Town Attorney will review the draft Ordinance Concerning Use of Cedar Lake, Cedar Lake Beaches and Parking Areas. The BOS will discuss further at a future BOS meeting.

Building Department Fees - No action taken. (awaiting amendments from Building Official. BOS will discuss further at future BOS meeting) .

ARPA PROJECTS DISCUSSION

Lauren suggested that the BOS hold a Special Meeting/Workshop to discuss potential uses of the ARPA funding. BOS members were encouraged to provide input/suggestions to Lauren for the use of these funds. Documentation relative to the funds will be forwarded to the BOS members.

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN COMMENTS

Any comments, typos, etc. relative to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan should be forwarded to Lauren. The BOS will vote on the Regional Plan and Chester’s “Annex” at the July BOS meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lauren Gister made a motion to approve the 6/16/21 BOS meeting minutes, as amended. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that Regular Session resumed at 9:22 p.m. No action was taken and the meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Lauren reported:

- The RST Contract with the State of Connecticut was received and will be reviewed by the BOS; specifically the sections relative to body cams, storage of footage and access to footage.
 - The State will not assist towns with storage or access to footage in the event of a lawsuit/FOIA request.
- A new RST, Matt Warren, was appointed for Chester.
- No Covid positives in Chester in the last 4 weeks. The State's positivity rate remains at less than 1%.
- Bulky Waste Contract with Deep River - \$70,000 per year
 - Working with Deep River to potentially amend the contract to permit residents to dispose of household waste (for a fee) and food waste.
- Street Sweeping Contract with Deep River
 - Chester streets are swept once per year.
 - Contract includes \$13,500 per year (note that Chester has been paying \$12,500 per year).
 - Parameters of the contract will be discussed further with Public Works Director.
- Outdoor Dining
 - Lauren will speak with the ZEO relative to the Outdoor Dining rules/regulations.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - None.

Tom Englert made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. for the purpose of discussion on legal matters. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular session resumed at 8:42 p.m.

No action????

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk