

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
ZOOM Meeting and Community Room

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Terri Englert, Meredith Devanney, Kimberley Megreth, Elizabeth Reinhart, Press, and Bettie Perreault.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ms. Devanney, candidate for Harbor Commission alternate position, provided an overview of her interest and qualifications to serve on the Commission including her work at Chrisholm Marina. In her role at the marina, she has worked with DEEP, state grants, pump outs and is well versed in the river waterways. The Harbor Commission did “move up” an alternate member when Joel Severance retired.

Tom Englert made a motion to appoint Meredith Devanney to the Harbor Management Commission (alt) with a term to expire 10/3/21. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CHESTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

Lauren made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss Item 6 “Chester Community Partnership Requests”. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

As discussed at the 8/11/21 BOS meeting, the Chester Community Partnership Committee has requested the use of funds from the Chester Cares Fund for the purchase of “Dignity Totes” (toiletry items) and camperships at Camp Hazen. Ms. Megreth, Chairman, was available to address additional questions posed by BOS members.

Lauren reported that the Chester Cares Fund has an approximate balance of \$30,000. Note that these funds are also used for fuel assistance, rent assistance, holiday gifts, gift cards for food, etc.

Lauren Gister made a motion to allocate \$1200 from the Chester Cares Fund to participate with Dignity Grows to purchase supplies to fill 120 toiletry totes. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The BOS discussed the status of the before and after care program at CES offered by the YMCA. Ms. Megreth has been in contact with Chris Pallatto, Executive Director YMCA, relative to the parameters of the program. She will report back to the BOS when more information/data is received from the Y.

The BOS discussed the Park & Rec programs offered. It was reported that Camp Hazen offers a different type of program/experience than the Park and Rec program. The importance of offering camperships to Camp Hazen for children who may not be able to participate otherwise was stressed.

If the “campership” program is funded, (\$2,500), there is no requirement to spend the money in one year. The funds would remain in an account until depleted. Camp Hazen would do the “means” testing to determine eligibility for use of the money.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to allocate \$2,500 from the Chester Cares Fund for “camperships” to Camp Hazen for 10 Chester children. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA DISCUSSION

A spreadsheet of ideas, developed in conjunction with the BOF, for potential uses of ARPA funds was “screen-shared” (ideas include HVAC, generator for Town Hall, digitalization of Land Use records). The Town has received \$1.2 million in ARPA funds. Discussions have been on-going at RiverCOG regarding the possibility of hiring an individual to manage the reporting requirements for use of the ARPA funds. Towns have until 2026 to spend the money. The BOS briefly discussed the guidelines and eligibility requirements for use of the funds.

Lauren suggested that the BOS form a Committee to evaluate the ideas for use of funds, prioritize items, get pricing, etc. Said Committee would provide recommendations to the BOS.

Lauren will develop a draft framework of a committee for BOS consideration. A public forum will be scheduled to solicit additional ideas for use of the funds.

KENYON BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL

Two proposals (Atlas and Fuss & O’Neill) regarding a scope of services for a Phase I assessment of the former Kenyon property, 59 Winthrop Road, were included in the BOS packet. Both firms have been contacted to provide additional information so that a comparative analysis of both proposals can be performed.

The BOS will discuss further when additional information is received. The BOF has been updated on the status of the property and funds will be requested at the appropriate time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2021 BOS meeting, as corrected. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correction: Note: proper spelling – Kimberley Megreth.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Charlene reported:

- The Chester Fair opens Friday, 8/27/21 @ 6 p.m.
 - Masks and a one way flow will be required in the building.
 - All appropriate signage, relative to CDC guidelines, will be posted.
 - Vaccination clinic will be located at the Fair.

Tom reported:

- Region 4 schools open Thursday, 8/26/21

Lauren reported:

- The BOs has been invited to a P&Z meeting (potentially on 10/14) to discuss the new legislation relative to the legalization of marijuana.
- The Sustainable CT application has been submitted; it is anticipated that the Town will be certified at the upcoming CCM convention.
- We are working on partnering with Deep River to collect food scraps at transfer station starting in September (voluntary program). Scraps will be composted.
- The BOS and BOF will schedule a joint meeting to discuss the protocol for use of attorneys (town attorney vs. a BOF attorney) and the appointing of BOF members.
- Hallmark will be filming a movie in Chester on 9/8 and 9/9.

- One case of Covid confirmed this week. Note that the number of Chester residents vaccinated reported via the Health District is incorrect. Chester has more residents vaccinated than reported. CHRAD and local drug stores are offering the vaccine.

While the issue regarding outdoor dining in the downtown area has been resolved, the BOS briefly discussed the possibility of lack of adherence to the rules returning and steps that may be taken to address same. Bettie Perreault reported that P&Z is working on making the regulations more “enforceable”. Lauren will discuss with the ZEO.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Englert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Charlene Janeczek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk