

## **Town of Chester Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Minutes for April 29, 2019**

Barbara opened the meeting at 6:00pm, the Select Board recorded the meeting.

Attending: Select Board members Barbara Huntoon & John Baldasaro, Town Administrator Kathe Warden and various members of the public. Warrants were signed. Meeting minutes of April 22, 2019 were signed.

### **New Business**

\*No New business

### **Old Business**

\*No Old Business

### **Town Administrator update**

Kathe said the following –

\*DOT sent over the Chester on Track and Memorial Day parade permits and will process them when returned. John and Barbara signed both.

\*COA Study has been sent back and Kathe wanted to know if it should go on the website. Kathe said that she didn't print them because there were 5 hard copies being sent over and the report was 88 pages long. Barbara had a chance to read over the study and was disappointed in the findings. Barbara said there weren't any ideas about rehabbing the lower level of Town Hall but was an idea to put a COA building on the Transfer Station site and relocate the Transfer Station, which not be the most accessible for the Town's seniors and would create a new issue in where to put the Transfer Station. Barbara felt that the \$45,000 was a waste of money for the study and could have been put to better use for downstairs. Barbara asked Kathe to put the COA Study on the Town website.

\*IT Grant project started today. The electricians are working running the lines for the new outlets and they appreciated the dedicated server room.

\*Met with Chester Theatre to review the upcoming season. They wanted to let the Select Board know there wouldn't be anything going on at Town Hall on Memorial Day.

\*Elm Electric had sent in a proposal for doing work at town hall. It is for replacing the thermostat on upper level, installing an emergency exit sign over the main door. Kathe said that the thermostat has a monitor in it to send messages when the temperature drops below a certain temperature.

\*Received a call from Larry Hansen of Dept of Environmental Protection that in 1995 the town was given a 10- year permit that was never renewed. The Town will have till October 1, 2019 to renew the permit. There is no cost to the Town for the renewal.

\* Discussion about changing hours at Town Hall on Monday nights from 6pm - 8pm to 5pm - 7pm, Kathe said many of offices don't have visitors after 7:00pm. Since Chester is a bedroom community, this would enable most people to stop on their way home. Barbara was concerned about changing the Select Board meeting times and Kathe said it would be for Town offices only. Kathe sad that this would enable those offices to come to the Select Board meetings after they had closed their offices for the night. Kathe said that on Tuesday morning she will be

having a meeting with Town employees and would bring it up to the employees and get their feedback and let the Select Board know next week. Kathe said it could be on a trial basis from June till September and review it after Labor Day. John and Barbara agreed to proceed with checking with other Departments for their input and if they are okay with it to go ahead.

#### **Departments and Committee updates**

- DPW – John said that the roads have been swept including the State roads. This week the crew will be working on filling pot holes with hot mix.
- The cemetery cleanup has started and the cemetery on Route 20 has been mowed. John is going to speak to Jason Forgue about the mowing of the ball field. John doesn't feel the DPW can mow it twice a week this year.
- Eric Besancon is out for 6 to 8 weeks with a torn elbow ligament. Tom Beck will be helping for 2 or 3 days per week till Eric is back since Tom has all the necessary licenses and experience.
- John is submitting the Chapter 90 requests in the next two weeks. The requests are for Johnson Hill Rd, Middlefield Hill, and possibly work on 2 dirt roads, possibly Crane, Maynard, and Abbott Hill. Barbara asked about Kinnebrook Rd and John said that is 3 different types of road cover and will be looking into getting that cleaned up.

Barbara said that for the warrant for the ATM she would suggest and Article recommending Board of Health go from elected to appointed positions. It has been difficult to elect a full BoH and currently there is only one member. John said that there is a study for shared services for Board of Health that Jeanne LeClair is looking to submit with Huntington.

Barbara said that Wayne Fischer would like to use the Snack Shack during the Chester on Track. John was fine with that. Barbara said did the Town want to charge him a fee to use it. John said he didn't feel it was necessary. Kathe asked if the Chester Foundation could forward a copy of Wayne's certificate of insurance. Barbara said she would have them send one over. She would also check with Jason of GYAA to make sure they are okay with it.

Barbara asked if Kathe had heard any updates RE: Carms and/or Keystone Bluff. Kathe said she had spoken to Jason Costa of Keystone Bluff and he was waiting on his permits. John said that he had talked to Aaron of Carms and the septic would be going in over the next week or two.

Barbara asked if any word from Frost farm or Glenn Posey. Kathe said Frost Farm will be on next weeks agenda and she hadn't heard from Glenn.

#### **Town Collector**

\*At 6:30pm bid opening for Slocum Property – Mary Ann Pease Town Collector said there were no bids received for the property. She closed the Bid opening at 6:33pm and will be contacting Mass Fish & Game and accept their offer of \$35,000.00

#### **Citizens Comments**

Diane DeMoss asked if there had been follow up with Gateway Regional about the Hamilton Scholarship. Kathe said she had talked to the Admin. Assistant in the Guidance Dept. about the

Scholarship, it had been inadvertently overlooked and the school would make sure all the Chester students received applications. Diane wanted to make sure it was awarded each year. John explained that how the trusts had been set up all the money had to be awarded each year.

Bob Daley asked about Middlefield Rd repair John mentioned for Chapter 90. John explained that it would have an overlay done but there needed to have culvert repair and catch basins fixed. He was going to be in contact with Palmer Paving about doing the work.

Kathy Engwer asks if there can be signs put up for Chester on Track. Barbara said that was fine. Barbara asked about the land across from the ballfield. Kathy said she had talked to the owner, but he still wants too much money for the land. John asked Kathe to contact Town Counsel to start proceedings to take it by eminent domain. The town would then be able to use the land for parking for events at the ballfield.

There was a discussion among those present about the ball field open day and Chester on Track festivities.

Mary Ann Pease asked about a washout on Middlefield Rd above Alsop's on right hand side. John said it was on his list to take care of this week.

John Foley said someone had driven off the road on Sylvester Hamilton Rd. The shoulders of the road were pushed back. John explained that due to the weather being so wet the shoulders hadn't set up yet, but he would go look at them.

Barbara said after checking with her father, R. Duane Pease, who had initiated the initial foresting at the watershed when he was a selectman, that it would be time to investigate that again for possible income to the town. John asked Kathe to contact Bay State Forestry about it.

John made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 Barbara seconds the motion all vote aye.

Respectfully submitted  
Katherine Warden

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Barbara Huntoon Chair

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John Baldasaro Vice Chair

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Vacancy – Clerk

Meeting Minutes for April 29, 2019 contain 3 pages