

Town of Chester

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Minutes

April 11, 2016

1. Chairman Ellershaw opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
2. Minutes of March 28, 2016 were approved. Warrants approved.
3. John Murray: Highway Dept.
John submitted a bi-weekly overview of completed and ongoing plans. He also submitted “estimated” costs for three projects that may be submitted for Chapter 90 approval. If all three projects were completed it would leave us with a small Chapter 90 balance after 2017 funds are applied. Discussion regarding East River Road, the timetable for the Bond bill, and what should be done in the meantime. Selectmen asked if John could come up with an “estimate” like the other three projects, based upon what could be done, for the next meeting. Pat will contact Rep. Kulik’s office again to see if Rep. Kulik could attend a meeting sometime soon regarding the road project.
John B. would still like Nutmeg to come to a meeting regarding the repairs to the international.

We have received an estimate for engineering services for the repair/replacement of the culvert on Old State Rd. for \$15,000. Don asked Pat to check with State to inquire about possibility of a new program using pre engineered box culverts and see if engineering plans would be needed.
4. Keith Family: Representatives from the Keith property were here to talk about their property and the damage that has occurred over the last 25 years or so. Stone walls knocked down, much more water flowing onto their property, etc. They would like someone to look at it, feel it is the town’s fault, feel they may need to take us to court if we can’t reach an agreement. After discussion, John Murray said he would be glad to look at it, and the road, and Mr. Ellershaw will accompany him. Ms Keith will get back to John with a date that they can all be there, including their lawyer. Mr. Baldasaro explained that this meeting would merely be for the sake of actually looking at the property, no decisions can be made. Results can be brought back to the Selectboard as a whole and discussed. He also explained that we cannot guarantee no water will continue to flow onto their property.
5. Western Mass Forest Legacy Partnership: Mr. Ellershaw had questions regarding this request for support from the Town. He noted there were 21 other towns in the district currently looking at a different entity. Feels there must be a reason. Barbara asked exactly what landowners had to gain from this program. While they would be protecting the wild forests, they might also be allowing residents to create a tax deficit through Chapter lands. After discussion, Barbara made a motion to deny the request for support. Don 2nd. Unanimous.