

Town of Chester

Board of Selectmen, Water Commissioners, Zoning Board of Appeals

Minutes

October 13, 2015

Attending: Ed Meecham, Gene Watters, John Murray

1. John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Ellershaw was not in attendance due to illness. Minutes of Sept. 28th were approved and warrants signed.
2. John Murray, Highway Department. John gave an overview of the last two weeks activities as listed on his worksheet. Road work has started on Johnson Hill Road, then will proceed to Lyon Hill Rd.

Skyline is completed and waiting for line painting. Community service workers are coming tomorrow, Wednesday 10/14, to work.

Discussion of the millings, and the confusion with the distribution. The problem came about when the town ended up with many more millings than had been previously figured. The plan was to store the millings in various sites around town, including the town garage. In the meantime, residents driving by had been asking both the police officers at the site, and Lane Construction employees if they could have some of the millings. They were told no, since the plan was to stockpile the millings for the other Chester roads. By midday it became clear that we were running out of storage sites and John M. was faced with three options. 1. Shut down the job until we could come up with an alternate plan for the millings, incurring compensation to Lane for lost time. 2. Pay to have them shipped by truckloads to Westfield, or 3. Drop them in the driveways of residents who asked for them. John made the decision to give them away to residents that asked for them. Unfortunately those that had asked for them earlier in the day were turned away before the problem appeared. Barbara felt that Lane should have realized the amount of millings that would be involved and checked with John to make sure of what they were doing. In addition, much of the millings involved are not suitable in their present condition to be used immediately. They will need to be crushed. Could we check with Lane to see if they could be of any help? Barbara felt we need to appease the people who had asked for the millings and been denied. John B. recognized that unfortunately there are some things that cannot be appeased, and wishes people would come to a meeting rather than call on the phone. One Selectmen cannot make decisions on their own. There is no way to "fix" this now. It was a hard call at the time for John M. to make, but in the end probably the best way.

Grader/grinder started on Johnson Hill Rd. today, up to water plant, hoping to get up as far as Ingells Rd. with 3" of blacktop. After the crushing of the millings is done, we would hope to be able to also use them on Kinneybrook and Crane.

Discussion of a shed on Bromley Rd. Both Barbara and John think this is probably not necessary. John M. is building a unit for "his excavator" to be used for cleaning out under the guardrails. John B. would still like to get some hours on the big excavator before we discuss trading it in on a smaller model.

3. Request from Derrick Mason to appoint three or more volunteer delegates to serve on a "Gateway Collaborative Task Force", (letter included). After discussion both John and Barbara agreed that this was almost redundant, given the fact that each town already has a board of Selectmen, and a School Committee. They felt that formation of another committee might just be another layer to be worked through.
4. Town Administrator: provided documentation/information of two meeting she attended this past week sponsored by the Dept. of Revenue, and another by our legislators. Pat asked if anyone knew of the location of the town hall septic tank, etc. Advised to ask Art or the Board of Health.
5. Citizens comments: Ed Meecham: Does not feel the Skyline job has been done correctly. Says trees, dirt, etc. has been pushed onto residents properties. Stuff has been pushed to the sides, there may be an issue with the brook, we should have taken it away instead of pushing to the sides. John M. said he would check it out and fix if it's our fault. Ed also said that they did not pave all the way to the edge of the road. He also feels that they didn't put down enough ?????, because the road is somewhere below the edge of the driveways. John M. will also check this out and will check with Mass DOT to check the depth.
Discussion then held of possibility of hiring some part time help, or possibly one more full time Highway worker.

Other possible roads for millings: Smith Rd. and Lyman Rd.

There being no other business, John B. made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Barbara 2nd.
Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino
Town Administrator

Donald Ellershaw, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Clerk