

Town of Chester

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Minutes

August 13, 2018

1. Chairman Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of 8/6/18 were not signed at this time. John B. noticed that a check in the warrant tonight was made out to Gateway Regional Choir, rather than Gateway Regional School. Pat will confirm with Paula.
2. Discussion of where monies could come from to supplement the Asst. Admin/Asst. Highway Admin for fiscal 2019 in order to change the position from 25 hours to 30 hours and to increase the pay scale. Pat will check how this can be done. Could it come out of Highway Wages account?
3. Discussion of 2020 Comcast contract. Pat to call Darlene McVeigh in Huntington to see if this is their year also, and if so, would we want to collaborate.
4. Request for a change in the scope of the COA feasibility study approved and signed off on.
5. Jason Fogue; still having difficulties with the electric service at the shed at the ballfield. CMELD will only do so much and then the rest is up to the rec committee to accomplish with an electrician. Jason said he has someone who will donate his time, Scott Rousseau. The Board thanked Scott. Also the field is still not being mowed to their satisfaction. We will have a discussion with Steve Cooper/Donald about how we can accomplish this.

6:20 PM. At this time Chairman Huntoon announced that the Board needed to go into an executive session meeting for the purpose of “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body”, and will reconvene in open session when executive session is over. Roll Call vote. Rene Senecal, Aye, John Baldasaro, Aye, Barbara Huntoon, Aye.

7:00 PM. The board reconvened at the conclusion of their Executive Session and opened up discussion.

7:01 PM. At this time the continued Zoning Hearing from July 30, 2018 for Mr. Lewis Magni of East River Rd. opened. Building Inspector Arthur Lawler was in attendance and explained that when Mr. Magni came in originally for his variance, Art had made a mistake, and given him the wrong information. Based upon that information Mr. Magni had invested time and monies on a porch (accessory use) and that now the variance was one of “hardship” (financial). There was discussion of the size of the porch, setbacks, etc. There were three residents in attendance who were in favor of granting the variance, and stated that Mr. Magni had fixed up the property nicely and saw no problem. There were two residents in attendance that were not in favor of the variance being given due to the process. Barbara asked Art what his recommendation would be. Art responded that he thought the Board should vote in favor of the petitioner, Mr. Magni, due to the fact that his hardship was due to an error made by the town. Rene

agreed that mistakes do happen, and it would still be a hardship issue. Rene Senecal moved to grant the variance. John B. seconded. Unanimous decision to grant the variance to Mr. Magni.

6. Rick Stone, Morey Ave. Mr. Stone has a long standing problem with drainage at his home. During wet times he has quite a bit of water in his yard and would like the town to do something about it. Discussion was held regarding possible improvements. John B. instructed Pat to call PVPC to see if there was any possibility of them helping with this problem. Mr. Stone also complained about his electric bill. Barbara instructed him to speak with CMELD about that as well as questions he had regarding solar use.

7. Jason Costa, Keystone Bluffs, LLC.

Jason came in with a revised Host Agreement for his proposed business. The Selectmen agreed with the changes that had been made, at their suggestion. Section 11 giving them 12 months after receipt of state license to work with the town to identify other potential sites was changed to 24 months upon John B's suggestion.

8. Jason Fogue;
Still has concerns on safety issues at the ballfield because of mowing. Volunteers? The Board decided not yet. Give them a couple of weeks to see what happens. Will speak to Steve Cooper about it. Noted that the committee raised \$650 at their recent charity fundraiser. Barbara said in addition, there were other events that the committee might want to get involved in.

9. Kathy Engwer

Kathy was at the meeting to question the BOH about the new Board of Health Agent, Denis LaCourse. Has concerns over availability, cost, regulations, and many other issues. She believes that he may discourage vendors from working in Chester, and goes "overboard" on what the State regulations are. Questions to the BOH about their fees, background check, CORI checks, etc. when hiring. Questioned his leaving Easthampton. Confusion over who people should write the checks to, wasn't personable. The Board asked BOH to contact Denis to see if he would come to a board meeting. John B. also questioned Norma McDonald about candidates for the position. He felt there may have someone who was willing to serve from nearby.

10. More discussion of ballfield. Unfortunately, while a wonderful project, it has produced more maintenance than before and we will have to look at it a little further.
Jason also had remarks regarding egress with Magni variance.

There being no further business before the Board, John B. moved to adjourn. Rene seconded. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Carlino
Recording Secretary

Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Rene Senecal, Clerk