



TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
15 MIDDLEFIELD RD.
CHESTER MA 01011

Monday, July 25th, 2022

Open Meeting: This meeting is held in the Chester Town Hall COA room with a virtual option.

Selectmen John Baldasaro, Jason Fogue, and Andy Sutton were present. Town staff present included Administrative Assistant Jill Strong, Town Clerk Terry Donovan, along with Finance Committee member Andy Myers, Water Commissioner Bob Daly, and Library Trustee Jane Sutton. Per the agenda resident Greg Whitlock was present along with a few other residents both in person and remote.

John opened the meeting at 6:00 PM, there were some issues with the virtual platform our camera was not working however we could see anyone who joined the meeting as well as hear everyone and they could hear us. Warrants, minutes, and any correspondence was signed.

- **Dog complaint against Greg Whitlock 12 Campbell Rd. Chester owner of two pit bulls:**

Greg Whitlock the owner of the dogs as well as the complainant Marjorie Dunn were both present for the meeting. John asked Terry as the Animal Control officer to give a quick description of what happened. Terry explained that Marjorie was walking her dog which was leashed on Campbell Rd. when Mr. Whitlock's dogs ran out after her and attacked her and her dog. John asked if she responded that day of the incident, Terry answered yes that she had. She stated that all the dogs had been quarantined which is required and Marjorie had requested the hearing for the Selectboard to make a decision to deem them either dangerous or nuisance dogs. Terry's recommendation at this time was to deem them nuisance dogs and suggested that the owner fence his property or a small portion for the dogs or to have them on a run or leashed when outside. She stated that the owner uses an electronic collar however using these there is always room for human error as with this incident.

Mr. Whitlock gave his interpretation of the incident stating that his wife was outside with the dogs and the woman, Marjorie, came from the back side of the property and startled everyone and in his opinion the dogs did what any dog trained to look after someone should do. John stated that he disagreed and that he lives on a public road and all residents have the right and should feel comfortable walking down any street without the concern of being attacked. Mr. Whitlock explained that he was working on putting up a five-foot wire fence with a wooden top and as of now it was installed along the road at this property and had also installed a dog run, he also suggested that the complainant carry pepper spray and that things would not have escalated had she not run. Marjorie commented that she was scared and after a few minutes that the dogs had come after her the owners did nothing to come

Ave. off of Maple St. specifically stood out which states that it is not an accepted road. John agreed stating that the entire list should be looked over.

- **ARPA request from Emergency Management Director Jill Strong for Emergency Management trailer updates:**

The emergency management trailer that was missing has been returned to the Town Garage. Jill stated that she looked at the trailer and the tires were still good, and the trailer hitch was in good condition. There had apparently been a branch that fell on the roof which she said there was a small dent at the rear of the trailer but there was no damage to the interior, nor did it prevent you from opening the trailer in any way. The only thing that she recommended was to have the trailer lettered properly and stated that she could reach out to the Signsmith for a price.

- **Appointments for FY2023, James Higby, Energy Committee and R. Duane Pease Conservation Commission:**

John made the motion to appoint James Higby to the Energy Committee and R. Duane Pease to the Conservation Commission, Andy seconded, all voted Aye.

- **Public Comments and Questions:**

Jason stated that the resident who was present for the dog complaint Greg Whitlock is currently in violation for living on his property in a shed with no certificate of occupancy for the property at all. Terry commented that there is a wood stove in the shed which caused a chimney fire a short time ago. Jason stated that he would follow up with him again at the property as he clearly did not want to discuss it when he was present this evening.

Jason stated that the cameras have been installed at the ballfield on Emery Street and are working on getting them connected. He was at the field at the day of the last movie night and fixed the dug out as well as re-did the corn hole boards and wants to work on the horseshoe pits. He stated that he has suspected culprits for who are responsible for the damage but is looking forward to catching someone on the cameras.

John asked Bob for an update on the Water Department. Bob stated that they had interviewed someone last week and were hoping to have some interesting information to share at the next meeting. John thanked them for their work and was happy to hear things were moving forward.

Andy Myers had an update on the Energy Committee stating that they had their first meeting last Wednesday. James who was appointed this evening attended as well as Ed Sourdiffie who he suggested be appointed as an alternate, he stated that it was mostly an organizational meeting. Andy picked up from Kathe all of the files on the solar project that has been an ongoing discussion. He stated that from the one hundred thirty thousand dollars that was awarded we have only received ninety-seven thousand dollars so far. He suggested viewing the report from the recent energy audit to discuss possibilities for the remaining funds. Jason stated that Kathe should have had that, but he would forward it to the Energy Committee after the meeting tonight.

Andy also commented on the recent Finance Team Meeting stating that there was still some reconciliation to go and thought they would be completed in September. In the preliminary reports there were questions regarding the expense for unemployment as well as a double payment for insurance. They are still working on submitting the uncollectable taxes that were voted to be paid through free cash at the Annual Town Meeting.

Bob asked if there was an update on the Prospect Street project, John answered that we still did not have a definitive start date. Things were out to bid right now but they had recently told contractors that the town would be taking any millings from the project. Bob asked where they would be going, John