



CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
and ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
15 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD  
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

**Monday, February 26, 2024**

Open meeting—This meeting was held in the Chester Town Hall Auditorium with a virtual option.

Selectboard members present, John Baldasaro, Brian Forgue, and Andy Sutton. Also present Terry Donovan, Andy Myers, Rich Holzman, Shelly Holzman, Bob Daley, Mary Ann Pease, Don Humason, Craig Gauthier, Ro and Heath Mc Claflin, Diane Hall, Karen Savoy, Henry Fristik, , Jason Forgue, Veronica Marr, Avril Willimain, Tom Bean, Carol Hepworth, Tom and Barbara Huntoon, Jill Strong, Sue Crisisco, Marlene Stone, Chris Lindberg, Deryck Savoy, Terry Murphy, Dave Pierce, Annette Lamountain, Sue Volrath, Dee Armitage, Jess Slatcher, Peter Stone, and Norma Macdonald.

John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00pm. Warrants, minutes and all correspondence were signed.

- **CMELD and BOS discuss Eversource proposal-**

Questions to present to Eversource were discussed.

Deryk said they need to clarify the offer and employee retention, and the \$800,000.00 shown on the books before making and educated decision. The \$800,000.00 is shown as “aid in Construction” it is a running total that people have paid for construction. Deryck would also like this to happen asap, stating tension in town and employees want to know.

It was discussed how to get questions from the public, suggestions ranged from questionnaire on website, using google docs for questions, questioner to go out with electric bill, Don to check with webmaster to work up a place for questions.

Andy Myers suggested public hearing March 18.

John B and Deryck said that was too soon.

Veronica Marr wanted to know who initiated this proposal, Andy replied the residents did.

The question was asked where would the money go if CMELD sold. John said it should be invested with proceeds to offset budget. Would be determined by a town vote.

Barbara Huntoon would like a press release to CJ and Westfield paper when public hearing is scheduled.

Jason Forgue asked about the CMELD audit when would it be done, Roselli is doing the town audit,

Diane said Roselli has never given them an answer as to if they will do CMELD audit.

- **Fire Dept. update-**

A combined grant came in for SCBA’s saved the town about \$100,000. Town has matching funds to pay \$4325.64, 5% share all towns pay.



Chief Fristik would like to sell or donate expired SCBA's to Middlefield. Yes Vote by BOS to do that. School investigation complete, on 1/5/24 main water pump for school sprinkler system went down. On 9/19/23 the initial test failed, and no one was notified. Policies are in place so this will never happen again.

Two new grants offered now. Henry is trying to work on one but might not have enough time.

Henry is working with Lowes for donations for renovations to fire station, dry wall, toilets etc to be donated.

- **Frank Andrews –**

Mr Andrews is interested in purchasing a lot on old Abbott Hill Rd, Road was abandoned in 1967 He is asking if it is OK for him to improve the road to his lot. Jason Forgue said zoning bylaw states building lots require road frontage. 200ft of road frontage on a public way to build. Rich Holzman suggested Mr Andrews to meet with planning board to discuss and apply for a variance. Mr Andrews said closing is in 3 days.

Henry Fristik said DNR is going to be looking at making it a fire road but that will take years to do.

- **Town Administrator Report**

- Joint BOS meeting with Blandford BOS on Wednesday 2/28/24

- Chester on Track , Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> . Invite to selectboard to march in the parade.

- Dave Pierce requesting a variance under the new Glamping Bylaw . John said letters to abutters need to be mailed and a public notice to be posted in paper before meeting for variance.

- **Andy Sutton**

Repair proposal for town hall Columns and facia at front of building cost \$19,000. Don to reach out to Theater group to see if they want to donate.

Old school chimney repair was \$18,000 and town hall cupola was \$11,000 paid by ARPA funds.

Annette LaMountain voiced her opinion that we have let the repairs to the columns go too far, need to fix and maintain them better. Dave Pierce said the gutter on the roof leak and cause damage to the columns.

- **Jack Martin**

-Fines reduction on 2 Taft Rd not living there and has taken everything out as requested back in April 2023. Why still getting fined? In March 2023 fines were \$6050.00 now they are up to 17-18000. .

Owner reached out to the wrong Dept to have inspection done to stop fines. Jason stopped fines on 2/9/24. Confusion on Mr Martins part as to who to call. Would like fines cut in half if possible. Fines totaled \$17,057 as of 2/1/24 . Andy Sutton made a motion to cut fines in half to total \$8528.50, Brian Forgue seconded, all in favor. Assessors will be notified.

- **Public Comment**

Bob Daley said GIS training on Thursday at 1:00 in auditorium.

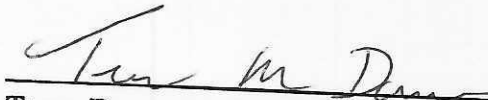
John made a motion to Adjourn, Andy seconded. Meeting adjourned 7:42pm



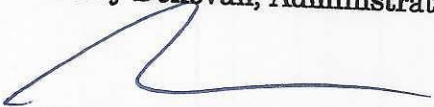


TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
15 MIDDLEFIELD RD.  
CHESTER MA 01011

Respectfully Submitted

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

3/12/24  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Baldasaro, Chairman

3/25/24  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Fogue, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

## Selectboard update 2/26/24

- 1] Had a couple little plowable storms and spot sanding
- 2] digging out buried culverts on Middlefield Road found 5 unknown culverts that are now working
- 3] Did some patching
- 4] Getting ready for some spring projects and working on grant Prospect street

# The Chester Foundation

[www.ChesterRailwayStation.net](http://www.ChesterRailwayStation.net)

P O Box 743, Chester, MA 01011

413) 354-7878

[dpiercedp@aol.com](mailto:dpiercedp@aol.com)

February 17, 2024

Chester Selectmen  
Town Hall  
15 Middlefield Rd.  
Chester, MA 01011

Dear Chester Selectmen:

We are writing to inform you that Chester On Track, the biggest one-day event in the Hilltowns, will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 9 AM to 4 PM. We're due for a beautiful day. We would love to have the Selectmen at the head of the parade as in years past.

The parade line up will be in the old Bendix property lot on Bay State Drive, off Rte. 20, Chester, MA at 9:30 AM for a 10 AM start. The parade route runs up Route 20 to the top of Main St., down Main, around to Prospect St. and the Chester Railway Station. Large vehicles, like fire trucks will pull out of the parade to the left at the end of Main St., to circle back via River Front Dr. to Main.

If your address has changed, you would like to furnish us with an Email address or you are no longer able to participate, please notify us that we may update our records.

Best regards,



David Pierce  
President

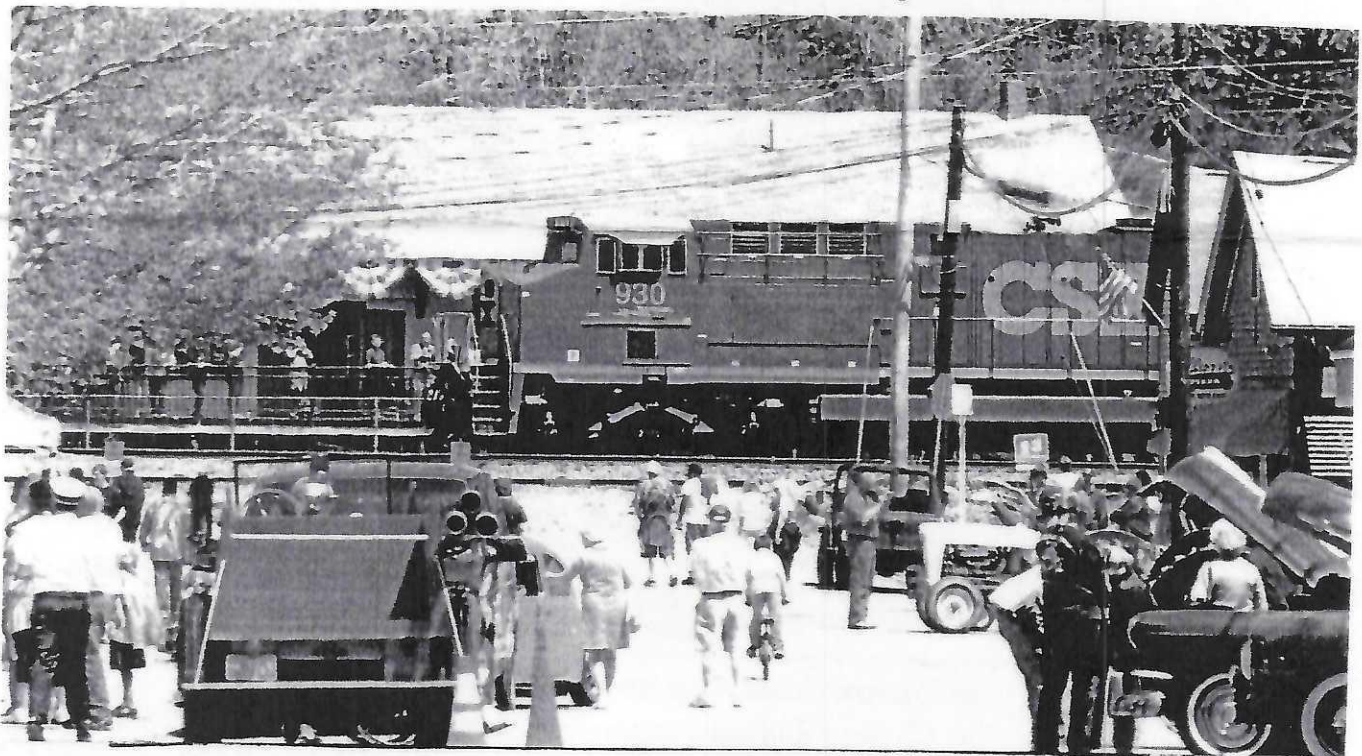


# Chester On Track

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 ~ 9AM to 4PM ~ Rain or Shine**

**OFF ROUTE 20, CHESTER, MA**

**Encompassing downtown Chester and  
the grounds of the *Chester Railway Museum***




- **PARADE AT 10 AM**
- **TRAIN SHOW**
- **DUCK RACE**
- **2 MUSIC VENUES**
- **PIONEER VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS**
- **26<sup>TH</sup> CONTINENTAL REGIMENT**
- **STEAM AND GAS ENGINES**
- **GARDEN TRACTOR PULLS**
- **ANTIQUE FIRE ENGINE**
- **LIBRARY MINERAL COLLECTION TOURS**
- **CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
- **CRAFT FAIR**
- **1920'S FREIGHT CARS & CABOOSE**
- **LIBRARY BOOK & BAKE SALE**
- **CLASSIC CARS, CORVETTES, MODEL A'S**
- **SPECIAL POSTAL CANCELLATION**
- **HILLTOWN HOME SHOW**
- **FOOD AND MORE!**

*The Chester Foundation reserves the right to change the program without notice.*

**413 ~ 354 ~ 7878**

**[chesterrailwaystation.net](http://chesterrailwaystation.net)**

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**Partially funded by Chester  
Cultural Council, a local  
agency and Mass. Cultural  
Council, a state agency.**