



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, June 2, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

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

Selectboard members present were John Baldasaro, Andy Sutton and Craig Gauthier. Also present was Town Administrator Don Humason, Town Clerk Terry Donovan, Finance Committee Chair Brian Forgue, CMELD Manager Diane Hall, Lineman Dan Moriarty and members of the public.

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

Town Business

- CMELD Problems Responding to a Call on Taft Road

Diane Hall said they recently responded to a call for trees on the power lines of Taft Road. Everything on the edges of Taft Road is overgrown and the trees need to be cut back. Residents should not be planting trees in the easement because when they're overgrown, they're around the lines and in the road. It's difficult to get trucks or other equipment up there. This situation effects at least 15 telephone poles.

If the resident has an outside professional remove them, CMELD will need to deactivate the lines while that's being done. If CMELD removes them, the residents will have to have them cleaned up themselves as they are unable to drive the woodchipper up there.

John said Taft Road is a private road and is not maintained by the town, it is the homeowner's responsibility. John mentioned the homeowners could get together to hire a private excavating company because the town has no jurisdiction to that road. John's



suggestion was for CMELD to give the residents notice about needing to cut the trees down and a few days for them to comment/respond before proceeding but since it's a safety issue, it needs to be done.

There was discussion about the deprivatization of Taft Road. John said it has been discussed a few times but the process to do it is lengthy and involves having state engineers review the road and do reconstruction.

Diane said CMELD received their grant for around \$70,000 to take trees down along Skyline and Bromley Road. They've have been waiting for this grant for a long time and hope to start that project soon.

Town Administrator Report:

- Citizen Request for Better Speaker System During Town Events (i.e. Memorial Day)

The speaker system was not very clear during the Memorial Day celebrations. The town has an old speaker system that is used during all Annual Town Meetings. John said that is something that he is working on negotiating with the Comcast contract. The town is hoping to receive funding support from Comcast to be used towards enhancements for sound systems that can be used for meetings and other town events.

- Vote on Recipients of the Hamilton & Steinhart Scholarships

Don Humason presented the scholarship applications and the applicants' information to the board. The Hamilton scholarship is awarded to any Chester student (attending either high school or college) who applies. There were four applicants this year: Evan Forgue, Elizabeth Labarren, Sean Forgue and Dalton Savoy. The amount awarded will be determined by the bank once they receive the number of recipients.

John Baldasaro made a motion to award the Hamilton Scholarship to all four applicants, Evan Forgue, Elizabeth Labarren, Sean Forgue, and Dalton Savoy. The scholarship amount will be split evenly between them. Andy Sutton seconded and all were in favor.

The Steinhart scholarship is awarded to the Chester student with the highest GPA. This year Evan Forgue is the winning recipient with a GPA of 4.49.

John Baldasaro made a motion to award the Steinhart Scholarship to the applicant with the highest GPA, Evan Forgue. Andy Sutton seconded and all were in favor.

- Kendall Bennett, Assessors' Clerk, provided her letter of resignation with her last day to be September 1st.



- Andy Sutton said he needed more members for the Town Administrator search committee.

The following department heads and members now included are Police Chief Jen Dubiel, Town Clerk Terry Donovan, Finance Committee Chair Brian Forgue, and Administrative Assistant Kim Fox. Andy asked Liz Massa if she would join. She said she can represent the Planning Board. She said he would need to ask Nick Chuisano if he would like to represent the Board of Health.

Public Comments:

Brian Forgue said Kristen Smidy, Superintendent of Gateway, submitted her resignation letter to the school today. Her last day will be August 31st. It will be a priority for the school committee to find her replacement. A question was asked about the Chester Elementary School principal investigation. Brian said that a termination letter was approved and principal Vanna Maffucio has been fired.

Barbara Huntoon apologized on behalf of The Chester Foundation for the ruts made on the ballfield during Chester on Track. They have since been repaired by Dave Pierce.

Barbara asked why there were cameras installed at the ballfield and said The Chester Foundation was not involved in that process. Andy said Dave Pierce had spoken with Don and Craig Gauthier about it, and they were under the impression that he had run it by the rest of the foundation and was going through the proper channels.

Don said that they don't appear to have internet access anymore because they haven't been working recently. Barbara asked who was paying for the cameras, the electricity and the WIFI needed. Don said that the original understanding was that Dave was taking care of the costs, but the town will be paying about \$350 for the installation as a one-time cost. The internet from the transfer station was being used for the cameras. Liz Massa asked who put the equipment on the transfer station shed because the board of health was unaware. John said that this seems to be a miscommunication issue. He said they were under the impression that everyone was notified and on board with the project. Melissa McAuliffe asked who was paying for the cameras and who would have access to them. Don said he has access in addition to the police department. John said this seems to be simple miscommunication, and they will take care of it.

John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Sutton seconded and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.



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Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Fox, Administrative Assistant

Date Signed

John Baldasaro, Chairman


Date Signed



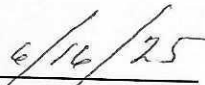
Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman



Date Signed



Craig Gauthier, Clerk



Date Signed



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CHESTER SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

Monday, June 2, 2025, 6:00PM, in the Town Hall Auditorium

This meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting, but it is at the Select Board's discretion to allow participation for those attending remotely.

-Meeting minutes and warrants may be signed.

Report from Town Departments/Town Business:

-CMELD re: Problems responding to a call on Taft Road -Diane Hall

Town Administrator Don Humason report:

-Hamilton & Steinhart Scholarships. Vote on 2025 recipients.

-Request from citizen for better speaker system for Memorial Day Ceremony

Anything that should come before the Selectboard that was unanticipated within the 48 hours of posting:

Public Comments or Questions:

Next Meeting: Annual Town Meeting, Monday, June 9, 2025, 7PM
Monday, June 16, 2025, 6PM

Meeting Adjournment



This meeting is being held in person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting.

Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.

Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly.

Town of Chester, Massachusetts is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Chester Select Board Meeting

Time: Jun 2, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89508230490?pwd=c42adpdi4t6CZ6GE4lywaU9d4D00rB.1>

Meeting ID: 895 0823 0490 Passcode: 570970



CHARLES "CHIP" DAZELLE, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
CHESTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
2 TOWN ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

(413) 354-2276

Highwaysuper@townofchester.net

6-2-25 Selectboard Report from the Highway Department

- 1] Grading of dirt roads all done
- 2] Johnson hill project done for now. Got edges back
- 3] Roadside mower going to the shop. No brakes, the rear tire blew out
- 4] Grant for Johnson and Blandford Road should be submitted. Great prices on blacktop
- 5] Kinnie brook road is closed for culvert replacement. This was done by Trout Unlimited and no notice was given to the town until the day of. May be delays due to their money problems
- 6] Washouts with heavy rain in Saturday
- 7] Replacing culvert on Mica Mill

Next week replace a collapsing culvert on Johnson Hill Road by water plant

-Charles "Chip" Dazelle,
Chester Highway Superintendent
Cell 413-393-8946