



TOWN OF CHESTER SELECT BOARD
15 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

Monday, May 4th, 2026

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Open Meeting: This meeting was held in the Town Hall Auditorium with a virtual option.

Select Board members present were Craig Gauthier, Brian Forgue, and Jill Strong. Also present were Town Administrator Andrew Alward, Administrative Assistant Kim Fox, and members of the public.

Brian Forgue opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Warrants, minutes, and correspondence were signed.

Report from Town Departments

- Reorganize the Board

Jill Strong made a motion to appoint Brian Forgue as Chair. Craig Gauthier seconded. The motion passed.

Brian Forgue moved to appoint Jill Strong as Vice Chair. Craig Gauthier seconded. The motion passed.

- Town Scholarships Review

The application deadline for the Franklin Hamilton and Theodore Steinhardt scholarships was May 1st.

The Franklin Hamilton scholarship can be awarded to any Chester student who applies, and the Theodore Steinhardt scholarship is awarded to the student with the highest GPA. Two applicants applied for both scholarships: Isabella LeBarron and Michael Whitaker.

Brian Forgue made a motion to award the Franklin Hamilton Scholarship to both Michael Whitaker and Isabella LeBarron. Jill Strong seconded. The motion passed.

Brian Forgue made a motion to award the Theodore Steinhardt to the student with the highest GPS of the applicants, Michael Whitaker. Jill Strong seconded. The motion passed.



- Appointing Sean Forgue and Lora Wade to the Open Space Plan Committee

Bob Daley said that Paul Waite had also expressed interest in serving on the committee and asked whether the full Conservation Committee should be represented on the Open Space Plan Committee.

Liz Massa asked that future appointment requests should be submitted directly by interested individuals; the Board agreed. Brian said he spoke with Sean Forgue and will follow up with the Conservation Committee to see whether someone would prefer to participate as a citizen rather than as a Conservation Committee member. Craig noted the importance of having someone locally available to serve on the committee. Andrew Alward requested that anyone seeking an appointment email the Town Administrator so there is a paper trail.

Report from Town Administrator:

- Custodian Discussion

The search for a new Town Hall custodian has continued, with limited responses. Andrew said he had opened the search to local cleaning businesses and wanted to get the Board's opinion on whether they were okay with hiring a company for the service or if they still wanted to hire an individual employee.

Brian Forgue made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to hire a vendor to fill the custodian position. Jill Strong seconded. The motion passed.

Public Comment

Brian congratulated Jill on her recent win in the town election.

Craig reported that he is continuing to work with DEP on requirements for cleaning up the wood waste landfill.

Brian noted that he was looking into other insurance options for the town. Gateway works with an umbrella insurance provider that may offer a lower cost. He is researching this for FY28, as the deadline to change carriers for FY27 has passed.

Veronica Marr asked whether the Board appointed Brian as Chair at this meeting; Brian confirmed that they did.

Gene and Rebecca Boisseau of 25 Taft Road reported concerns about a neighbor, Adam Wade, excavating around culverts near wetlands and questioned whether appropriate procedures are



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

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Submitted by,

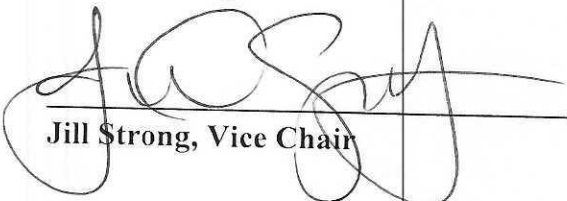
Kim Fox, Administrative Assistant

Date Signed

Selectboard:


Brian Fogue, Chair

5/18/26
Date Signed


Jill Strong, Vice Chair

5/18/24
Date Signed


Craig Gauthier

5/18/26
Date Signed



being followed. He noted that prior excavation work at his property required Conservation Commission protocols.

Rebecca Boisseau said he is performing work on Taft Road and he believes he owns Taft Road. She said the work involves digging around culverts and expressed concern that it is contributing to washouts and could cause long-term damage.

Craig said he would review the matter with the Highway Superintendent, and Brian said he would check property lines with the Assessors' Office. There was discussion about Taft Road being a private road and the limitations that creates for Town involvement.

Gene and Rebecca said they have contacted the police multiple times and they were told that photographic evidence would be needed for further action. They also stated that Adam has issued the Boisseaus with a no-trespass order, and there was question about its validity.

Brian Forgue made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jill Strong seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

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