

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, June 24, 2020  
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert; also in attendance Richard Strauss, Elizabeth Reinhart, and Susan Wright.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

LONG TERM RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Two long term Recovery Coordinators, Ray Guasp, Chester’s Emergency Management Director and Jamie Grzybowski, Fire Chief, have been working in tandem and are developing protocols for recovery. Eleven sub-committees, small semi autonomous groups, have been formed and tasked with areas of concern including financial stability, social services, emotional wellness, small businesses, arts/culture, etc. The Chairmen of each sub-committee will report regularly to the Long Term Coordinator. Action plans will be developed to assist Chester’s recovery efforts during and after the Covid-19 Pandemic. An initial orientation for all volunteers is scheduled on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Re-Open Chester Committee collected 620 survey responses and the committee is currently reviewing the data. Some results will be “paired up” with POCD goals.

MAIN STREET PROJECT UPDATE

Lauren thanked Richard Strauss for documenting, through photos, the Main Street project.

As previously reported, supply shortages did delay a portion of the project; however, the contractors are “catching up”. They have extended their hours and have talked with Merchants to coordinate activities to lessen the impact of the project on their businesses (as much as possible). Sidewalks have been installed on the North side of the street from the Villager to Otto. Tomorrow’s town-wide email will include an update of the project.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 10, 2020 MINUTES

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/10/20 BOS meeting. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Lauren reported that plans are being developed to open the Town Hall to the public on 7/7. All appropriate PPE equipment, floor markings, etc. are being installed and the public will be encouraged to continue to do as much as possible via mail, email, “virtually”.

Lauren provided an update on the protocols at Cedar Lake and Pelletier Park and the sale of non-resident beach passes as of Phase II. Sale to non-residents may be limited. Park & Rec. has designated 20 spaces on the beach (up to 5 individuals per spot). Additional signage has been ordered and will be

installed. The signage will outline the rules relative to Covid-19. Park & Rec has added additional staff “shifts” for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

Lauren reported on the status of the Building Official. Four candidates applied for the position; 2 are not under consideration, 1 is not yet qualified (test was cancelled due to Covid) and the 4<sup>th</sup> candidate may be considered for the position. Lauren is currently in discussion with the First Selectman of the town where this individual is currently employed (would be a shared position, approx. 12 hours per week). Dick Leighton is still acting as Building Official.

Individuals were encouraged to participate in the Regional POCD being facilitated by the COG. The COG will also do town specific workshop possibly at the August P&Z meeting (Deep River will also be invited to attend this meeting). The Board briefly discussed the possibility that the Regional POCD may conflict with local POCDs. Lauren reported that all POCDs must comply with the State’s POCD.

The COG is facilitating another meeting (Lauren will confirm the date/time) on the Natural Hazardous Mitigation Plan. Draft documents will be available for review.

A series of workshops and a webinar on aquatic and invasive species is scheduled on 6/25 @ 4 p.m. Jenny will forward information on same.

The tax bills have been sent out.

The solar powered speeding sign installed on a tree across from Cedar Lake also stores data relative to speeding, time of day speeding occurs, etc. There are two signs and the other sign is moved to various locations throughout town.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS/ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Richard Strauss suggested that the BOS review the types of products that are used as ice melt during the Winter months. Many products will be damaging to the newly installed sidewalks. Lauren reported that a contractor maintains the sidewalks and she will speak with them about the products used to address ice on the sidewalks. Richard will forward to Lauren information developed by the DOT on products.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski, Clerk