

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Rob Bibbiani, Virginia Carmany, BOF Chairman, Elizabeth Reinhart, Richard Strauss, BOF member and Joe Cohen.

APPOINTMENTS – OFFICIALS, BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Chester's representative, D, to the Region 4 BOE resigned several weeks ago. The DTC interviewed several individuals to fill the seat until the next municipal election.

Mr. Bibbiani's application and resume was included in the BOS packet.

Tom Englert made a motion to appoint Robert Bibbiani, D, to the Region 4 BOE with a term to expire November 2021. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Englert made a motion to appoint Scott McCoid as Asst. Animal Control Officer for the Town of Chester with a term to expire October 7, 2021. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Currently, Chester, Deep River and Essex "share" Katelyn Sicora as the Animal Control Officer. The Assistant Animal Control Officer position was appropriately posted and Mr. McCoid was interviewed by the First Selectman in Essex, Deep River and Chester. HR paperwork is done through each town's Selectman's office (each town will pay him separately) and he will report to the Essex Resident State Trooper. The ACO vehicle will be shared by Scott and Katelyn.

Mr. McCoid's resume was included in the BOS packet.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to re-appoint John Williams, U, and Kurt Zieman, D, to the Park & Rec Commission with terms to expire 11/1/23. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LAND USE OFFICE STAFFING

As previously reported, Judy Brown, ZEO, resigned and Betty Perrault has been temporarily filling in and performing administrative duties, (by law, in the absence of a ZEO, the Chairman of P&Z becomes the ZEO). As P&Z is working on a replacement, several administrative "clean-up" projects have been identified in the Land Use office. Peg Metcalf, Deep River Land Use Department expressed a willingness to temporarily assist in the Land Use Department (1/2 day to one day per week for 4 to 6 weeks). P&Z will post the position and hopes to have a ZEO in place by January 2021. Lauren will meet next week with the Land Use staff to discuss Judy's duties vis a vis other Boards/Commissions.

ELECTION DAY PLANNING

Charlene provided an update on Election Day as follows:

- The Registrars, Town Clerk, First Selectwoman and Resident Trooper have met to discuss Election Day Protocols.
 - All CDC guidelines; i.e. masks, social distancing, hand sanitizer etc. will be in place.
 - Parking – as previously discussed, tents, etc are not permitted in the Town Hall parking lot. Parking spots will be reserved for Essex Savings Bank customers. The parking lot will be lined prior to Election Day.
 - Flow of voters in and out of the Town Hall.
 - Protocol for individuals not willing to wear a mask.
 - Protocol for potential “poll watchers”.
 - The Town Hall offices will be closed for business on Election Day; information on same will be communicated to the public.
 - Police will be available on Election Day.
 - There have been approximately 1,200 requests for Absentee Ballots and 800 ballots have been returned.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2020 BOS meeting as amended. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Clarification: Page 1 – under “Aquatic Invasive Species Presentation/Cedar Lake.

Second paragraph – note that the tubers and flowers have not been found in the **strain of Hydrilla in the Connecticut River**.

3rd Bullet – Clarify that it is unclear why the **strain of Hydrilla found in the Connecticut River** has not yet been found in lakes.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Laruen reported on the following relative to the Main Street Project

- The project is nearing completion
- Perennial plantings have been placed at the top of the Chester Wall.
- Brian Kent and Scott Mills are “tagging” trees for the tree wells. It is anticipated that the trees will be planted when they are dormant.

FEMA update:

- To date, FEMA has not responded to the March through June claim submitted relative to Covid-19.
 - Items not covered by FEMA will be submitted to OPM for CARES funding.
- An additional claim will be submitted with June through September expenses.

Covid-19 update:

- Positive cases increasing throughout the State.
- Governor has allowed municipalities to revert to Phase 2 as they deem appropriate.

- A student came to school not feeling well and later tested positive. The High School and Middle School are closed today, 10/14 and students are participating in remote learning. The Health Department/District is beginning contact tracing. It is anticipated that schools will be open on Thursday, 10/15.

Lauren continues to work with the Town Attorney and DEEP relative to the proposed Ordinance; i.e. Invasive Species/Cedar Lake and a variety of other items including garbage cans for business owners.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Lauren is currently discussing with the Town Attorney a matter at 9 Parkers Point. She will respond to Mr. Cohen as soon as possible .

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Englert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Charlene Janeczek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk