

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday April 13, 2021

Members Present: Richard Bouchard, Ed Millette, Jason Weir, and Jodi Pinard Town Administrator, Kristy Willey Administrative Assistant.

Members of the public: Chief Clarke, Chief Quimby, John Martel, Craig Sykes, Dr. Bette Bogdan, Evelyn Pike, Bonnie Potter, Donna Chagnon, Zach Boyijian, Kathy Hosmer Doult, Tom Houle

Call to Order: Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Chairman Bouchard

All right Welcome everyone to the April 13, 2021 Board of Selectmen meeting.

In light of the covid 19 Coronavirus virus social distancing advice made by the Governor and the CDC and following a declaration of emergency by the Select board chairperson is providing a meeting. Participation via telephone conference for your safety. If you would like to participate in a cell phone conference, please call this number from home 123126266799 and enter this code meeting ID and passcode. Following along, we are using a digital copy from our website at Chichesternh.org. We will also be streaming this meeting as a webinar which you can join by going to the link provided in this agenda. please reach out to Jodi crowd with any questions or concerns at email JPinard@ChichesterNH.org

Fire Department-

Chief Quimby stated that the Fire Department has responded to several brush fires in Town. They also assisted Pittsfield with a brush/building fire and last week assisted Gilmanton with a four-alarm brush fire. All the forestry equipment is currently operational. The online fire permit system the fee is scheduled to go from \$3.00 to \$5.50 and that is due to upgrades to the state online fire permit system.

Chief Quimby reported that he, Ed Millette and Paul Sanborn attended the Warden/Deputy Warden annual training which was conducted on zoom.

The Police and Fire conducted a community service event. The Saturday prior to Easter they escorted the Easter Bunny around Town which was well received by those who participated.

Members have been working on sprucing up the station with a new floor in the kitchen, which looks really nice. Our goal is to eventually take that flooring and put it into the training room. Thank you to Ed Millette for spearheading that project. He was assisted by many of our members.

Police Department-

Chief Clarke stated that he had some unfortunate news. Officer Carrero gave his notice, he is moving to Florida. His last day is going to be April 24. Officer Arnone, who was our other full timer that was hired the same time as Officer Carrero has been waiting to get into lineman school. Officer Arnone would like to come back and fill in until he starts his training. Right now he is unemployed, so there would be a seamless transition.

Chief Clarke asked the Board to agree to bring Officer Arnone back for the time being, to give him time to find a permanent replacement for the position.

The Board agreed.

Chief Clarke stated that he managed to get some reports printed from the radar signs. Unfortunately, he missed something in the setup process because the dates and times are not correct. He was able to pull data from them. Both roads, Horse Corner and Bear Hill, about 95% of the cars are traveling 40 miles per hour or below. 41 to 45 miles per hour, makes up a majority of the other 5%. Then there are a couple that were traveling 75 miles per hour plus.

Chief Clarke stated that Highway Safety had some extra equipment money. He wrote a grant for an additional radar sign, which is a 50/50 matching grant. He received a quote from Elan city and one sign with the batteries is \$2950. The grant was approved. The Town will have to pay the upfront fee at first of \$2950 and then the state will reimburse us for half of that \$1475. They also awarded us another \$2,000. to combat the secondary roads, Bear Hill and Canterbury Road that are seeing traffic increased from the from the Route 4 changes.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to authorize the expenditure for the funds for one sign with the batteries \$2950 Out of that detail account. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. Motion passes.

Highway-

Mr. Sykes stated that the well has been completed. He received a laboratory report back and they're coming to evaluate it with him. He was pleased to report that the sodium and chloride numbers are barely detectable, so the casing was a big help.

He reported that he unposted all roads.

East Ricker was cleaned up and they were able to get rid of the logs and didn't have to stack up the yard. Danny Lad agreed to take them.

He stated he received two quotes for the Town parking lot. Unfortunately, they exceed the \$20,000, I'm waiting for the third quote to come in.

Mr. Millette asked about the Bear Hill Road project, which will be voted upon at Town Meeting. He wanted to be sure that the stone wall that needs to be taken care of before the project is taken care of.

Mr. Sykes stated that his intention is to take care of it before.

Selectmen Weir stated to Mr. Sykes that the roads look good.

Library-

Ms. Doult reported that the Library recently gave out about 20 bags of filled Easter Eggs for families in Chichester, filled with either candy or a toy, they were so popular, they were all gone by Saturday, April 3rd.

The Make and Take craft for Easter was Easter Egg Paper Dying, using tissue paper, another hit with the kids.

We have an Easter virtual Storytime on our Facebook page for all the kids, with our director, Caroline Pynes, reading two Easter books, Peppa's Easter Egg Hunt, and Jan Brett's Easter Egg.

The staff is preparing for the Summer Reading Program, "Tails and Tales." We will be utilizing the site Read Squared.com. The website has missions, prizes, book reading lists, videos and games for all ages that relate to the theme of the Summer Reading Program.

The Library is getting to offer a service called Hoopla, which is being tried out through the use of the grant we received. It is an e-book service that offers e-books, audio books, television shows, comics, and much more. An announcement will be made on Facebook once the library receives its marketing materials.

The Down Cellar Used Book area has been open for appointments three days in March, with a two-hour sale this past Saturday. The total amount received via sales of used books, puzzles, dvd's, etc. was \$323.00. There will be at least one more appointment day between now and our first "official" sale on May 22nd.

We will be revisiting our COVID-19 policy in the near future. Considerations include whether or not staff are vaccinated and whether or not the numbers are going down in Town. At present, the numbers have been rising.

Parks and Rec-

Mr. Boyijian stated that Parks and Rec will be meeting at the park and not via zoom.

Mr. Boyijian stated that he met with a couple of representatives of the school talk about the school trails. They discussed potentially applying for a recreational trail program grant. They previously used a grant program at Carpenter Park to build the perimeter trail.

The Parks and Rec Commission had a couple of workdays already this year. The park has not been opened up yet in terms of the building and they are waiting on CYA to say when the annual cleanup will be done

Planning Board-

Mr. Brehm stated that the Planning Board did approve two subdivisions up on Hilliard Road. One of them has four lots and the other one has one new lot. The next meeting is in May, which will be via zoom. The Board is having another work meeting this month with the Central Regional Planning Commission to further discuss the community chapters in the Master Plan.

Ms. Willey stated that Mr. Halle did file an appeal to the housing board after his Chichester Commons housing project was denied by the Planning Board. The Town's attorney is going to be filing your response. This will be going before the housing appeals board, which moves a lot quicker than the normal court system. Ms. Willey will keep the Board posted on the upcoming dates and other information involving the appeal.

Selectmen Millette stated that he noticed that DBU on Dover Road changed the elevation of the front parking area and they are now using it for camper storage for somebody commercially. He asked if that is allowed by Site Plan?

Mr. Brehm stated that it is not allowed.

Ms. Willey stated that they are putting a building in that location which will be built out in June. She stated that she did already address that with their engineer after seeing the campers onsite and communicated with them that it wasn't allowed, and it would require a new site plan if they wanted to store those temporarily.

Selectmen Millette asked that a violation letter be sent to DBU.

Appointments-

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to appoint Stan Brehm, Richard Bouchard as members and Kevin Mara as an alternate to the CNHRPC Committee. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to appoint Carolee Davison and Linda Fisher to serve as an alternate member on the board of library trustees for a one-year term. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to appoint Richard Moore to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to appoint Stan Brehm as an alternate to the CNHRPC Transportation Advisory Committee. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Approval of Minutes-

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to approve the meeting minutes of April 6, 2021 as written. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Intent to cut for map 1 lot 25-5 and 25-6-

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to approve the intent to cut for Map 1 Lot 25-5 and Map 1 Lot 25-6. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Other Business-

Mr. Bouchard stated that something was brought to his attention by several residents that he wanted to address with Mr. Weir. He asked Mr. Weir if he has moved out of Town and is living in Loudon, whether it is temporary or not.

Mr. Weir stated yes, but because of my current situation with my children he must maintain a residence in Chichester. He stated that if my permanent or my home record address changes he will update it.

Mr. Houle stated his concerns about what happened at last weeks meeting. He asked Mr. Weir if it was true that he did not want to wear a mask at the meeting, so the meeting was canceled?

Mr. Weir stated that was correct, but there was a lot more to it than that.

Mr. Houle stated that made him rather upset. The Board had voted to have the meeting and make it in person on March 23, 2021. Mr. Houle stated that he was upset that Mr. Weir changed his mind. He stated "Mr. Weir is supposed to be here for the Town and to wear a mask for an hour or two isn't an awful lot to ask. The Town has enough trouble

getting volunteers and then to have you waste people's time because your soap box or whatever it is that you are on? I find it upsetting and just disrespectful to both the public and the Town officials that you're working for".

Mr. Weir stated that he appreciated Mr. Houle's opinion, but it is his opinion that he is following the governor's mandate. He stated if you read the mandate, if we were able to safely social distance that in keep our six-foot distance, the mask requirements are not there. He stated that it is unfortunate that the Board could not come to an agreement and we had to postpone the meeting and had to continue to stick with this format.

Mr. Houle asked Mr. Weir if he thought it was worth wasting the Town's people's time over wearing a mask for that amount of time and waste money. He stated he would like to have all this put in the minutes, because he is really disgusted with how Mr. Weir handled the whole thing.

Selectmen Millette stated that he made the motion to adjourn the meeting. He stated that he did some research on the emergency order number 74, which is the governor's mandate on mask wearing. Mr. Millette stated that his biggest disappointment was that the Board had discussed at the last zoom meeting that we were planning to go back to meeting in person and we had the mask discussion at that point and if it was a concern, then he wished we had discussed it so we could have made that decision as a group. To respect Jason's opinion, if Mr. Weir did not feel that he is required to wear a mask nor wants to that is his right, but we could have had that discussion two weeks ago before the meeting and just kept the same format. Mr. Weir has every right to change his mind between that meeting and the next, but it could have saved us from having to cancel that meeting. One of the sticking points was the word consistently that is in the Governor's mandate. Mr. Millette looked up and went to [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) to look up the definition of consistent. The definition reads, consistently: the first definition of consistently as an adverb is in every case, or on every occasion, invariably, which means there are no exceptions. Mr. Millette stated that is how he interpreted the mask mandate and Mr. Weir interprets it differently. Mr. Millette apologized that we as a Board convened, it was in my opinion, the right thing to do.

Chairman Bouchard stated that he respects Mr. Weir's opinion as far as wearing masks, because he hates wearing them also. However, when it comes from Town and being a Selectmen, he tries not to be political. He stated that he tries to separate a lot of things make the right decisions for the Town and wearing a mask, just like going into a doctor's office is something that is required.

Dr. Bogdan thanked Mr. Millette and Mr. Bouchard for your weighing in, and Mr. Houle as well. She stated from a public health standpoint, she thinks we are all trying to protect one another. The key term is consistently being able to keep that distance. She stated that she felt disappointed in Mr. Weir and disrespected as a citizen.

Selectmen Weir stated that there was certainly no disrespect intended and that it is more of a standing up for something you believe in.

Mrs. Pinard stated that it should be discussed now if he is or is not going to wear a mask at Town Meeting, so that the moderator is fully aware. She stated that it is not fair to people if there is a scene and all of a sudden, our Police Department is put in an awkward position. The school does require masks, and anybody who goes into that school needs to follow that rule.

Selectmen Weir stated that he thought the Board of Selectmen and whoever else needs to be needs to be prepared for that. He stated he thought there is a good chance that there may be other people that just refuse.

Selectmen Millette stated it was his recommendation that we invite everyone to come the first Tuesday of next month to have this specific discussion as to what the expectations are and what the ramifications are if the expectations are not met.

Flag Discussion-

Mr. Martel stated that he would help the Town Hall flag on days that the flag needs to be lowered. Also, as the President of the Police Association, we need to replace 15 flags on Main Street this year and will be looking for donations. The Police Association can't afford to replace them every year.

Mr. Houle stated that he may be able to help.

Committee Updates-

Selectmen Weir stated that the Road Advisory Committee should resume meeting again next month.

Mr. Bouchard stated that the BCEP hired a new Administrator, John Keane from Epsom. Last week was his first full week and he is already involved with committee meetings, and he feels he is going to be a good addition.

Selectmen Millette stated that the Heritage commission is working on an improvement to the demolition permit in Town. The Commission is trying to get some help for townspeople or organizations to adopt flower barrels throughout Town. Please contact the Heritage Commission if interested, for that they could certainly use some help.

Non-Public

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to go into **91-A:3 II (c)** - Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to exit nonpublic session. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to seal the minutes until which time that said discussed positions are filled. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by a roll call vote on 5/4/2021

Kristy Willey, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir