

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
May 16, 2016

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney

Others Present: Dick DeMyer, Chuck Morrone, Keith LaCasse, Wayne Buckley, Nathan Smith, Mary Bath, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Greylock Road: Update from Ken McInerney – MESA says there may be a rare plant species off of Greylock Road. The town needs to hire a certified botanist to survey plant life in August. Ken called Erica Krueter from the Department of Economic Development. He is waiting to hear if the funding from the grant can be extended beyond this year. Otherwise, the scope of the project will be changed to just put down compact base on the road and do a culvert study. Will need to file for a permit that will cost \$300.

2. Road Commissioner: Keith opened the roads May 9. Roys Road is passable but big tire tracks remain. There are just over 100 tons of millings left from the Route 7 bridge/ road work. Ingraham Road does not need grading. Keith will fill in potholes where Route 7 meets Greylock Road. There is a water issue there where a ditch needs to be dug out. A cross culvert could be added and repacked with the recycled base.

The ash tree on Beach Hill is down, the oak tree near McInerneys' was trimmed and the burned out branch near the Grossos' was removed.

Public Comment and any other subjects for consideration: Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief, the AFG's are starting to be announced. He should hear about the town's grant status any time between now and October.

Chuck Morrone, Tree Warden, there are \$2905 left in the tree removal account for FY16. There are approximately ten dead trees that need to be dropped that will cost around \$2200. Two of those trees are in the cemetery. The board approved the removal of the ten trees.

There is a tree on Greylock Road that was marked in the fall for Eversource to look at. Ken is going to call Eversource and restart the process.

Nathan Smith would like to use a bait trap to take a beehive from the tree near the mailboxes at the Town Hall to his property on Ingraham Road. The board approved the beehive removal.

The board approved usage of the town hall for play rehearsal as requested by Nathan Smith and Mary Bath. Rehearsals will include up to four people once or twice a week initially, and up to four times a week near production, which will take place at the Sandisfield Arts Center. The group could also put on a performance for the town. The provisions of usage are that the building is left in the condition it was a found in (i.e., chairs placed back in rows...), and that rehearsals do not conflict with town meetings.

Dick DeMyer put up flags in the cemetery. There was some vandalism to flags from last year, and brass markers missing. The new markers are aluminum and cast iron. Dick would like the cemetery to be open before Mother's Day in the future.

Chuck Morrone asked about town counsel's response to the question of how long the town needs to care for the land around the Old Schoolhouse before it can be claimed through adverse possession. Town Counsel responded that 20 years of care is required for adverse possession if no one has made entry for 20 years. Five elements of proof are required. Jason will forward the e-mail to the board and also to Chuck. Pete Rancourt has mowed since May of 2000.

Broadband – Jason is the point of contact for the town with MBI and will attend the Wired West meeting May 21. MBI survey is due May 27, checklist of documents due in June.

Mark Phelps- The legislation for the Mohawk Woodland Partnership has been finalized for submission. If legislation passes, the town will need to vote to join the partnership. It will include assistance for woodland owners, conservation, twenty year conservation easements, etc. The town is asked to send letters to the legislators in support of the legislation. Mark recommended that the board support the legislation. Ken made a motion for the town to support the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership legislation, seconded by Jason. This will not affect taxes. The town currently has 38% land in conservation.

\$400 needs to be appropriated to the roads and bridges account as it was marked as tree work.

Is there an alternate for the gas inspector? A property owner asked that the gas inspector not be on their property. There is one inspector for the town.

Room tax rate. Lori Jayko spoke with Lisa Krzywicki from DOR. Hotel room taxes cannot be reported individually due to confidentiality. Lori will e-mail the taxpayer name and establishment to DOR for follow-up.

Sign Warrant. Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Approve Select Board minutes for May 2, 2016. On a motion by Mark Phelps, seconded by Jason the minutes were approved. Ken abstained.

Approve Select Board minutes for May 3, 2016. On a motion by Mark Phelps, seconded by Jason the minutes were approved.

Next meeting June 6, 2016 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:53