

New Ashford Select Board Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall  
February 8, 2018

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps  
Absent: Ken McInerney  
Others Present: Carolyn Kirk, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 10:00

1. Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development: The board updated Carolyn Kirk, from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHEC), on the progress of the broadband project. The EOHEC has a weekly phone call with Eversource, Westfield Gas and Electric, Verizon, and National Grid to discuss the status of broadband in the various towns. Every 60 – 90 days, they report to the Governor. The Lt. Governor has also been visiting towns. Mark asked if we can eventually eliminate Verizon, as residents will have phone service through Westfield Gas and Electric. This would eliminate those pole application renewals. Carolyn said some towns buy the poles, but this may not be the best option for us as poles are jointly owned with Eversource. The state will help on overages incurred with the broadband make-ready work.

Carolyn gave an overview of the Community Compact Program, an initiative started by the Lt. Governor. They are making a last push to get all towns involved because they are transitioning to a new version of the program. The compact helps towns implement best practices, with state support in the form of grants or technical assistance. On the Community Compact's website ([mass.gov/cc](http://mass.gov/cc)), there is a menu of best practice options. Applications are submitted online by choosing a best practice from the menu, justifying the need, and sending the information electronically to the state. The state then reviews the application and responds with how it can help implement the best practice. Once a plan is in place for implementing the best practice, the Lt. Governor will come to town to sign the compact.

Carolyn helped the board fill out two best practice applications, one for energy efficiency for the Town Hall, and the other for a generator for back-up power for the broadband equipment and heat in the Town Hall (as it is our designated Emergency Management shelter).

The state likes best practices implemented within a year. Then the town can apply for new best practice support. Some ideas for future applications: Having a best practice initiative for keeping the town updated on information about the status of the broadband project, helping residents learn the new technology, a long-term road maintenance plan, or long range financial planning.

The Board thanked Carolyn for attending and assisting with the application process.

2. Any Other Board Subjects for Consideration: The board reviewed the special town meeting warrant articles. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the special town meeting warrant articles were approved. Jason and Mark signed the warrant articles. Jason will get the document to Ken for his signature and will then give it to the Town Clerk to be posted. The Special Town Meeting is scheduled for February 26, at 6:00.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59