

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
August 20, 2018

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Mark Phelps
Absent: Ken McInerney
Others Present: Chuck Morrone, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve the minutes: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 8/7/2018 Select Board meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 8/10/2018 Select Board Meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 8/14/2018 Select Board meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Chuck Morrone offered run an ad to get rid of the big copiers at the Town Hall for free. Mark made a motion that Chuck advertise them for free, seconded by Jason. Mark mentioned that there are a couple of trees on Smith Road that are dying off, including an ash tree near the power lines. Chuck will let the arborist from Eversource know and also about a big tree on Mallery Road that is losing limbs. He has sent other trees to the arborist and they have already been marked. Chuck would like a written copy of the right of ways on the roads. Keith Lacasse will give an estimate to drop the trees and chip the brush near where the propane tanks, for the Town Hall, will be placed.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse will order a new street sign for Smith Road and will check on the Roys Road sign.

The town of Dalton purchased the mower for the sides of the roads. Becket is in control of the new mower program but they haven't done it yet. Dalton will let us borrow the mower next week. After mowing, Keith will start work on the ditches. He will pave the rough spots on Beach Hill Road. There's a little sink hole on Ingraham Road. Keith will grade it when it dries out. A maple branch on Ingraham Road needs to be cut and will be added to the Tree Warden's list.

Keith got an e-mail from Culvert Connection about the 2018 culvert grants. There are different grants available in August through the Division of Ecological Restoration. The price of black top is at \$67 -\$68/ton for top through the Berkshire Purchasing Group.

The owner of the pond on Mallery and Cemetery Roads will be asked again to provide written permission to dig out the pond and maintain a water source for the Fire Department.

The steel for the Salt Shed was delivered. It will be cut to size by a machine shop in Pittsfield and there is pipe that will be welded on the channel, with rod getting threaded through the inside. Keith will put a berm in the front side of the Salt Shed.

The additional snow plowing mileage, due to new residences, will be added to a meeting's agenda. The turnaround for the snow plow on Ingraham Road still needs to be modified.

Keith will put 6-8-inches of base material in front of Wooliver's on Greylock Road and will have the Woolivers address the approach to their driveway as it causes water to run down the road.

4. Trees near propane tank location: Covered above.

5. Town Hall Updates: There is progress on the new broadband equipment room. When the exterior wall is done, the AC can be installed. The electrician will install a temporary line for testing for the AC.

Mark recommended that the Board send out a Broadband update to the town via e-mail.

6. Town Library Books: Jason will ask the Town Clerk who is on the Library Committee. Sarah Currie, from the Williamstown Historical Museum looked at the books and presented several options, including loaning certain books to the Museum so that townspeople could have access to them. The library books are catalogued. The local records books are missing. Chuck will put the books back in the cabinet in the bathroom and in the old schoolhouse. There are some locked cabinets downstairs that may have more books. There are also old Town Reports and Ballots in the Assessor's office.

7. Broadband: In the spring, we signed an agreement with Whip City to pursue CAF 2 funding on our behalf. We will get \$144,000 over the next ten years. Jason will find out how it is allocated and what it can be used for. We are waiting for Verizon and Eversource to do their make-ready work. The contractor who won the bid for the build out, would like to start sooner than scheduled. Legislation got pushed in regards to towns across borders, so towns can serve an unserved customer in another town.

8. Any other unforeseen business: Several e-mail addresses are missing on Gateway. Jason will have the Town Clerk update them.

Chuck got a new sign for the Old Schoolhouse, to correct the spelling of Phoebe Jordan's name, commemorating the first female vote. The 100th anniversary of the event will occur in 2020. The Williamstown Historical Museum expressed interest in celebrating women's suffrage with a ceremony at the Schoolhouse.

We have not received the Community Compact Grant money yet.

Assessor, Gus Martin, will let us know when we can hold the Tax Hearing to set the tax rate.

Chuck Morrone offered to pump out the oil and remove the oil tank from the Town Hall basement. This will save the town money on the cost of removal of the tank of at least \$1,100.

Mark made a motion to accept Chuck's offer, seconded by Jason.

9. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting Tuesday, September 4 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43