

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall  
August 5, 2019

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps  
Others Present: Lori Trottier, Chuck Morrone, Shaun Garvey, Stephen Jayko, Brenda Church,  
Richard George, Linda Seney, Ed Grosso, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Building Inspector: Mark met with Brenda Church last week and asked her to come to the meeting to discuss covering New Ashford. She has been a Building Inspector for fourteen years and currently works for Lee, Lenox, Monroe, Clarksburg and Florida. Brenda gave the Board an agreement/fee schedule for review. The Board modified the agreement to include that upon termination, active permits will be reviewed and mutually agreed to what fees are due to the Building Inspector and to the town of New Ashford. Permit fees are based on rate per thousand, rather than by square foot. In addition to the permit fees, Brenda requested \$500 a year to cover miscellaneous expenses such as mailings, supplies, and travel. She is comfortable with online and paper permitting. Jason informed Gerald Garner. Mark made a motion to appoint Brenda Church as the new Building Inspector, seconded by Ken. The Town Clerk swore Brenda in.

2. Springs Motel: A representative from Henry's Organic Products called and expressed interest in purchasing the Springs Motel. He asked to be on the agenda, but was not present at the meeting.

3. Approve minutes from 7/22 and 7/26: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 7-22-2019 Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 7-26-2019 Select Board Meeting were approved.

4. Public Comment: Ed Grosso and Linda Seney, from the Flag Committee, presented a rough sketch of the art work for the town flag. They contacted a flag manufacturer, whose art department will "clean up" the design for a \$75 fee. The state suggested having two 4' x 6' flags made, one for the Town Hall and one for the State House. The flags will be made of Dacron polyester and will cost \$195.75 each. The Committee can get 2' X 3' flags for order by residents. If 25 residents order, the cost is \$29.95 each. Ken will send the quote for the two flags to Senator Hinds' office for help with payment. The Board thanked the Committee for their work.

Shaun Garvey, Tree Warden, has gotten two calls about trees. One for a small ash tree on Mallery Road. He determined that the tree is not dead and is not in jeopardy of falling down soon. Also, it is in close proximity to the power lines. He is making a list of trees to report to Eversource and will include this ash tree. He and the DAR inspected the tree for evidence of emerald ash borer infestation and did not find any. Emerald ash borer has not been logged with the state from New Ashford. Shaun put a trap out a couple of weeks ago and hasn't found anything in it yet. He recommended adding money to the Tree Warden budget in a future year to remove ash trees before the emerald ash borer damages them. Former Tree Warden, Chuck Morrone, provided Shaun with a list of trees that need attention. Shaun is keeping an eye on the

trees that were not removed in the previous fiscal year. The second call was for a tree on Roys Road that was on the resident's property. There are some trees on Smith Road that should be added to the list for Eversource. Ken will mark a tree on Roys Road for Shaun's attention. The Board thanked Shaun and Chuck

Dee Bronson sent an e-mail to the board that she has reached out to several inspectors about a project she is starting at her house, including Richard George, Board of Health Chair. He advised her to call the Building Inspector.

5. Road Commissioner: HMA Contracting will start milling Beach Hill Road on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, followed by blacktopping. Keith Lacasse will replace one culvert on Beach Hill Road before then, and will make sure that HMA knows where the shallow culverts are located. He will patch potholes on the other town roads. He borrowed the mower, from Dalton, for the sides of the roads. Beach Hill Road and the south end of town are finished and the rest will be done August 6, including Greylock Road. He will pack in some material near the guardrail that is washing out on Greylock Road and will fix the guardrail that was not done with the MASSWorks grant. He recommended that Greylock Road gets blacktopped to the top of knoll and he will get some estimates. Keith will take care of a tree in the swale on Ingraham Road.

6. Assessor Update: The inter-municipal assessing agreement has been signed by Williamstown. Jason met with Chris Lamarre, Assessor, and gave him the laptop. The Tax Collector can connect. The town contact list is updated. Ken will get the rest of the files/records from former Assessor, Gus Martin. The Board will send Gus a thank you letter.

7. Broadband: Sertex has a few splices left on Route 7, Mallery Road, at Woolivers', and 180 Beach Hill Road. Next is planned testing and certification on the splicing. Whip City has not announced who won the bids for the build out to the houses. There will be two batches of beta testers. It needs to be determined who holds the records for dig safe. There is a low telephone line on Route 7 on the northern end of town.

8. Any other unforeseen business: Keith mentioned that the builder of the new home on Ingraham Road says it is not his responsibility to make a turnaround for the snowplow. He offered the driveway, but it's not adequate. Keith will relocate the gate on Ingraham Road by cutting the existing one off, leaving the concrete, and placing the gate at the town line. Stephen Demyer left a note for the Board that he will not be at recycling on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. The Board will ask Dick Demyer, Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Delegate, to attend the next Select Board meeting to provide an update on recycling. Jason is meeting with a representative from the Governor's office on August 15th to discuss any concerns that the Board has, including the inadequate reimbursement for state properties.

9. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next Meeting August 19, 2019 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:57