

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
October 21, 2019

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko, Arun Ankola, Tom Davis

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve the minutes from 10/7: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 10/7/2019 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Tom Davis is interested in purchasing the Springs Motel for use as a cannabis cultivation facility on the upper parcel, with a possible dispensary in the lower parcel later. Ken noted that he is abstaining from this conversation due to his federal security clearance. Mark noted that he is an abutter to the property and will not participate due to conflict of interest. Tom stated he will follow all state protocol and will do community outreach. He plans on growing small plants for sale into the Massachusetts supply chain. He has two other 6-acre properties that will be doing the flowering plants. The Board encouraged him to contact the Building Inspector. A cannabis facility would provide tax revenue for the town. Tom will hold a public forum on November 13th.

3. Road Commissioner: Ken noted his rejoining participation in the meeting. Keith placed a culvert on Beach Hill Road for access to the hay fields. It got plugged up with leaves and moved out of place during recent rains. Keith will blow the leaves out of the gutters and will place the culvert again. He removed a willow tree off of Cemetery Road, some small trees off of Greylock Road and a tree off the dirt part of Roys Road. Greylock Road held up in the heavy rains. Keith left a message with HMA about the road damage on Mallery Road and will call them back. If they do not fix it, he will patch it. Keith submitted the Chapter 90 paperwork for reimbursement for the Beach Hill Road paving. He was advised to wait until spring to do any crack sealing, as the plows will damage it if it's done now. In the future, the town may consider micro sealing the roads 3-4 years after they are paved. It's a fine grit that adds another 4-6 years to the road life. It costs about 1/3 of regular black top. Keith will patch Greylock Road, by the mailboxes at the entrance to Roys, and on Old Route 7. The next road for paving is Ingraham, followed by half of Mallery Road. Smith Road will be resurfaced. The head of Mass DOT district one has nothing in his paperwork about the culvert on Smith Road. There is no drainage on Old Route 7 on that end to hook into.

4. Broadband: There were issues with the Tri-Wire installers not trying the existing conduit before trenching. Ken called Whip City and will follow up with them. There are 38 residences connected. The Governor announced there is funding being released for construction costs of \$500 per residency that takes service, up to 70% of the take rate. This will be discussed during the next call with MBI. The Town Hall is connected. Jason will talk to the Fire Department about the routers.

5. Flag Committee – On November 6, members of the Flag Committee and Select Board will present the town flag at the State House.

6. Beach Hill Road Access: Mr. Kelly responded to the letter the board sent concerning the access at his 92/94 Beach Hill Road properties. He claims that he got verbal approval from the Select Board in 2014. Ken confirmed it is compliant with the Conservation Commission. If a lot is sold there is a potential problem of its being an unapproved common driveway. There are concerns that the span is unsafe for a driveway. Ken suggested that Mr. Kelly attend a Select Board meeting.

7. Unforeseen Business: The Assessor is working towards setting the tax rate. He needs information about the new growth for 2018.
Pete Rancourt pulled Verizon out of mud on the side of Mallery Road twice with his tractor. Verizon created large ruts. They asked Keith to put material down there so they can park. The Board thinks they can park at the Town Hall and easily walk to their equipment.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting November 4, 2019 @ 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:51