

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference
October 5, 2020

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Chuck Morrone, Lori Jayko
Call-In: Bette Craig, Frank Youngkin, Sherry Youngkin

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes September 14, 2020: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the September 14, 2020 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Bette Craig talked about the commemoration event of the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote, with Covid-19 considerations. There is not enough room for 25 people in the Town Hall following the Covid guidelines. The buildings and ballot box could be shown on Zoom. Cindy Grosso will speak about Phoebe Jordan and a group of ten people will perform a play that could also be broadcast by Zoom. It would be possible to show the Old Schoolhouse in small groups and people can wait in their cars if necessitated by the weather. The event will take place on November 2nd. Bette will discuss it with her group and will let the Board know at the next meeting.

Frank Youngkin called in to ask if the Select Board received an e-mail he sent about Greylock Road. The Board reviewed the e-mail. Frank has concerns about the condition of the road, and would like it addressed before winter weather arrives. Keith Lacasse said he will blow the leaves off the road in two weeks and will make repairs. He will fix from the end of the guardrails, where there are rivulets running into the road, and will grade off the shoulder, install stone, pipe, and fabric, and fill in the ditch.

Richard George, Board of Health, reported that the d-box that was installed incorrectly at Mr. Kelly's property has been installed correctly, inspected, and is all set.

Chuck Morrone, on behalf of the Cemetery Commission, thanked Anthony Welch and his Troop for their work on the cemetery. He also thanked Pete Haig, Mark, and Ken for their help and Keith for donating the wood chipper.

Chuck asked for an update on the reconnection fee for the internet. Ken said there is not an answer from Whip City yet, but the worst case is \$100. He noted that if a customer turns their phone off, they may lose their phone number.

3. Road Commissioner: Keith reported that crack-sealing was done around town, using 800 gallons of crack seal. There was flooding caused by beavers between Cemetery Road and Route 7. The state cleaned out sediment from the affected culvert and state trappers will take care of the beavers. The Tree Warden asked Keith what he would charge to remove a tree that Eversource took down on Mallery Road. The Town will not pay for removal of the tree. Keith is still trying to contact the logger to clean up White Road.

4. Taxes: The Assessor and the Accountant have filled out all their forms in Gateway. The Town Clerk has not filled out her forms in Gateway. Jason will call the Assessor, the state, and legal counsel about how to get the tax rate set if the Town Clerk does not complete her part. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the Williamstown Board of Assessors was appointed as the Board of Assessors for New Ashford.

5. Emergency Management: Jason will look at the job description by the next meeting.

6. Recycling: There was a frog pond and bins of old heating oil illegally left by the recycling dumpsters. They have been cleaned up and there is a camera to monitor the dumpsters.

7. Any other unforeseen business: A voice mail was left at the Town Hall about the primary voting numbers not being reported to the state. The Board will send a certified letter to the Town Clerk concerning how elections will be run. Jason will call the State Election Office.

The Board will make a decision about Trick or Treat at the next meeting.

The front door lock is not working. Ken will check it.

Ken scanned the Book of Essential Records for New Ashford to 1850 and put it in a shared folder online. Jason will give Chuck, and Cindy and Eddie Grosso access. Ken put the spreadsheet of all the grave locations (through 2006) in the shared cemetery folder.

Ken approved the \$751 invoice for internet connection at the Greenwood property. Another invoice is expected at \$3,630.40. There is about \$4,300 in the appropriated funds for the internet build out and \$1,600 in the Broadband grant. The MLP can invoice the Greenwoods for the over amount. Caitrin, from Whip City, will get Jason the Dig Safe information.

Jason and Ken will update the town e-mail list.

Internet service was terminated at 205 Mallery Road when the renter moved out, and the new owner has resumed service.

A demand letter was sent to a renter who moved out of town without paying his bill. The MLP will pass a policy to shut renters off promptly upon non-payment.

The Board will discuss the CARES act at the next meeting. Some Broadband costs may be eligible for the grant.

The Community Compact IT grant is coming out soon.

Tri-Town will pave Smith Road in the next 2-3 weeks.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting October 19, 2020 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55