

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall/Teleconference  
February 22, 2021

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps  
Others Present: Keith Lacasse, Lori Jayko  
Call-In: Anthony Welch

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes February 8, 2021: On a motion by Ken, seconded by Mark, the minutes from the February 8, 2021 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: Lori reported that the Council on Aging grant was received on February 22 for \$6,000. Jason has COA paperwork to sign and get notarized. Jason has been working with Sherry Youngkin on the COA e-mail list.

The Board received a thank you card from the Fire Department for the CARES ACT equipment.

3. Cemetery: For his Boy Scout Eagle Project, Anthony Welch used information about the cemetery, from Mr. White, to catalog the graves digitally using a free online software. He also published some of Mr. White's documents to the web, including a map of the cemetery. These resources can be linked to the town website. Anthony demonstrated the online map showing that clicking on a plot will give the name of the person buried there and any other known information. Anthony will research how to give access to the database to the Cemetery Committee so they can maintain it in the future. The Board thanked Anthony for his work.

4. Road Commissioner: There is logging occurring off the north end of Roys Road. Keith called to find out the rating on the bridge and learned it was last rated in 1983 for a 16 ton single axle, 22 ton double axle, and 34 ton tractor trailer. The work order to get it rated again could take a year. Keith called the logger to ask him to take smaller loads. Mark will verify there is a cutting plan and ask why the town did not get notification. Keith put concrete in the hole on Greylock Road. He will try to push another culvert through in the spring. MassDOT is awarding the town \$42,826 for Chapter 90 for FY22. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's Group Purchasing Program has a zoom meeting February 23.

5. Appointments: Mark made a motion to appoint Pete Haig to the Historical Commission for three years.

6. Tax Collector: No one has expressed interest in the position. Jason is working with Patriot to create accounts for Collect Pro, as there is a request in for tax information. There is also a request for a Municipal Lien Certificate. The Board will ask Legal Counsel who can act in this capacity. The position could be filled with an interim collector while looking for a replacement. Ken will send Joan Wilkinson the job description for modification. The Board may need to post the position.

7. Liquor License: There are a couple of parties interested in purchasing the Mill on the Floss that want to know the process for getting a liquor license. The Mill on the Floss did not renew their license this year. New owners would need to apply and the Select Board would hold a public hearing covering hours of operation, manager listing, etc. New owners would need a common victuallers license as well. Jason will follow up with the realtor that called.

8. Budget: A line was created for the Bureau of Local Assessment, based on information from the Assessor. The Sheriff's 911 is \$8,771.85 and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is \$181.65. A line item was added for the county nurse. The Board will reach out to the department heads for their budget requests. Jason will talk to town hall custodian about shoveling out the ramp and the bulletin board.

A line item was added to the MLP budget for contingencies for accounts.

9. Any other unforeseen business: Mark contacted Representative John Barrett about an amendment for the law for the MLP. Mark was unable to get ahold of Senator Hinds. Representative Barrett said he would submit the amendment. An aide called Ken and said she will keep him informed.

Ken and Jason had a call with Whip City. They advised that the town cannot attach a lien against a property that has a renter as the user. The MLP would like to charge a service activation fee on new subscribers of one month. Mark made a motion to adopt an activation fee of \$85 for any new connections from this day forward, seconded by Jason.

Whip City is checking into why they were not notified about the pole replacement on Route 7. Someone has been taking large amounts of sand from the sand shed. The Board got the plate number.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Next meeting March 1, 2021