

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom
July 7, 2022

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Jake Scace, Richard George, Keith Lacasse
Zoom: Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Sarah Gardner, Al Averill

Meeting opened at 6:41

1. Approve Minutes: On a motion by Jason, seconded by Mark the minutes from the 6-17-2022 New Ashford Select Board meeting were approved. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason the minutes from the 6-6-2022 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved. Ken abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 6-6-2022 New Ashford Select Board/MVP Meeting were approved. Ken abstained. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 5-23-2022 New Ashford Select Board/MVP meeting were approved.

2. Board Reorganization: Jason was nominated as Chair on a motion by Mark, second by Ken. Ken was nominated as Vice Chair on a motion by Jason, seconded by Mark.

3. Farmland and Local Importance – American Farmland Trust: Al Averill gave the Board a power point presentation about the American Farmland Trust (AFT). He is helping towns locate soil suitable for crop production to help farmers access a federal program for farmland preservation funding. He is asking towns to recognize farmland of local importance, which is based on soil types. The soil of farmlands of local importance is not categorized in the USDA soil mapping. Local recognition of farmland of importance allows land owners to be eligible for the Agriculture Land Easement (ALE) Program and get paid 50 % of the fair market development value for an easement of the land, in order that it is maintained as farmland. Local recognition could be approved by the Select Board or the Conservation Commission. The farmland of local importance recognition process starts by verifying that the land is not currently classified as prime or unique farmland of statewide importance. Then evidence is compiled of crop production. A list is drawn up and the local official signs it along with a state representative from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The approved list gets filed and the landowner can apply for ALE. NRCS/AFT does the work, drafts the documents, and the locality signs the list. Mark will abstain from any decisions made to avoid conflict of interest. Ken made a motion that the Conservation Commission sign the list, seconded by Jason. Mark abstained. Jason will let Al know.

4. Public Comment: None.

5. Road Commissioner: Ken sent the MTWP Grant work invoice to Bob O'Connor and is waiting to hear back. \$5,400 of unused funds will be returned. The parking was done, Bauer Road repaired, and the bridge built. Keith turned in slips for sand for the Salt Shed. He got eight loads of base material. Five were put on the roads and three are stored in the Salt Shed. Keith paid the bill for stone from Condron and it was removed from the warrant. It will be paid with

the grant money. Keith suggested putting base material down on Greylock Road to the gate and adding chip seal another time. The culverts on Ingraham Road need repairs before the road work is done there. Chip seal may be an option for Mallery Road. Keith will get an estimate for base material for about 2,000 feet on Greylock Road. Eversource called Mark and said the town tree work is scheduled for August. Keith graded and compacted the roads. He will call about the tractor. A flail mower for a tractor mount will also be considered, but it will not go over the top of guardrails. A new flail mower attachment for a tractor mount costs about \$6,500.

6. Appointments: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Stephen Demyer was appointed as Recycling Attendant for a one-year-term. On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, Stephen Demyer was appointed as Town Hall Custodian for a one-year term.

7. Any other unforeseen business: The Conservation Commission has an application for a septic system on Roys Road. Ken advised the owner to contact the Fire Chief for a house number.

8. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting July 18 at 6:00

Meeting adjourned at 7:58