

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

August 15, 2022

Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney (MLP Manager)

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Richard George, Hank Art, Jake Scace, Keith Lacasse, Susan Supranowicz

Zoom: None

Meeting opened at

1. Approve minutes from 8/1/2022: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 8/1/2022 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership: Hank Art, Chair of the Board of the Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership (MTWP), gave a presentation to the Select Board about the MTWP's ten-year plan. They would like feedback before the plan is finalized. The MTWP is the outgrowth of regional planning agencies in coordination with 21 municipalities to promote forest conservation and sustainable natural resource-based economic use. The MTWP meets regularly and has provided many grants to the 17 participating municipalities. They do not have line item funding at either the state or federal level. New Ashford has received several grants for town trails and greater access to Mount Greylock. The draft ten-year plan addresses four goals and is available online. The first goal is conservation of forest land for sustainable production of forest products and ecosystem services. The second goal is natural resource-based economic development to encourage local wood economy. The third is to improve the fiscal stability of municipalities by advocating for sufficient payments in lieu of taxes by the state, development of carbon credit projects, and dealing with the financial issues imposed by forest conservation restrictions. The fourth is public education on sustainable forest practices, including having MTWP Forest Centers and a Demonstration Forest. The draft plan can be found at [www.mohawktrailwoodlandpartnership.org](http://www.mohawktrailwoodlandpartnership.org). They would like to vote on the plan in October and review it annually.

The Board would like the MTWP to continue to help preserve woodland, provide direct assistance to property owners for forest management, and address invasive species. The state owns 38% of the land in New Ashford. It is lacking maintenance and is a fire hazard. Mark encourages the MTWP executive board to address this with the state. Hank has asked that DCR forestry and MTWP have a meeting. The MTWP is working on creating grants with the MVP for culverts and roads. The partnership is looking into partnering with the technical high school to have a resource-based program in forestry.

4. Road Commissioner: A telephone wire came down on Mallery Road and Verizon was called. Keith and Max tested the tractor on Beach Hill Road. The tractor worked well. They broke a pin, a weld on the boom is cracked, oil leaks on the bell body and the AC doesn't work. Village will get it fixed and Keith will try it again. If the town buys it, it will be stored at the Salt Shed.

Keith asked Donovan for an estimate to pave in front of the Fire Station bays. They said it would be just over \$14,000 for five inches of blacktop, 3 inches of big base and two inches on top. Keith will get prices from Tri-Town and Condron and get the project started. Keith will ask the company to add blacktop on Mallery Road at a couple of spots. He will order ice deflectors for above the Fire Station door. He noted two maple trees that need removal. Mark will call Eversource to see when they will do their tree work.

5. Trees: Covered above.

6. Mower Update: Covered above.

7. MLP: Will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Tax Classification Hearing: The Assessor is planning the Tax Classification Hearing for the end of September or the first week of October.

9. Fax Options: The Town Clerk needs to do birth certificates and fax them to the state. The copier at the town hall can act as a fax machine when it is hooked up to the phone line.

10. Any other unforeseen business: Jason will reach out to the MVP about posting a public notice of the August 29 meeting.

Pete Rancourt noted that someone had mowed the Old Schoolhouse yard. Jason will get the plot plan and have the land surveyed.

Susan is setting voting hours for the primaries. She will get the hours to Jason for posting on the website. Susan got a notice that Sandisfield is leaving the public health alliance.

11. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting September 7.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49