

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

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Jake Scace, Susan Supranowicz, Diane George, Doug George, Joan Wilkinson, Piotr Masiakowski, Nathan Smith, Lesley Raimer, Mark Raimer, Alan Steinhoff, Tammy Steinhoff, Richard George, Cindy Grosso, Ed Grosso

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve minutes from 8/15/2022: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the 8/15/2022 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved. Ken abstained.

2. Public Comment – Citizen’s Concerns: Diane George expressed concern about an ongoing problem with ATVs and dirt bikes on Ingraham Road, creating unsafe conditions. Many residents have experienced problems and described how they’ve had to get off the road quickly in order to not get hit by speeding ATVs. The Massachusetts State Police and the Massachusetts Environmental Police have been involved, but advised that they would like to catch the ATVs in the act. Residents of the road would like help from the Select Board and other residents. Problems happen at all hours of the day and the ATVs have no stickers or plates. There is no trail in New Ashford that ATVs are allowed on. Mark made a motion, seconded by Jason, to send a letter to Representative Barrett, Senator Hinds, and the Federal Senators and Members of Congress detailing the problem and requesting more state funding. The motion passed unanimously. The letter will also be sent to the head of the EPO and MSP. Ken will talk to Lanesboro to see if they will sign, as Ingraham Road goes into Lanesboro. The Board will also write to the president of the Berkshire Snow Seekers that the snowmobile trail in town may need to be shut down if the ATV problems persist. Jason reached out to legal counsel for advice and is waiting to hear back. The Board discussed placing signage on the road and sending a townwide e-mail to make sure residents are aware of the laws surrounding ATVs. Cindy Grosso, Historical Commission member, would like to know the status of the Old Schoolhouse roof project. The Board would like the Historical Commission to advise on what kind of roof should be put on: commercial or hand split cedar. The Historical Commission will meet and bring a recommendation to the Board. Ken nominated Ed Grosso to the Historical Commission, seconded by Jason, for a three-year term. The nomination passed unanimously. Alan Steinhoff asked about tree removal. Mark called Eversource and is waiting to hear back. Eversource marked 27 trees that need removal near power lines, but they have not cut them yet. Mark will reach back out to John Barrett. Alan noted that the swales on Beach Hill Road are full of dead trees and need to be cleaned out and shoulder maintenance is necessary to keep water off the road. Mark gave an update on the tractor with the mower. When Keith Lacasse tested it, the A/C did not work and a pin on a pivot came apart. It was supposed to be repaired and brought back to town for additional testing.

3. Road Commissioner: Not present. The Board will ask Keith to take down the dying trees near Jennings’ on Beach Hill Road.

4. MLP: Ken reported that the redundant circuit is supposed to be activated on September 12.
5. Tax Classification Update: Chris is waiting on DOR approval and expects to have the hearing in late September or early October.
6. Any other unforeseen business: Mark got an e-mail from the youth prevention coordinator with the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. They would like to have a dinner in town to talk about issues around substance abuse with youth. Mark thinks Bondhu might be a good location for this. Jason will respond to the youth prevention coordinator.
Jason will check with the public nurse about having a flu clinic in town.
Susan Supranowicz, Town Clerk, noted there were 63 voters for the primaries. She thanked all her helpers. Voting results were certified, sent to the state, and posted on the bulletin board. Some voters wanted to know if the townspeople could use the computer at the Town Hall. It can be set up as a kiosk.
Ken received notice of a \$20,000 approval for the FY23 MTWP grant.
7. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting September 19 at 6:30
Meeting adjourned at 7:54