

New Ashford Select Board Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom  
January 4, 2023

Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Diane George, Susan Supranowicz

Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from December 19: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the 12/19/2022 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Citizen Speak Time: None
3. BRTA Advisory Board: Mark nominated Sherry Youngkin to the BRTA advisory board, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously. Currently, no one is using the bus but we are assessed a monthly fee. The Board will look into getting a bus stop in town.
4. Signs and Letter: Keith will put up the no ATV signs tomorrow and the letter will be mailed.
5. Road Commissioner Matters: Snow, Barriers, FD Roof/Entry: Keith turned in the invoice for the signs and posts. He got permission from the Board of Health to trap the beaver and remove it. Jason will add the tractor to the town insurance to get a COI for Mr. Neilson. Keith will close the Roys Road gate tomorrow. The septic tank cover leaked. Keith will keep an eye on it. When it dries, Keith will reseal it. He will get ice clips to put over the door at the Fire Station and will get a bucket of salt to put inside the Station. Keith will place the logs, from the tree taken down across the road from the Town Hall, to protect the propane tanks. Mark called Eversource. They will be in town tomorrow to pick up the logs leftover from the tree removal. Mark mentioned the logs on Beach Hill Road and the tree at Ken's house. There is a 70-foot tall tree on Mallery Road that needs attention. Asplundh had difficulty accessing it.
6. Software – Finance – Tax Collection – Payroll Update: Vadar does not do payroll. Their fee was for accounting and collections and there would be an added fee for payroll. Quickbooks may be the best option as it can handle our accounts, budget, and payroll. Previous years' information can be added. There are different pricing plans. It's around \$180 a month for the accounting and we need to know the annual cost and the cost with payroll included.
7. MLP – any updates: The MLP had a meeting with Whip City last week. They will work to get expenses to the town in a timely manner with costs broken down. The outstanding bills were discussed and will be paid after the Special Town Meeting. ONT's go off their maintenance agreement this year and the cost will go to the MLP. Once Becket is fully lit, the CAF program can start. Pole numbers will be added to invoices.
8. Fire Department – Invoices – Grants – Thermostats: Jason filled out the paperwork for the thermal imaging grant. The town pays it and will get fully reimbursed. Jason installed new wi-fi

thermostats and Jason, Ken, and the Fire Chief have access. The Board would appreciate getting invoices in a timely manner from the Fire Department. The Fire Department did not get the grant for the mini pumper and the Fire Chief will be invited to the next Select Board meeting to discuss next steps.

9. Special Town Meeting Update: Covered above.

10. Eversource Vegetation Plan 2023: The Board reviewed Eversource's Vegetation Plan for 2023. Mark made a motion to approve the plan as presented, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Unforeseen: Commonwealth Municipal Consulting will hold a public meeting to review the draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, so they can submit the final draft.

Susan has the liquor licenses and will give them to the businesses when she gets their checks.

The Springs' license will be held until they pay their real estate taxes.

There's a discrepancy in the bylaws on when town elections should be held. In one place, it says the fourth Tuesday in May and in another place, it says the last Tuesday. Sometimes there are five Tuesdays in May. Elections will be the fourth Tuesday and a proposed amendment to the bylaw will be made at the Annual Town Meeting.

Susan will send the local tax option votes to the DOR.

Jason informed the State Ethics Commission that New Ashford opts for online for state ethics training.

12. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next Meeting – January 18, 2023 (immediately following Special Town Meeting)

Meeting adjourned at 8:06