

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom
July 24, 2023

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Richard George, Alan Steinhoff
Zoom: Ken McNerney (MLP Manager)

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from July 10: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the July 10 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Green Communities: Doreen from Commonwealth Municipal Consulting sent Jason information about Green Communities. She is checking to see if the town meets the requirements for application. Energy efficiency grants are available to Green Communities, and it could take a year after qualification to be eligible. The Board will discuss at the next meeting.

4. Road Commissioner: Not present.

5. Fire Station Addition: Tabled.

6. Snowplow Contract: The Board discussed and edited the contract, replacing the word he with contractor in two places. They specified that the contractor will carry a cell phone and be reachable 24/7 and that the last residence on Ingraham Road is 250 Ingraham Road. Mark made a motion to put it out for sealed bid, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Trees: Recent Route 7 tree cutting by MassDot left debris on houses and cars, and filled the drainage ditches. Ken contacted MassDOT as a private resident. They said they will review the practices and they are coming back to clean up the debris and stumps. Ken thinks the Board should send a letter, highlighting not using the cutting machine near houses. Six gallons of hydraulic fluid leaked out of a broken hydraulic line at mile marker 43.6 and went in the river. Ken e-mailed MassDOT from the Conservation Commission asking why an oil catching boom was not used to prevent fluid from contaminating the river. Mark made a motion to send a letter to MassDOT. Ken will draft the letter and send it to the Board.

Alan said a tree fell on Beach Hill Road and knocked out power. He noted there are several trees on Beach Hill Road that need attention, including one near Steve Jennings's driveway that is near power lines. Mark will contact Eversource. Ken will send Mark pictures of a dead ash tree by mile marker 43.6 on Route 7.

The Board would appreciate it if someone would take over the Tree Warden position.

8. Schoolhouse: The issue is tabled until the end of the summer.

9. Church: Jason met with Andy Kelly and Richard George for a walkthrough of the Church. Jason and Richard said it's in good shape. Andy would like to donate it to the town. Jason contacted Legal Counsel and they will do the deed research. The decision will be made by a Special Town Meeting vote. The church would be for general municipal use such as meetings and storage. There is an easement to Steve Neilson and 205 Mallery Road for wells and septic systems. Water hook up is a consideration and could be supplied by the Town Hall. The church is listed as a historical property and may be eligible for grants. Jason will contact MIIA about the cost of insurance.

10. Special Town Meeting: Jason is working with Legal Counsel on the wording for the warrant article. When it is finalized, he will leave copies at the Town Hall for the Board to sign and the Town Clerk to post. The Special Town Meeting will be August 14 at 6:00.

11. Town Clerk – Safe – Key: Lori Trottier gave the key to Karla Bassette last Monday. Ken will schedule a time with Karla and Susan to open the safe.

12. Old and Any Other Business: Jason reached out to the state liquor board about Bondhu's change of liquor service hours on Sundays. They said the change was effective immediately after it was voted and no further state approval is necessary. Jason will send a copy of the minutes to the state and let Bondhu know.

The alarm at the tight tank at the Fire Station goes off when it rains. Jason will get an update from Keith and look into getting a wi-fi switch.

The problem with getting timely building permits seems to be resolved. The Board is looking for a new Alternate Building Inspector.

Mark's appointment to the Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership will be on the next meeting agenda.

The Fire Chief is looking at a \$50,000 fire truck tomorrow. Approval of purchase requires a vote of the town. The Board thinks the replacement engine should be more appropriately sized for the town. The town's insurance rating is the worst it can be because the town does not have hydrants. If the pond on Mallery Road is dug out and used as a water source for the Fire Department, regular maintenance will be necessary to keep it from filling back in.

Jason has not gotten an answer from Andrew from Whip City on his question. The lashing was repaired on Route 7 near Greylock Road. Lori will e-mail Ken with her availability to meet about a billing issue.

Kurt Singer agreed to go back on the Cemetery Commission and will be appointed at the next meeting. He did a good job mowing the cemetery.

Ken submitted for the MTWP FY23 disbursement of just over \$9,000. Lori will let Ken know when it is received. He is waiting for the second invoice from KLC.

The Board got an e-mail from Chris Lamarre about scheduling the Tax Classification Hearing. They will try to schedule it for the second meeting in August.

The generator is 90% installed at the Fire Station. The meter socket and wiring needed to be replaced. Jason called Mirabito to run the gas pipe to the generator. When that is done, he will contact Mickle Electric to do the testing and the Board will add a fence. Ken will get a quote from Berkshire Fence. The area will be monitored by camera.

13. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed. School payroll was approved for addition.

Next meeting August 7 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:40