

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom
August 21, 2023

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps, Ken McInerney (MLP Manager)
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Richard George, Keith Lacasse, Susan Supranowicz
Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from August 7, 2023: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the August 7, 2023 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved as amended.
2. Public Comment: Richard George asked about the garbage problem. There has been no more trash dumping in the recycling and the locks will be removed. The town's hours for recycling need to be update on the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District website. Jason will send out recycling guidelines and hours by town wide e-mail. There is an opening for delegate to the NBSWD.
3. Solicitors: A representative from Trinity Solar contacted the Board to get permission for door-to-door solicitation. Jason will consult Legal Counsel. Jason made a motion to deny the solicitation request, contingent upon Legal Counsel, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse said the tractor is back together and he painted the boom. He will mow the sides of the roads. The bucket truck is repaired and he will do tree work next week. He will follow up on the letter about using the pond on Mallery/Cemetery Roads for fire protection. The roads are holding up with all the rain. There is no new beaver activity and the water is milky past the beaver dam.
5. Trees: Keith and Mark met with Eversource and talked about trees on every road with power lines. Mark will let Eversource know about problem trees including the ash tree on Route 7 and the tree near Bouchards'. Eversource said they will get here after the first of the year. Ken will ask Whip City if the MLP should prune trees along the town internet line.
6. Logging: Jason reached out to Legal Counsel about getting a bond and has not heard back. He will reach back out tomorrow.
7. Church: Jason contacted Andy Kelly and Legal Counsel and the process of transfer of the church has started.
8. Fire Station Addition: Jason measured the height of the wall to add to the specifications. He will type it up and get it out to bid.

9. Old and Any Other Business: Mark mentioned that there have been cell phone coverage problems on the south side of town. He learned that the lines to the top of the mountain have been severed and power is running off a generator that needs to be periodically restarted. The fire tower road is washed out. Mark will contact John Barrett and let him know about the access and power challenges.

Susan said someone contacted her looking for genealogical information. Ken has a pdf document of the New Ashford information will send it to Susan.

MassDOT responded to the Board's letter. Jason will scan the letter in and send the Board a copy.

Ken will return the call about the cemetery. It would be helpful if the cemetery had a written document for the procedures, how to get a site, monuments, etc. Mark offered to do tree work there.

10. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed. The Board noted a spike in electricity usage, and attributed it to cooling the internet hub during the heat wave.

Next meetings August 30 with Steve Nielsen at 6:00 and September 5, 2023 following the Special Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21