

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

May 20, 2024

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

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Richard George, Lars Reinhard, Piotr Masiakowski, Keith Lacasse

Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2024: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the May 9, 2024 New Ashford Select Board meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Public Comment: Richard George, Board of Health Chair, will schedule an inspection of Bondhu with the Food Inspector from Berkshire Regional Planning. The hauler permit fee was received from East Adams Trucking.
3. Town Property Mowing/Spraying: Pete Rancourt has been mowing the Old Schoolhouse lawn. Jason mowed the Church lawn. Mark made a motion to reimburse Jason for mowing the church lawn. Jason declined reimbursement. Something was sprayed on the rocks at Town Hall. The Board has concerns due to the proximity to the river and children playing on the lawn. Ken will call Pete.
4. Road Commissioner: Keith hired Condrion to grade and roll Roys and Greylock Roads for \$2,600 for the day. He talked to DCR about opening Greylock Road after the grading is done, hopefully by the end of the week. Keith quoted \$2,600 to chip the brush at the Town Hall lawn and remove it by dump truck. Jason will remove some brush and the chips can be used to put around the trees at Town Hall. Keith will fill the pot holes in town and will mow the sides of the roads in a week or two. He started the tractor and it is running well. Jason will put a notice out to residents when mowing will occur. Donovan will pave two sections of Ingraham Road before the end of June including, from Route 7 to just past Ronnies' driveway, skipping around 200 feet, then paving to the top of the hill.
5. FD Addition: The Conservation Commission held a meeting and approved the addition project. They will sign the forms. Jason marked off what will no longer be mowed and will donate and plant red maple trees. Once the forms are signed, the project will be put out to bid.
6. Trees: Eversource has a list of 66 trees that will be trimmed or removed in town. Keith and Mark will ride around town and add other problem trees to the list. They will make sure the tree near Bouchards' and the tree near Ken's are on the list.
7. Woodland Partnership Grant FY24: Ken said the town may be able to get an amendment to the contract for an extension. MTWP needs to know by June 3. Legal Counsel has not responded about the MOU. Jason will contact them. The town did not meet the deadline for the FY25 application filing.

8. School House Boundaries: There has been no response from Legal Counsel. Jason will reach out to the Select Board Association to see if they have any recommendations on a different legal counsel for the town, as response times have been lengthy or not at all in the past few months.

9. MLP: Ken called the MSP to get insurance information for the person who hit the pole on Route 7, as the town internet was affected. They said to get a crash report online from the Mass RMV. The request was denied, after a month, because we are not a high volume business. Ken e-mailed MIIA to see if they can request a crash report on our behalf. If that does not work, Ken may go to the MSP barracks.

Ken did not hear back from Andrew Short from Whip City about the thirty day notices. He will ask again.

10. Church: There is power at the church. Susan cleaned to get ready for the Annual Town Meeting. Mark thinks the building name should be changed to the New Ashford Meeting House. This might be a conflict with the historic registry. Mark made a motion to refer the issue to the Historical Commission, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.

11. 2025 Inter-Municipal Agreement Assessing: The Board reviewed the Inter-Municipal Agreement for assessing services with Williamstown. The terms and conditions are unchanged from FY 24. Mark made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Ken. The Board signed the agreement.

12. Town Clerk Updates: Susan had thirty copies of the Annual Town Report printed at Staples. She used a painting of the church for the cover. She thinks the town should have a clean-up day next year for the cemetery and church.

Susan will contact the VSO about getting flags for the cemetery for Veterans' graves.

13. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: None

14. Warrant: The warrants were reviewed and signed.

Next meeting June 3, 2024 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:18