

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

September 4, 2024

Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps

Select Board Zoom: Ken McNerney (MLP Manager)

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Richard George, Susan Supranowicz

Others Zoom: None

Meeting opened at 6:56

1. Approval of minutes from August 19, 2024: On a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the August 19, 2024 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved. Mark abstained.
2. Fire Station Addition: Jason researched the requirements for bids and learned that closed bids are not necessary for a project of this expected dollar amount. Three verbal or written quotes will suffice.
3. Public Comment: Richard George, Board of Health Chair, got an e-mail from Mass DEP concerning transference of the landfill permit at the Brodie Mountain property to Brodie Mountain LLC. He gave a copy of the e-mail to the Select Board for review. No action is required.
4. Flu/Covid Vaccination Clinic: The Public Health nurse will hold a flu and covid vaccination clinic at the Town Hall on October 26 from 9:00am – 11:00am.
5. Town Property Mowing: Legal Counsel said they cannot conclusively say that they have found the deed to the Old Schoolhouse. The Board will ask Legal Counsel what the next steps should be in order to have a deed on record. Steve Nielsen will attend the October 7 Select Board meeting to discuss resurveying the land and donating ten feet to the town. If this goes through, the mowing plot will change. Pete Rancourt asked for \$60 for his one-time mowing of the church lawn and \$400 for the rest of the season. Jason will mow it this weekend for no cost.
6. School House Boundaries: Covered above.
7. Road Commissioner: Not present.
8. Woodlands Partnership Grant FY24: Ken will schedule a Conservation Commission meeting to get the land donation accepted.
9. MLP: Ken talked to the insurance company and the town can expect a \$2,476.56 check for the pole damage caused from the car accident on Route 7. Ken had a meeting with John Leary, from Whip City, about the upgrade for the equipment at the Town Hall. It will cause up to thirty minutes of down time on the 25th or 27th. All the ONT's will need to resync and anyone with a static ip will need a new static ip. After the upgrade, higher speed internet of 2 ½ gig down and 1 ½ gig up will be available for a cost. This will be discussed at a meeting with Whip City on the

13th. Whip City has not provided an update on the telephone for the Fire Department since the 23rd. The MLP will pay for connection, for the two previously discussed residences, of up to \$1,000 each from the grant money. Ken has not heard back from 274 Route 7 to confirm they want the connection. Mark mentioned new construction on Ingraham Road that could benefit from the Whip City truck being in town. Ken advised that they bury an extra conduit if they are going with underground wires. Whip City will do the repairs at 276 Route 7 and Ingraham Road.

10. Church Water and Heat: Jason met with Mirabito about having a propane tank at the church. They advised using the existing tanks at the Town Hall, as a new tank would cost \$8,000. Jason will reach out to Keith Lacasse for pricing for connection.

11. By-laws: Several by-law changes have been voted in at Annual Town Meetings that haven't been incorporated into the by-law document. It's uncertain if everything has been submitted to the Attorney General. Susan will work on this after the elections.

12. Town Clerk Updates: There were 40 voters for the state primary. Susan sent out 24 vote-by-mail ballots and got half back. She held early voting for three days and no one came. No one came to register to vote for the primaries and one person registered for regular voting. There was poll pad training on August 19th and they were used at the primary. There is a grant for \$1,000 to have a police officer present during the elections. Susan asked the Police Chief in Lanesboro if anyone from that department could cover the elections. Susan certified the election results and will mail them to the state election office.

13. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: The Board discussed writing a thank you letter to Robert Lyon for his donation of time and material to paint the Town Hall. He plans on painting the north side of the building when he has more paint.

There will be a ceremony on November 2nd at the cemetery to commemorate Phoebe Jordan's being the first woman to vote in a federal election, with a dedication of a new engraving on her grave stone. There will be a reception at the Town Hall and residents are invited to attend.

Chuck Morrone, Ken, and Jason repaired a stone at the cemetery.

There is a change in chapter 40 state law for zoning allowing accessory dwelling units on lots, without a permit. The Planning Board needs to follow up on this.

Kurt Singer is resigning from the Board of Health effective immediately and Brandy Jaros is resigning as Tax Collector. She will stay on to transition to a new collector.

Jason installed a camera on the front of the Fire Station and replaced the door handle on the side door. The door is rotted at the bottom and the back door has a large gap. Those two doors and frames need to be replaced, as well as the door in the back of the church. The Board will price doors.

14. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting September 16 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 8:03