

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting  
New Ashford Town Hall  
May 5, 2025

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McInerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps  
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Keith Lacasse, Richard George, Ed Grosso, Cindy Grosso, Denise Bronson, Diane George, Mario Gagliardi

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2025: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes from the April 17, 2025 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved unanimously. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the New Ashford Select Board Public Hearing for the Springs' liquor license application were approved. Mark abstained.
2. Public Comment: Denise Bronson introduced herself as a resident of lot number 8 on Roys Road and expressed concerns with tree cutting on the adjacent lot. She said the property owner has violated the right of way on the town road and encroached on her property. She provided the Board with paperwork and photographs. The Board reviewed the paperwork and confirmed that the property is lot 9. There are no conservation concerns, being that the property is 374 feet from the bank of the brook, and the state forester said he has no jurisdiction on the clearing of building lots. Keith will call the property owner about protecting the road from mud. Ken advised Denise to contact the Planning Board if she is concerned about the property line setbacks required for clear cuts.
3. Tree Work: The Board asked the Tree Warden to look at the trees on Mallery Road to get tree work completed before road paving. Mario will mark the compromised trees and safety concerns and will contact Eversource to note the problem tree near the lines at 439 Route 7. Eversource should be out some time this year to take care of trees near the lines.
4. Road Commissioner: Keith removed a downed tree from Ingraham Road. He met with Palmer Paving and is waiting for an estimate for paving work in town. A mattress and box spring were left on Greylock Road. There is a washout on Bauer Road. Keith will do the church water and gas hook ups after the Annual Town Meeting. He will open the roads within the next two weeks.
5. MLP: Ken had a meeting with Andrew Short on Friday. He is looking into the \$39.75 credit and why it has not been applied. There are no plans yet to offer higher speed internet to the hill towns. The MLP annual report was submitted. Jason got the batteries and will schedule installation towards the end of the month. Ken talked to Pete about servicing the generators.
6. Annual Town Meeting Warrant: The Board reviewed the warrant. There are minor changes based on legal counsel's advice. The Board will leave signed copies in the Town Clerk's mailbox.

7. Budget: The Board reviewed the budget. The total FY26 budget is \$646,949. This reflects an increase in the school committee budget, to account for a potential additional student, to \$306,747. The FY26 MLP budget is \$90,325. Mark made a motion to approve the FY26 budgets of \$646,949 and \$90,352, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Open FY 25 Projects: Four pre-hung, replacement doors were ordered from LP Adams for \$2,821.35. They should be ready in ten days. Keith will do the boring for the church after the Annual Town Meeting. Mark will contact Robert Lyon about getting the paint for the Fire Station. The Fire Station addition is on the warrant for FY26. The MTWP FY24 grant money will be deobligated down or returned to the state next week. Ken contacted DCR and they want rough cut, native lumber for the bog bridges. Hinsdale Timbers quoted \$700 for material and \$200 for delivery. He asked DCR if they can complete it by the end of the year. The FY26 grant is due on May 15 and Ken would like to put in for completion of the bog bridges for labor and parking access for the Sugar Loaf Trail. Mark said he cannot support using grant funds to buy native lumber that will likely not last long. Ken said he will cancel the project and will not apply for FY26.

9. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: Ken will call the Sherriff's office to get clean up on Route 7.

Berkshire Regional Planning sent an e-mail about an ADA improvement grant. Jason will apply for the Town Hall ramp replacement. It is due May 19<sup>th</sup>. There is no match required.

The snow plow contract will be on the next agenda.

10. Warrant: The warrants were reviewed and signed.

Next meeting May 19, 2025 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:37