

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

February 4, 2026

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

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Helen Majchrowski, Susan Supranowicz, Jake Provost, Jasmine Parks, Frank Speth, Jeremy Knox, Keith Lacasse

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approve Minutes from 1/21/2026: On a motion by Ken, seconded by Mark, the minutes from the January 21, 2026 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved.
2. Public Comment: The Tree Warden got a quote for removing a dangerous maple on Cemetery Road, piece by piece including chipping, for \$3,250. Keith said he can do it for less and will give the Board a quote.
3. Fire Department: Ken asked the Fire Department to shovel around the generator, while they were at the Station for their Tuesday night meeting, to avoid generator failure due to blocked intakes. The Fire Chief, Frank Speth, refused and left the generator in that state overnight, putting the town at risk for delayed response in the event of a power outage. Frank said it was dangerous for his members to shovel and volunteers should not be expected to do that. Jason shoveled it out by himself the next morning, in a matter of minutes.
Frank presented the Board with a written statement of the importance of members being allowed to use the Fire Station for personal use. The Board reiterated that personal use of the station is a liability and not allowed.
Fire Department member, Jeremy Knox, said they could clear snow if they had a snowblower. It was noted that the back door, an alternate means of egress, also needed to be cleared.
4. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse gave the Board invoices for sand from Donovan. There was discussion of not removing the salt shed electric bill from the plowing invoice and having KLC pay it directly, per KLC's request. The billing process will remain the same. Keith thinks there's enough salt to get through the winter. The Board thanked Keith for the snow removal after the big snow storm.
5. Recycling Center Survey: Ken will send the survey out to the townwide e-mail.
6. Grants: Ken is waiting to hear from Mackenzie Greer, from DCR, about relocating the Sugarloaf Trail trailhead.
7. Board of Health Vacancy: Jason will send a town wide e-mail to try to fill the vacancy on the Board of Health. Helen Majchrowski, Board of Health Chair, gave the Board the contract proposal from the Board of Health Alliance of \$5,000. The Alliance will be invited to the next meeting.
8. Town Hall Ramp Repairs: Ken will write up the project requirements, which will include removing and rebuilding the ramp with room for well cap access.

9. Fire Station Door Shock: Jason found the necessary piece for the Fire Station door for \$75 online. Mark made a motion to authorize the town treasurer to use the town credit card to purchase the piece for the fire station door up to \$75, seconded by Ken.

10. Annual Town Meeting Warrant Items: Considerations for the Annual Town Meeting warrant may include recycling, the church project, and improving energy efficiency at the Town Hall by replacing the windows and adding insulation to the exterior walls.

11. MLP: The town received \$15,013 in CAFII funding. Steve Kolek is now the representative for the town for Whip City. Stripe is requiring an upgrade for ACH customers. Lori will contact Steve about what needs to be done on the town side. Ken asked Whip City to include vegetation management in the spring ride out, as regular maintenance. There is an MBI wire hanging in Williamstown. Ken will try to put in a ticket on Williamstown's behalf, as the wire feeds the town's internet.

12. Church: Ed Grosso, Historical Commission member, and Scalise engineering have been in communication. There was discussion of adding a walkway to the front door and possibly a ramp.

13. Town Clerk: The Town Clerk sent out the census. She is working on a few where the address is unknown or a vacant lot.

14. Any Old or Unforeseen Business: The furnace had a problem igniting. A resident noted the red light on in the Town Hall and alerted the Select Board. The Board turned the second furnace up to compensate and the pipe to the toilet froze. The Board contacted Mirabito. There was no replacement part readily available in the area. Jason fixed the furnace and it appears to be working fine. Mark will call Mirabito and ask if we can purchase the replacement part from them to keep on hand. There was discussion of putting a plenum between the two supplies to be able to switch between which floor is being heated. The Board will check the bathroom pipe after the meeting.
Ken will send out budget requests.

15. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting February 18 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:50