

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall

February 20, 2026

Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Mark Phelps

Absent: Ken McInerney(MLP Manager)

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Jazu Stine, Susan Supranowicz, Mario Gagliardi, Helen Majchrowski

Meeting opened at 5:30

1. Approve Minutes from 2/4/2026: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the February 4, 2026 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved.
2. Public Comment: A town resident is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Lori gave her several ideas about the town's needs and she is meeting with the Historical Commission to discuss if there's a way to help with the church restoration, perhaps putting in a walkway.
3. Berkshire Alliance Board of Health: Jazu Stine from the Board of Health Alliance discussed the drafted contract proposal for FY27, to provide services for the town for \$5,000. The town's Board of Health would remain the policy makers. They would require some basic, introductory training but would not full certifications, as the Alliance would do inspections and handle nuisance cases and emergency calls. The town would need to be part of the online permitting system, for an additional cost. Given the small amount of inspections required per year, a pay per service model may make more sense. The Alliance can do the Title V for Bondhu at a pay per service rate. The contract needs some changes and review by legal counsel. The Alliance will provide an hourly rate contract with the online permitting fee included. Any contract will need approval from the Board of Health and they will present it to the Select Board. The town's public health nursing contract is going up 4%. The Carriage House Efficiencies had a recent heating and septic problem.
4. Fire Department: A town property owner reached out to the Fire Chief, Frank Speth, to get an address number assigned. Frank did not respond for weeks and caused a delay in the resident's ability to get power connected. The resident reached out to the Select Board. The Board contacted Frank who said he would not call the resident that day because he was doing paperwork. The resident said he heard from Frank today. It took another resident months and several attempts to get paperwork he needed from Frank, which caused insurance problems. The Board discussed what to do if the Fire Chief does not respond to residents or the Board in a reasonable time frame. They may hold a hearing with the Fire Chief.
5. Road Commissioner: Not present.
6. Trees: Keith Lacasse told the Tree Warden, Mario Gagliardi, that he does not have time to remove the dangerous trees on Cemetery Road. Mark made a motion to authorize the Tree Warden to have the trees removed for \$3,250 as quoted, seconded by Jason. The work will be done by the end of the month. Mario will keep on Eversource about the trees they took down and haven't removed yet.

The cemetery needs some tree work in the spring.

7. Annual Town Meeting Warrant Items: There will be a draft for review at the next meeting. Budgets are due by March 14.

8. Online Tax Payment System Update: Lori has been working with Vadar and Point and Pay to get the platform running by the end of March, in time for second half real estate tax payments. Point and Pay will provide marketing for the website and inserts with the billing.

9. Old and Any Unforeseen Business: The door hinge was ordered for the Fire Station. Mary Jane Zimmerman passed away and donations in her name may be made to the Old Schoolhouse. Mark will let the family know that checks can be sent to the Town Hall, marked for donation.

The date of the Town Caucus was changed to April 11.

Susan would like the Board to hold a public hearing, at least 45 days prior, to opt out of mail-in voting for the local elections.

Next meeting March 2 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 6:19