

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
November 4, 2015

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps

Others Present: Karmen Field-Mitchell, Chuck Morrone, Keith LaCasse, Max LaCasse, Lori Jayko

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Karmen Field-Mitchell from the Massachusetts Council on Aging, a non-profit, advisory group. Northern Berkshire Division comprised of Cheshire, Lanesboro, North Adams, Adams (on a volunteer basis), Savoy, Clarksburg, and Florida. Each town sets up their own council made up of a group of seniors aged 60 and over. The local council meets and decides what their town's seniors need. Karmen is offering to help our town set up a council on aging, which would make our town eligible for grant money to help the town's seniors. Karmen is an outreach person – to help smaller towns work with bigger towns. She would get a list of seniors, their birth dates and addresses, and send them a letter with services available. There is no cost for Karmen's services. The first step in forming a council is to set up an advisory board of 5-7 members. The smallest start up group could be as few as 3 seniors (age 60 and above). There could be an age exception made for a younger member of the council. Grant applications are due by June. Karmen would help write the grant which is likely for \$2,000. The council would decide what they want to do with the grant money. Some examples the money has been used for: having a regular coffee hour, reimbursing people for driving seniors to appointments, exercise groups, etc. Karmen will e-mail the board with information.

2. Road Commissioner – The salt for the winter was delivered, in a day and a half. Three loads of sand were delivered and the rest is scheduled to arrive November 5th. It's a year's supply of both sand and salt, just over 240 tons that cost less than last year's. Mallery Road will be patched November 5th. The tree work will happen the week of November 9th. Another tree from Mallery Road was added to the list. If the town does not repair the culvert on Greylock Road, that money could be used to patch the right side of Beach Hill.

3. Gates – Max will meet with Bruce Agosti November 5th. The grant writing for MEMA has closed, but Bruce will make it retroactive. We can buy the steel and make the gates cheaper than if we buy them pre-fabbed. The town needs two for Roys Road, one for Greylock Road, and two for Ingraham Road. Mike Holden, Max, and Keith will make the gates. They can likely make at least four with the grant money, possibly five. The cost to install the gates will likely be around \$2500.

4. Greylock Road – Ken submitted a MassWorks grant application for Greylock and Bauer Roads and the town received a \$333,795 grant. The board thanked Ken for his work on the grant. MassWorks will follow up with paperwork. A culvert near the brook on Greylock Road needs attention – Keith will fix it. The .6 miles on Greylock Road will be applied to our Chapter 90 reimbursement.

5. Veteran's update – Jason spoke with Dick Demyer, Veteran Services Officer. He is still having computer problems and is working on getting them fixed. Jason will call Dick back. The town has seen reimbursement for Q1 FY 15. Lori will give the board a copy of what months reports are completed/not completed.

6. Mass DOT – There was a meeting in Pittsfield. The DOT wants a five year plan on what road work will be done in town.

7. DCJIS – Jason will call the state about pistol permitting payments. Perhaps the board needs an administrative assistant to do computer work. It will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

8. Phelps property access to the fire tower road – According to Everett Martin, the tower is owned by SBA Towers Two LLC. However, that is likely the cell tower on Silverleaf and the people damaging the road may have been accessing the fire tower. The commonwealth has a right of way on the road. Eddie Grosso may know who is responsible for the fire tower.

9. Public Comment – The School Committee has hired a substitute superintendent, William Cameron, for the next three months while Dr. Ripa is on a leave of absence. The committee invited the select board to meet Dr. Cameron, at its 11/23 meeting.

Homeschool – how is the homeschool coordinator paid? Is pay per student? The Homeschool Coordinator is paid a stipend that is not based on the number of homeschooled students.

Carriage house at Mill on the Floss – can students live at the carriage house?

The Springs – people from the hotel keep going on the Grosso's property.

Parking in the road - Cars that are parked on the road pose a hazard during snow plowing. There is no parking allowed on town roads per town bylaws. The board will draft a letter.

Planning Board –Mark tried to organize a meeting in October and couldn't get everyone together. He will try again.

Building Inspector – Jeff Clemons called Ken. He suggested that the town align with Adams for their online permitting system. Jeff would not like to remain as our building inspector. Jason will contact the state again.

Historical Commission needs to be added to the town website and corrected on the appointments' list.

Fedex has been trying to deliver to the town hall. It would help to put a notice in the window of the town hall telling FedEx to deliver to the town clerk's house.

In reference to the October 19, minutes item #2: A follow up was made with the road commissioner that he was charged \$30, not \$70 for salt shed electricity. No action was necessary.

10. Warrant – the warrant was reviewed and signed.

11. Minutes from October 19, 2015 – On a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken, the minutes were approved.

Next meeting November 16, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 8:45