

New Ashford Select Board Meeting
December 21, 2015

Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps
Others Present: Wayne Buckley, Joe Nawazelski, Sherry Youngkin, Frank Youngkin, Chuck Morrone, Keith LaCasse

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Fire Department, Wayne Buckley, Fire Chief – The fire department’s tanker truck is almost forty-four years old and is unsafe to operate. It stalled on the way to a mutual aid call in the spring. The fire department is applying for an Assistance and Firefighter’s Grant from Homeland Security for \$315,000 for a new tanker. The application is due on January 15. Due to the population of New Ashford the matching rate is 5% or \$15,750. The fire department requests this be put on a special town meeting. Wayne will look into how a new tanker will affect the insurance rates. The tanker we have now will be sent back to the Department of Defense.

2. Road Commissioner, Keith LaCasse – The salt shed was loaded over the course of two days. Beach Hill and Mallery Roads were patched with black top. The appropriate roads were closed for the winter. The ditches on the south end of Ingraham Road were cleaned and widened where the blocks are. Two culverts were fixed on Roys Rd. One had its nylon straps cut, so new straps were placed. The other was secured with concrete. The gate on Greylock Road was re-anchored and the ditches were cleaned.

Tree work is all done except for branches between Greylock and Roys roads. An oak tree on Roys Road and an ash tree on Beach Hill Road still need attention.

Keith looked at a dead maple tree on the corner of Old Route 7 and Mountain Pond Lane. It is unclear whose property it is on. Keith will measure.

There is a hemlock tree on Greylock Road that is closer than six feet to the lines. Max called Eversource as the Emergency Management Director. Eversource should take the tree down due to its proximity to the lines. The board will follow up with Eversource.

3. Greylock Road – Ken will attend a meeting on December 23 with Erica Kreuter, director of MASS Works Infrastructure, to discuss the grant. This project will likely go to the Conservation Commission next to fill out an NOI.

4. Tree Work – Tree work was covered under the road commissioner’s report.

Chuck Morrone, tree warden, will be gone for four months and would the board like to appoint a temporary tree warden or have the board take over for that time. Ken made a motion to appoint the select board as acting tree warden while Chuck is away, seconded by Mark. Chuck expects to return in May.

5. MASSDOT projects –Keith will create a list of anticipated road and bridge projects for the next five years.

There will be significant logging off Beach Hill Road.

Mark – the state did an inspection of the bridge on Route 7 at the New Ashford/Lanesboro line. There is a beaver dam there that is causing the water level to rise. This is the state's responsibility.

6. Building Inspector – Jason has received calls from three different inspectors and Jason will invite them to the first or second meeting January.
Resignation letter was received from Jeff Clemons and he has returned his key (number 16).

7. MBI/Wired West – Wired West wants to send a letter of good faith to the director of MBI. The board signed the letter. Wired West has formed a negotiating team to interface with MBI. Mark called the state senator and representative in response to MBI's meeting in Greenfield where 300 people showed up and there was not room for all attendees.

Public Comment – Chuck Morrone asked if the old Schoolhouse is covered by insurance. The board will check.

Chuck -In May 2000, the select board asked Pete Rancourt to mow the area around the old schoolhouse. Ed Reilly, town attorney at the time, said if the town maintained the property around the school house, over 15 years of documented care, the town could claim ownership over that piece of property. Can the board check with the current town attorney to make sure this is accurate? The board will ask Gus about this. Can the town now get a deed to prove ownership?

The board will contact Town Council about the loggers using Beach Hill Road.

Jason received an e-mail from Wendy Penner, director of prevention programs Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, looking for an individual to represent the town in a meeting about prevention of substance abuse in youth.

Approve the minutes from December 7, 2015 – The minutes were approved on a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken.

Sign the Warrant – the warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting January 4, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.