

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

October 7, 2024

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

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Steve Nielsen, Tammy Steinhoff, Alan Steinhoff, Pete Rancourt, Diane George, Richard George, Keith Lacasse

Zoom: Todd Oifer, Jane Kauffman

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2024: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason, the minutes from the September 16, 2024 New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting were approved. Ken abstained.
2. Public Comment: Tammy said Max Lacasse did a nice job mowing the sides of the roads and asked Keith when he would get the swales on Beach Hill Road cleaned out. Keith said he will blow out the leaves first, then clean the swales.
3. Old School House: The Board reviewed copies of a proposed ANR from Steve Nielsen deeding ten feet to the Old Schoolhouse Boundary on the church side, creating a twenty foot buffer to the building. Steve would like the following language from the Select Board: The ANR Plan presented to the Town of New Ashford Planning Board by Steepleview New Ashford LLC accurately depicts the boundary lines of the subject properties, all of which are agreed upon by the Town of New Ashford, Massachusetts through its Select Board. Steve will contact the Planning Board to file the ANR and can put in ground level marker pins. The town's legal research was inconclusive. There is an ANR from 1987 signed by the Planning Board. Ken made a motion to accept the offer of the 10 added feet to the School House boundary, seconded by Jason.
4. Mowing: The town will mow what is in the new parameters of the School House boundaries. The Board asked Pete Rancourt to think about what he would charge for mowing now that the town hall lawn has been narrowed and the schoolhouse boundary cut back.
5. Brodie Mountain: The Board reviewed an e-mail from Todd Oifer, property owner of Brodie Mountain, about plans for developing the property to provide entertainment, recreation, short term housing, and dining. Todd would like to know the feelings of the town. Mark abstained from the conversation due to his proximity to the Brodie property. The next step is for the Brodie owners to contact the Planning Board.
6. Road Commissioner. Keith Lacasse reported that the sides of Mallery, Ingraham, Cemetery, and Beach Hill roads were mowed. He did five hours of leaf blowing and will do more. The beavers plugged the culvert about  $\frac{3}{4}$  on Ingraham Road. Keith will try to clean it out. He dug out for water supply for the Fire Department. Ken will look where Keith marked a tree on Ingraham Road to confirm where brush can go. When Keith's truck is fixed, he will do patching. Donovan will finish Ingraham Road at the end of this week or the beginning of next. Steve Nielsen's driveway apron will be paved soon by Williams. DCR is closing Mount Greylock on October 30 at 3:00PM. Keith will leave the bottom gate open until the snow falls. A 12-inch

culvert on Ingraham Road, near the old gate, and a 24-inch culvert on Greylock Road need to be replaced. The other culverts in town need the throats cleaned out. Jason met with Anne Gobi from the Executive Office of Economic Development. She recommended applying for a one stop state grant, which opens in January, to address the culvert repairs and the need for added water supply for the Fire Department. Keith recommends paving Greylock Road up to the gate.

7. Appointments: Mark Beverly would like to be Constable. Jason made a motion to appoint Mark Beverly as Constable, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously. Susan will contact the Assessor, Chris Lamarre, to find out who filled a vacancy on the Board of Assessors.

8. Special Town Meeting: The Board reviewed the draft Special Town Meeting warrant. The first article is for \$5,400 from free cash to cover the data extracts from CollectPro. This allows the town to retain the records and for an import to Vadar. The second article transfers \$20,000 from free cash for direct boring under the road for water and propane lines to the Church and fixing the well cap under the ramp at Town Hall. The lines will be within ten feet of the building and will not interfere with any of the easements on the property. The third article transfers \$6,000 from free cash to replace entry doors to the Fire Station, Church, Town Hall basement and repair the overhang for the basement door. A fourth article will be added to transfer up to \$500 from free cash for the cost of paint for the Fire Station. The labor is being donated. The Special Town meeting will be October 22 at 6PM at the Town Hall.

9. MLP: Internet subscribers were notified of a brief system outage on Wednesday, while an upgrade was performed giving the system the ability for consumers to receive 2.5gig. The upgrade will be paid for from CAFII. The MLP received the insurance reimbursement for reconnection of the town fiber after the accident in front of 276 Route 7. Ken will contact Andrew about when previously discussed repairs and the phone for the Fire Station will be done.

10. Town Clerk Updates: Susan sent out forty-two vote by mail ballots and received five back. She learned there was an opportunity to get \$5,000 from a center in Chicago for small towns to do what they need for voting. She applied, is on the waiting list, and would like the funds to repair the ramp at the Town Hall for accessibility. After elections, she will start cleaning the Town Hall. The Lanesboro Police Chief got approval from the Lanesboro Select Board to have a police officer present at the elections in New Ashford. The officer will be paid from grant funds. Susan will do an RMV enquiry to clean up the voting list. She volunteered in Williamstown to help with the mail-in ballots.  
The Select Board reviewed and signed the warrant for the elections.

11. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: Mark made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to use the town credit card to pay Adobe \$239.88, seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously.  
The clothing bin that was in town was removed in the spring.

12. Warrant: The warrants were reviewed and signed.

Next meeting October 21, 2024 at 6:30  
Meeting adjourned at 7:40