



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

BOARF OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

April 4, 2018 – 6:15PM

Town Hall

Vision Statement - *The Town of Ashland will be a prosperous and fiscally sound community with a full range of housing, business, cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities in a safe and attractive environment for residents and visitors.*

Mission Statement - *The Ashland Board of Selectmen is dedicated to promoting responsible fiscal management, advocating for sustainable development & growth and providing excellent municipal services which will enhance the quality of life in our diverse community. The Ashland Board of Selectmen is committed to providing clear goals and objectives for Town management and creating effective engagement and public participation with residents, state legislators and other elected officials in order to achieve our mission.*

Call Meeting to Order

Rob Scherer called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Rob thanked everyone in attendance.

Rob recognized the past selectmen in attendance which included Arthur Shapiro, Adam Shuster, Shawn Finnegan, Ed Bates, David Teller Jon Fetherston, Bob Hebden, Barry Bresnick, Larry Hunter, John Ellsworth and Larry Hunt.

Steve Mitchell thanked everyone that assisted in making the recognition come to fruition. Steve explained how the idea for the recognition started as a conversation over coffee.

Carl Hakansson shared a personal story about his Grandfather and also spoke about many families that have a long history in town and how everyone has played a role in the community.

Citizen's Participation

Julian Doktor and Izzy Assencoa

Mark Dassoni explained that he has been keeping an eye on Cadillac Paint and Howe Street Solar Array. Mark also said that the Board of Health meeting was really sad last night but said that the Connolly Bus Company conversation was a good conversation.

Scheduled Hearings/Appearances

Selectmen Recognition

Fred Winnsman who served as a member of the board from 1987 to 1990 explained that Arnold Baker was at the time Arnold was a dear friend and it is an honor to be in a board room named in his honor.

The Cub Scouts led the pledge of allegiance. Member of the troop 232 in attendance included William, Nathan, Ethan and James. The Scouts asked the board what their meeting was about. Yolanda Greaves explained that the board is responsible for policy and procedures thru the Town Manager. She explained that our form of government uses Town Meeting as a form of government. Steve Mitchell explained that we just recognized prior members of the select boards and explained what the recognition was about.

Legislative Update

Karen Spilka and Jack Lewis provided the board with a legislative update. Karen Spilka explained that there is a lot going on in the Senate. One of the items she mentioned is a bond bill that would help with

the public safety building. Additionally, she mentioned that she is hoping for the Ashland to receipt additionally funding for Chapter 70 funds.

Jack Lewis congratulated Karen on her new position and said that her new position is a big deal for Ashland.

Michael Herbert wanted to highlight some of the items that Karen Spilka and Jack Lewis have brought the town including 50,000 for Cadillac Paint and 50,000 for feasibility for the public safety building. Great advocated for us and for state and federal funds.

Carl Hakansson thanked both Karen and Jack for their continued support to the town.

Steve Mitchell thanked Karen and Jack for coming. MBTA Train station keep this on the radar. We will be accepting the road and he wants to continue to push. Karen reassured Steve that she continues to push and hopes to hear something soon.

Yolanda keep the project on TIP for 2020 and this is much appreciated. When ever needed you always step up.

Joe thanked both for all they do and he wanted to let them know that he truly appreciates the sacrifices.

Rob Scherer asked what is the bond bill is for climate or any funding that might assist us with Stormwater. Karen explained that there is a bill but she will have to wait to see the language and see if anything applies to us. Jack Lewis explained that he serves on this committee and feels that this could be helpful to communities that are not just coastal communities.

Mindess School Building Committee

Jim Adams thanked both Karen Spilka and Jack Lewis for their continues support of the Ashland Public Schools. Jim explained that MSBA required that the we appoint members to the Mindess School Building Committee. He explained that he has presented the board with a list and he is requesting that the board appoint them. Mike Kane, Nick DiGiovanni Kendall, Claudia Bennett, Dr. Michael Caira, Dr. Paul Vieira, Christopher Lee, Ketan Joshi, Paul Carpenter, Tilak Subrahmanian, Tim MacKay, Melissa Mercon-Smith, Barbara Durand, Joseph Richardson, James Adams.

Steve Yolanda Greaves to appoint to the Mindess School Building Committee. This motion was seconded by Joe Magnani with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Carl Hakanson made a motion to appoint Christopher Lee, Nick DiGiovanni, ketan Joshi, Tilak Subrahmanian, Tim MacKay, Mike Kane, Melissa Mercon-Smith, Barbara Durand, Dr. Michael Caira, Dr. Paul Vieira, Claudia Bennett, Joseph Richardson, James Adams, Paul Kendal, Michael Herbert, Paul Carpenter and Yolanda Greaves. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to creating the voting member as Residents and

Business Incentive Program

Michael Herbert that we started economic development but doing a survey and then hiring Beth Reynolds to serve the community as Economic Development Director. One of the hurdles is cost for space and the cost of moving a business to town. After identifying some of the hurdles they came up with a way to help businesses using an incentive program.

Beth Reynolds explained that a sign and façade program which would help businesses with up to 50% funding towards these types of projects. Amenities finance in an additional program which would help

businesses with the startup cost. Working on another with a gap finance program that would be offered by a local bank.

Joe Magnani wanted to know if the program is open to all businesses and Beth confirmed that it is offered to all. Joe also wanted to know if the redevelopment of downtown with that be considered prior to money being expended. Lastly Joe wanted to be sure that each business owner should be responsible for the beautification of their own business.

Rob Scherer what the total budget it and Michael explained that is 60,000.

Beth hopes that this will be an incentive that once one business does enhancement others will follow suite.

Yolanda Greaves wanted to understand how 60,000 was selected which Michael Herbert explained was based on other towns.

Yolanda Greaves is concerned on the 3-year clause.

Michael Herbert explained that this program would require a home run petition, and this is a warrant article for Town Meeting.

Carl Hakansson likes the facade idea and would like the community to provide some type of guidance. Carl also wants to be sure that we are protected and that we have consistency.

Steve Mitchell is the sign only for businesses or would development also be included in this. Michael Herbert explained that it would be for existing.

Michael Herbert explained that their

Ashland Half Marathon on October 27, 2018

Steve Greenberg explained that he is requesting to hold a ½ Marathon and a 5k race on October 27, 2018. He explained that he is has been working with DPW, Fire and Police.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion approve the Ashland ½ marathon, 5k and 5 miles runs on October 27, 2018 and that they work with DPW, Fire and Police. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Oktoberfest Metrowest – October 13, 2018 – VFW 311 Pleasant Street

Steve Greenberg explained that the event last year was a huge success and he has been working with Chief Davis to run the event again this year. He is hopeful that this will become an annual event and they had instances last year.

Joe asked if Steve has reached out to the homeowner next to Marathon Park to be sure they are aware of the events that are planned.

Yolanda suggested they have a larger tent this year

Steve What is the band and Steve said it is Road Dogs.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve the One Day license approve request for the Oktoberfest Metrowest on October 13, 2018 from 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm. This motion was seconded by Joe Magnani with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Jenn Ball & Brittany Iacaponi – FY19 Capital Plan

Michael Herbert explained that last year we Capital Plan which was well received, and that the bar was set high for this year.

Jenn Ball thanked Brittany, Doug and Barbara Durand for all the work they did on the plan.

Brittany Iacaponi updated the board on the status of the items on the Capital Plan. She outlined some of the purchases they have been made and other purchases that are still outstanding. Additionally, we have several projects that are also on the list as well and are in various stages based on the individual project.

Joe Magnani asked if any of the projects listed have come in at less than the estimated figures. Brittany explained that the traffic signals on Rt 126 came in about 20,000 less than the estimate and the savings were used to purchase the electric cars that we had been leasing

Joe also asked if the projects for the Mindess School are good investments considering we are looking to replace the building. Jenn explained that he projects outlined are required considering the condition of the items and the need to continue to use the building until it is replaced.

Jenn reviewed a list of items on the Pay As You Go for FY19 General Fund. Some of the items on the list include lease payments and items that will be phased over several years. Additionally, Jenn and Doug discussed some items that will be included for the Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Steve Mitchell asked if there is an opportunity to share any pieces of equipment. Doug explained that it would be really challenging, and he doesn't think doing this would really work. He said potentially some specialty vehicles may be items that could be shared moving forward.

Joe explained that for years DPW was never provided the needed funding but

Yolanda Greaves said that the list of items is pretty extensive, but she wanted to know what happen to the items that didn't make the list. Jenn explained how the process was done and what the criteria is for an item to make the list.

Michael Herbert asked the board if they would take a vote to support the Capital Plan.

Consent Agenda

Donation from Deborah Lada in member of Mary Lada to purchase large print books.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to approve the donation from Deborah Lada to purchase large print books in memory of Mary Lada. This motion was seconded by Joe Magnani with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Old / New Business

Murphy's – Request to open on Monday April 16th at 8:00 am

Steve Mitchell made a motion to approve the request to allow Murphy's to open up at 8:00 am on Monday April 16th. This motion was seconded by Carl Hakansson with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Complete Streets Prioritization Plan

Michael Herbert explained that the Complete Street Prioritization Plan lists out the 60 projects and puts in the list importance. Yolanda Greaves explained that the group has been working with Greene International received a lot of input from residents. She mentioned that in order to obtain funding we would have to have completed the engineering. Items listed on the prioritization plan are based on the engineering and not necessarily the order we would necessary want for the list.

2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Michael is asking that we continue to keep the warrant open until we are able to finalize the Warrant. Jenn Ball reviewed a couple modification on the Charter changes.

Carl Hakansson wanted to know if we have received clarification on the marijuana on private property. Michael Herbert explained that he does not have that information at this time, but he will get that information.

Discuss and Vote to Place Ballot Question on May 15, 2018 Ballot

Michael Herbert suggested on the order of the questions and asked the board how they would like to proceed.

Rob Scherer explained that the board has been discussing how the board would like to address the opt out for Recreational Marijuana. Steve Mitchell reminded everyone that we have a moratorium that will expire December 31, 2018.

Yolanda Greaves would like to have the 2 money questions first and then the marijuana

Debt Exclusion for 133 West Union Street

Yolanda would like to know if we could add the "Valentine Property" as part of the identification.

Mindess

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to making the ballot questions in the following order, question 1 would be the Mindess School Ballot Question, question 2 would be for the West Union Street Question and question 3 would be for Marijuana Ban. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to place the Debt Exclusion for School Feasibility Study, Debt Exclusion for 133 West Union Street and the Opt Out of Adult Use Cannabis Facilities. This motion was seconded by Joe Magnani with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to post the ballot for the May 2018 election. This was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Town Manager Reports

Town Forest Committee/CPA Grant

Michael Herbert explained that he is requesting that the board sign the Town Forest Committee/CPA Grant in the amount of 26,956.00 that was approved 11/14/17 at the Special Town Meeting.

Cadillac Paint Recap

Michael Herbert updated the board of the progress of the project and he thanked everyone that helped and supported this project.

Downtown Forum Recap

Michael Herbert provided a recap of the Downtown Forum that was held on Thursday. He explained that it was well attended, and the focus was on bike lanes or no bike lanes. The information presented that night are available on CoUrbanize on our website.

Rob thought the forum was good, but he really didn't think that the focus on bike lanes may not have been the best way to present the information.

Joe pointed out a couple of challenges he

Steve thought it was useful to get a point of view from avid cyclists.

Michael explained that the survey for bike lanes or no bike lanes was split down the middle.

Board Reports

Carl Hakansson

Carl thanked DPW for putting a gate in to Warren Woods.

Rob Scherer

Rob registered for the Municipal summit and he hopes this will help us to focus on this important topic.

Joe motion to go past 10:00 pm. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves

The Yolanda Greaves

Yolanda attended the luncheon on the Positive Passion

Congratulated Ed on the Mary Mortensen annual award.

Town Forest Forum on Saturday and they will be moving forward with a plan.

Monday attended Courageous Conversation and conversation was can it happen in Ashland.

Attended the blood Drive for Jake Silver who is a High School Student that has cancer

Steve Mitchell

Steve explained that he attended the Position Passion and said it was a great presentation.

Dementia Friendly survey has been completed and we are working on how to proceed at this point. This would purple table.

BAA Grant distribution will announced at the next meeting

April 7 Farmers Market will take place at the middle school.

Joe Magnani

Joe asked how many people saw the April's Fool joke that Michael posted?

Joe also thanked DPW for all the extra work they have done to remove all the tree debris around town.

Executive Session

Motion: to move into Executive Session – Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A sec 21 (a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. The board will not reconvene in open session.

Meeting Materials:

This agenda is subject to change and includes those items reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all agenda items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.