



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMAN Minutes May 2, 2018 – 6:15 PM Ashland High School Library

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.

Rob Scherer called the meeting to order.

Present at the meeting was Chair Rob Scherer, Yolanda Greaves, Joe Magnani, Carl Hakansson, Town Manager Michael Herbert, Assistant Town Manager Jenn Ball, and Town Counsel Lisa Mead.

Consent Agenda

Approve Regular Session Minutes from April 4, 2018

Declare Surplus – Brother EM530 Typewriter from the Town Clerk's Office which no longer works.

Yolanda Greaves motioned to accept the consent agenda as presented. Joe Magnani seconded. This passed 4-0.

Old / New Business

Scholarship Committee

The Board discussed the need to appoint the scholarship subcommittee to review the applications for the Annual BOS Scholarship.

Carl Hakansson motioned to appoint Joe Magnani and Yolanda Greaves to the Scholarship Committee. This was seconded by Joe Magnani and was passed 4-0.

McGill Square

The Board discussed scheduling a dedication ceremony for McGill Square. The Board agreed that the ceremony will be held on May 19th at 10:00 AM.

Yolanda Greaves motioned to hold the McGill Square dedication ceremony on May 19th at 10:00 AM. This motion was seconded by Joe Magnani. It passed 4-0.

Adjournment

Joe Magnani made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 4-0.



BOARF OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

April 4, 2018 – 6:15PM

Town Hall

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Call Meeting to Order

Rob Scherer called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Rob announced that the meeting is be taped and broadcast live on WACA TV.

Rob thanked everyone in attendance. Present at the meeting were Vice-Chair Steve Mitchell, Yolanda Greaves, Carl Hakansson, Joe Magnani, Town Manager Michael Herbert and Assistant Town Manager Jenn Ball.

Rob recognized the past Selectmen in attendance including 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 organizing the recognition program. Steve explained how the idea for the recognition started with 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.

The Board Meeting Reconvened

Rob Scherer reconvened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Citizen's Participation

Izzy Assencoa said he was overwhelmed and honored to be present with all of the prior Selectmen. Izzy also mentioned that the food drive at Market Basket was a huge success, due to the generosity of the people of Ashland, Framingham and the surrounding towns. Izzy thanked everyone involved especially Julian Doktor for starting the drive and all of his efforts on behalf of the Ashland Lions Club.

Julian Doktor said over 120 large boxes of food were collected and thanked everyone who worked on the effort.

Steve Mitchell thanked Julian and Izzy for their involvement with the Lions Club.

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 Winsmann who served as a member of the Board from 1987 to 1990 said at 22 years old he was the youngest Selectmen in the history of the town. He explained that Arnold Baker at the time was a dear friend and tonight it is special to be in a board room named in his honor.

The Cub Scouts led the pledge of allegiance. Member of Troop 232 in attendance included William, Nathan, Ethan and James. The Scouts asked the Board what their meetings are about. Yolanda Greaves explained that the Board is responsible for policy and procedures through the Town Manager. She explained that the town uses Town Meeting as a form of government. Steve Mitchell said prior members of the Board of Selectmen were recognized this evening and explained the reason for the acknowledgment.

Legislative Update

Sen. Karen Spilka and Rep. Jack Lewis provided the Board with a legislative update. Karen Spilka explained that there is a lot going on at the State House. One of the items she mentioned is a bond bill that will help with the Ashland public safety building. Additionally, she mentioned that she is hoping for Ashland to receive additional funding for Chapter 70 funds.

Jack Lewis congratulated Karen on her new position. Jack praised Michael Herbert on his organized "wish list" spreadsheet, as it facilitates conversations on items that are of interest to the town.

Michael Herbert highlighted some of the items that Karen Spilka and Jack Lewis have helped the community accomplish including \$50,000 for Cadillac Paint and \$50,000 for the feasibility study for the public safety building. Michael said the Senator and the Representative are great advocates for the town, in terms of securing state and federal funds.

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

Steve Mitchell thanked Karen and Jack for coming to this evening's meeting. Steve asked both to keep the MBTA Ashland train station on their radar, as the town will be accepting the access road and he wants to continue to push forward. Karen reassured Steve that she continues to push on the topic and hopes to hear more soon concerning RTAs.

Yolanda thanked Karen and Jack for all they do for Ashland and all of Massachusetts. Yolanda also thanked them for keeping the Ashland project on the TIP for 2020 and for stepping up whenever their help is needed.

Joe thanked both for all they do and said he truly appreciates the sacrifices.

Rob Scherer asked about the bond bill targeted for climate hardening and whether there is any funding that might assist the town with stormwater regulations, etc. Karen explained that there is a bill, but she will have to review the language and determine if anything applies to us. Jack Lewis explained that he serves on this committee and feels that it may be helpful to all communities', not just coastal communities.

Mindess School Building Committee

Jim Adams, School Superintendent, thanked both Karen Spilka and Jack Lewis for their continued support of the Ashland Public Schools. Jim explained that the MSBA pipeline requires the town to

appoint members to the Mindess School Building Committee. He explained that he has presented the Board with a candidate list and he is requesting that the Board approve their appointment. The candidates include 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, and James Adams.

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

Carl Hakansson 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 designate the voting members of the David Mindess School Building Committee to include the Committee's residents of Ashland, the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Business Incentive Program

Michael Herbert explained that the Economic Development effort was started by conducting a survey and then hiring Beth Reynolds to serve the community as Economic Development Director. Some of the hurdles identified included the cost of space and the cost of moving businesses to town. After identifying these hurdles Michael and Beth came up with a Building Incentive program as a way to help businesses.

Beth Reynolds explained that a Sign and Façade grant program will also help businesses with up to 50% funding towards the expense of these types of projects. Beth said the Amenities Financing program, specific to the downtown district, will help businesses with the start-up costs. Beth said they are working on another program to help with gap financing that would be offered by a local bank.

Joe Magnani wanted to know if the programs are open to all businesses, and Beth confirmed that they are offered to all within the commercial district. Joe also wanted to know if the redevelopment of downtown would be taken into account prior to money being extended. Lastly, Joe wanted to be sure that each business owner is ultimately responsible for the beautification of their business.

Rob Scherer asked what the total budget is, and Michael responded that it is \$60,000.

Beth said that she hopes the results of the Sign and Façade program will be an incentive and once one business completes their enhancements others will follow suit.

Yolanda Greaves wanted to understand how \$60,000 was selected, which Michael Herbert explained it was based on budgets set by towns similar in size to Ashland.

Yolanda Greaves asked about the Amenities Finance program and suggested the 3-year term clause address repayment of the grant if the 3-year term is not completed.

Michael Herbert explained that this program would require a Home Rule petition, and it is a warrant article for Town Meeting.

Carl Hakansson said he likes the Sign and Façade program and suggested the community provide some type of guidance. Carl also wanted to be sure the town's investment is protected in some way, recommended the applicants also offer a personal investment, and that there is some overall consistency.

Steve Mitchell asked if the Sign and Facade program is only for businesses or will it be available to development projects to incentivize those efforts as well. Michael Herbert explained that the intent has always been for existing facades.

Rob Scherer asked about the evaluation process to confirm success. Michael Herbert explained that the requirement is to come back to the Board and Town Meeting and report on the progress, the overall investment, and funds leverage by way of private investments.

Yolanda Greaves suggested loosening the location restriction, so as not to exclude businesses on the fringe of the downtown district.

Ashland Half Marathon on October 27, 2018

Steve Greenberg explained that he is requesting to hold a ½ Marathon, a 5 mile and a 5K race on October 27, 2018. He explained that he has been in discussions with the DPW, Fire and Police Depts. regarding the preparations.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve the Ashland ½ Marathon, 5K and 5 mile races on Saturday October 27, 2018 with the plan as presented and that they work with public safety. 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 last year's Oktoberfest was a huge success and he has been working with Chief Davis to conduct the event again this year. Steve said he is hopeful that this Sporting Association and VFW sponsored program will become an annual event. Last year there were over 300 participants and they are hoping to attract over 500 this year.

Joe Magnani thanked Steve for the event plan details and asked if Steve has reached out to the homeowner next to Marathon Park to ensure they are aware of the planned events. Steve Greenberg responded that he will reach out to all of the neighbors before the event.

Yolanda Greaves suggested that they have a larger tent this year, or move the Corn Hole contest outside.

Steve Mitchell asked what band will perform, and Steve Greenberg said the Road Dogs.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve a one-day liquor license for the Oktoberfest MetroWest on October 13, 2018 from 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm at the VFW supported by the Ashland Sporting Association. 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 through the Community Compact program \$35,000 was provided to help develop a robust Capital Plan and Capital document, which was well received and set the bar high for this year's efforts.

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

Brittany Iacaponi updated the Board on the status of the items included in the Capital Plan. She outlined some of the purchases made and purchases that are still outstanding. Additionally, Brittany said there are several projects on the list that are in various stages of completion based on the individual project.

Yolanda Greaves asked about the age of the boilers that are being replaced. Jenn said the Warren School boilers are over 20 years old and the two Town Hall boilers installed in 2004, were undersized and failed inspection. Jenn said the replacement costs for these boilers, including proper design implementation, are included in the plan.

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 Rte. 126 came in about \$20,000 less than the estimate and the savings were used to purchase electric vehicles that had been previously leased.

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

Rob Scherer asked if the Finance Committee and residents will have an opportunity to review the plans. Michael Herbert said it was recommended that it be a staff or Town Manager advisory board effort.

Jenn provided an overview of the process, the eligibility criteria that included scores on efficiency, effectiveness, the impact on revenue or the reduction in operating costs. Jenn said 160 requests were submitted, 112 projects are outlined into the 5 year plan totaling \$67.4 million.

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

Michael Herbert asked the Board to consider scheduling the Capital Planning process in the fall and the Operating Budget in the spring. This would separate and provide a better opportunity to give each process full attention.

Steve Mitchell asked if there are regional opportunities to share any pieces of equipment. Doug explained that it would be very challenging and he does not think it would work well. He said potentially a specialty vehicle may be an item that could be shared moving forward.

Joe Magnani explained that for years the DPW was never provided the needed funding for items they requested, and he thinks it is mostly because these discussions happen at Town Meeting in May, not at the time of year when the equipment was needed.

Yolanda Greaves said that the list of items is pretty extensive, but she wanted to know what happened to the items that did not make the list. Jenn explained how the process was carried out and the criteria for an item to make the list.

Michael Herbert asked the Board if they would take a vote to support the Capital Plan, as well as provide feedback on whether the process is headed in the right direction. The Board said they feel the process is understandable, comprehensive and going in the right direction, and adding a citizen committee component may be appropriate.

Consent Agenda

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

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

Old / New Business

Murphy's Request

Murphy's, the new establishment where Tasty Treats was located, submitted a 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 includes 60 projects and their priority. Yolanda Greaves explained that the group has been working with Greene International and received a lot of input from residents. She mentioned that in order to obtain funding for a particular project the engineering must be completed, therefore items listed on the prioritization plan are based on the engineering and not necessarily the preferred order.

2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Michael asked to continue to keep the warrant open until all of the articles are finalized. Jenn Ball reviewed the recommended Charter Review changes.

Carl Hakansson wanted to know if clarification was received on the public consumption of marijuana and use on private property. Michael Herbert explained that he does not have that information at this time, but it will be clarified.

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

Michael Herbert made a suggestion on the order of the ballot questions and asked the Board how they would like to proceed.

Rob Scherer explained that the Board has been discussing how it 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, so if the Opt-Out fails there will be sufficient time to construct general and zoning bylaws.

Yolanda Greaves said she would like to have the two funding questions first and then the marijuana ballot question, and regarding the Debt Exclusion for 133 West Union Street, Yolanda asked if the "Valentine Estate" can be added as part of the identification.

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

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve to place on the ballot Debt Exclusion for 133 West Union Street, Debt Exclusion for School Feasibility Study, 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 15, 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 on 11/14/17 at the Special Town Meeting.

Cadillac Paint Recap

Michael Herbert updated the Board on the project's progress and he thanked a number of people and boards that helped and offered support.

The Board said they think the residents in the area should have an opportunity to provide feedback on the site's potential use.

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 main focus was whether to include or not include bike lanes. Michael said the information presented is available on CoUrbanize and on the town's website.

Rob Scherer thought the forum was good, but he did not think the focus on bike lanes was the best way to present the information.

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

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

Board Reports

Carl Hakansson

Carl thanked DPW for putting a gate into Warren Woods.

Rob Scherer

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

Joe Magnani made a motion to go past 10:00 pm. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a vote of 4-0-1 (Hakansson).

The Yolanda Greaves

Yolanda attended the luncheon on the Positive Passion.

She congratulated Ed Hart on receiving the Mary Mortensen Annual Award.

Yolanda said the Town Forest Forum was on Saturday and they will be moving forward with a plan.

On Monday night Yolanda attended the Courageous Conversation at Ashland High School and the discussion was "...can it happen in Ashland and how can we prevent it."

Yolanda also attended the Blood Drive for Jake Silver who is a High School student who is dealing with cancer.

On Saturday Yolanda will be attending the local climate summit sponsored by the Sierra Club and Mass Audubon.

Steve Mitchell

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

Steve said the Dementia Friendly survey has been completed and the committee is determining on how to proceed at this point. This would purple table program, which is coordinated with local restaurants.

The BAA Grant distribution will be announced at the next meeting.

Steve reminded all that the Ashland Indoor Farmers Market will take place on April 7th at the Middle School.

Joe Magnani

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

Joe also thanked the 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. This was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote, Greaves-aye, Magnani-aye, Mitchell-aye, Scherer-aye, Hakansson-aye.

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.



Susan Robie <srobie@ashlandmass.com>

Town Clerk Typewriter

1 message

Charlotte Peterson <cpeterson@ashlandmass.com>
To: Susan Robie <srobie@ashlandmass.com>

Thu, Apr 26, 2018 at 11:19 AM

The Office of the Town Clerk has a Brother EM530 that has not worked and the Town has replaced it. May we please properly dispose of this?
Thank you in advance.
Charlotte Peterson