



# Town of Ashland

## MASSACHUSETTS

### BOARD OF SELECTMAN MINUTES March 2, 2016 – 7:00 PM Town Hall

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

#### ***Call Meeting to Order***

Joe Magnani called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present at the meeting was Chair Joe Magnani, Vice-Chair Steve Mitchell, Yolanda Greaves, Rob Scherer, Carl Hakansson and Town Manager Michael Herbert.

Joe Magnani asked for a moment of silence in memory of Scott Thouren and Tom Kinder.

Joe Magnani announced that the meeting was being taped and broadcast live on WACA.

Joe Magnani led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ***Citizen's Participation***

Mark Dassoni, 49 Hawthorne Rd., thanked everyone that came out and voted, and thanked Brett Walker for the shout-out!

Tom DeAlmeida explained that he is concerned with the parking along Chestnut Street and asked that the police take notice. Carl Hakansson corroborated Tom's concerns.

#### ***Scheduled Appointments***

##### **Ashland Downtown District Zoning Renderings**

Nat Strosberg explained the proposed zoning changes and presented rendering that will be presented at Town Meeting. He explained that 3 zones are being proposed and each area will focus on a set of guidelines for each of the 3 zones, based on the appearance of structures to reflect the historic architecture in Ashland.

Steve Mitchell wanted to understand if the zoning changes focus only on downtown. Nat Strosberg explained that at this time they are focusing on downtown but they could focus on other areas in the future.

Carl Hakansson asked how many warrant articles encompass these changes. Nat Strosberg responded that 3 are included.

##### **Animal Control**

Dona Walsh, Ashland Animal Control, explained that she has recently responded to several calls concerning dog bites to both people and other dogs. Dona Walsh explained that since October there have been 4 serious dog bite incidents. In all of these cases the dogs were off leash within Ashland State Park and involved out of town individuals. Dona Walsh explained that she is unable to enforce controls, because these events happened on state property.

Yolanda Greaves suggested that the Board explore creating a dog park in another location. Collectively the Board members would like to promote work on getting the word out that dogs must be on leashes and enforcing the leash law.

### ***Acceptance of Minutes***

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to accept the regular session minutes of February 3, 2016. This motion was seconded Rob Scherer by with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to release the executive session minutes of February 15, 2012 that had previously been approved. This motion was seconded Steve Mitchell by a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

### ***Selectman Appointments***

#### **Ashland Housing Authority**

Joe Magnani thanked Carolann Cassidy for serving on the Ashland Housing Authority and wished her well.

Yolanda made a motion to regretfully accept the resignation of Carolann Cassidy with thanks. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

#### **Road Traffic Safety Committee**

Steve Mitchell made a motion to appointed Chief Boothby to the Road Traffic Safety Committee. This motion was seconded Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0-.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to appoint Joe Magnani as the Board of Selectmen appointment to the Road Safety Committee with Yolanda Greaves as the alternate. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

### ***Town Manager Appointments***

#### **DPW Appointments**

Michael Herbert explained that he is appointing David Kiser and Anthony Penticost as Light Equipment Operators for the DPW with a start date of March 29, 2016. Michael Herbert explained that these appointments are subject to successful completion of a medical screening and CORI.

### ***Old / New Business***

#### **Audubon Gift Money**

Carl Hakansson explained that Mass Audubon submitted a proposal to the state for a conservation restriction (CRs). Once approved and filed there will be a gift of \$115,000 to go to the general funds to be used in a manner to be decided by the Board of Selectman and consistent with the charge of Audubon.

#### **Board of Health – Vacancy**

Joe Magnani explained that at the last meeting the Board accepted the resignation of Ed Hart effective February 10, 2016, and that the Board needs to fill the vacancy. The Board agreed the best way to move forward towards filling the vacancy would be to notify the Town Clerk and place the vacancy on the town ballot.

KG Narayana, Board of Health member, stated that he finds the vacancy filling process unclear and the reason he sent a notification to the Board of Selectmen concerning the vacancy.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to request that the Town Manager notify the Town Clerk of the Board of Health vacancy and provide for the vacancy on the May town ballot. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Mark Dassoni asked if his Talent Bank Form expressing interest in filling this vacancy is being reviewed at this time.

#### **Designer Selection Criteria**

Michael Herbert explained that the Designer Selection criterion is required in accordance with procurement compliance laws.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to approve the Designer Selection procedures as presented in accordance with the Mass General Law. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

#### **Schedule Triboard Meeting – FY17 Budget**

Michael Herbert explained that he is looking to select a date for the next Triboard Meeting and he will send out a few dates to check the availability of all members, tentatively March 30th.

#### **Open Meeting Law Training**

Michael Herbert explained that he has set up an Open Meeting Law Training session with Attorney Mead and it is scheduled for May 23, 2016 at the Community Center.

#### **Jimmy Fund Parade Permit**

Joe Magnani explained that the Board received an annual request from the Jimmy Fund for a walk on Sunday September 25, 2016.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve the request for a parade permit through the Boston Marathon route per the request from the DMSE for Sunday September 25, 2016. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

#### **Town Hall Recognitions**

Steve Mitchell explained that he has worked with the Town Clerk to collect the historic data on the past members of the Board of Selectmen. He explained that 141 individuals have served as Selectmen and he is looking to find a way to recognize all those that have served.

Rob Scherer made a motion to appoint Steve Mitchell and Joe Magnani to a subcommittee to explore the recognition at Town Hall. This motion was seconded by Carl Hakansson with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

#### ***Town Manager Reports***

##### **Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

Michael Herbert reviewed the GASB 45 summary results. He explained that as a result of changing insurance last year the OPEB liability changed. Michael Herbert explained that as a community we need to look for ways to fund this liability moving forward.

##### **Water/Sewer Fees**

Michael Herbert explained that there was no increase in water/sewer rates for FY16, but in FY17 the rates will increase. The water rate will increase by 8%, which will cost the average homeowner \$18.00 per year. The sewer rates will increase by 2.5 %, which will increase the average annual sewer bill by \$20.00.

##### **FY 17 Budget**

Michael Herbert explained that he is basing the funding on the FY16 Cherry Sheet funding. Michael Herbert explained that on the expense-side it is based on health insurance increase using 5%, but the rates went up by less, so that number will be decreased.

### **2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Tracker**

Michael Herbert presented the Board with the proposed warrant articles, but likely not all the articles will be ready for Town Meeting.

#### ***Board Reports***

##### **Carl Hakansson**

Carl explained that he attended the Volunteer Breakfast and it was a great time.

Carl reported that construction at 466 Chestnut St. will begin and abutters will be notified shortly.

Carl explained 22 Eliot will pass papers by the end of April and then the land around the house will be transferred to the Town of Ashland.

Carl explained DCR Grant is a 2 to 1 matching grant. He explained what the town has been doing with regards to mitigation, and he will keep everyone posted.

Carl gave a shout-out to the members of the Conservation Commission and Planning Board for standing up for the town.

Carl explained the Environmental Impact report did not include a public process and he feels it really did not include the overall impact to the community as a whole. Carl also is concerned with the culvert that drains the downtown area, including its age, size, integrity and proximity to the nearby wetlands.

Carl Hakansson made a motion to continue past 10:00 pm. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

##### **Rob Scherer**

Rob reported that he attended the Volunteer Breakfast and said it was a nice event and encourages volunteer to attend in the future.

Joel Arbeitman of the Upper Charles Trails Committee has arranged to have a consultant come tomorrow night at 7:00 pm and give a presentation on what services consultants can provide and how they might evaluate the route that the committee is proposing.

##### **Yolanda Greaves**

Yolanda reported that she attended the Metrowest Regional Collaborative meeting and they made a file decision on the model for the assessment.

Rail Trail discussion suggests that we look at what Holliston has done in terms of fundraising.

Yolanda attended the MMA Legislative Breakfast and talked about the Chapter 70 budget and increase funding, but she was disappointed to find out that in order for the town to get the increase in funding it requires that other town receive less.

Yolanda explained that she attended the Volunteer Breakfast and also enjoyed it.

Yolanda attended the Lions Chili Fest was a great time, and also attended the Yes for Ashland Campaign kickoff at the Ashland Public Library.

Lisa Price, the owner of the Red Dress, will be closing the establishment, due to the rent increase and she is inviting the public to come in to shop; and no reasonable offer will be refused.

**Steve Mitchell**

Steve expressed his sadness that the Red Dress shop is closing, but looks forward to continuing to work with Lisa on the issues affecting downtown.

Steve announced that the Lions Senior Breakfast will be held at 9:00 am tomorrow at the Community Center.

Steve reported that the Mexico City has opened at their new location.

Steve said the Volunteer Breakfast was one of the best and expressed his pleasure with the great turnout for Super Tuesday.

**Joe Magnani**

Joe said that the Volunteer Breakfast was a great success and thanked Susan Robie.

Joe reported that the Board received a letter from the BAA regarding the increase in next year's assessment, due to the increase in services. Joe thanked the BAA for their continued support.

***Adjournment***

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.