



# Town of Ashland

## MASSACHUSETTS

### BOARD OF SELECTMAN MINUTES April 20, 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***

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

Steve Mitchell announced that the meeting was being taped and broadcast live on WACA.

Steve Mitchell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Steve Mitchell sent out well wishes on behalf of the Board and the community.

Steve Mitchell also welcomed Jenn Ball and thanked everyone that ran the Boston Marathon for the Town of Ashland.

Mark Dassoni asked if the Town Meeting Warrant is closed. Steve Mitchell explained that it is closed, but the Board has not voted to post the warrant yet. Mark Dassoni also wished Joe Magnani a speedy recovery.

Julian Doktor, on behalf of the Ashland Lions Club, presented a plaque in honor of Carl Pucci who served as past Town Clerk as well in many other roles throughout the community.

Jacob Guggenheim, Prospect Street, explained that he is looking for the support of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee to support the warrant article bylaw change. Jacob explained that the Capital Improvement Committee has had some challenges and he is hopeful that changing the scope of the Committee would assist them in moving forward.

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

##### **Paving and Sidewalk Update**

Rajitha Purimetla, Town Engineer, presented a paving analysis program and outlined the street that will be focused on this year, including Eliot Street, Spy Glass Hill Drive, Pond Street and Thomas Road. Rajitha explained that an annual survey is conducted and the result of the survey allows the department to determine which areas need to be the priority. Paving on Main St. will be scheduled after planned work in the area is completed. The total area that will be paved is approximately 1.5 miles and the time frame for this work is spring and summer of 2016.

Rob Scherer would like to know how the Complete Streets Policy works with these updates. Michael Herbert explained that any plans that include new development must meet the requirements as outlined in our Complete Streets plan.

### **Horse and Deer Crossing Signs**

Rajitha Purimetla explained that there is a request to post a Horse Crossing Sign along Howe Street and Cross Street. Rajitha also stated that in response to many accidents and a request from residents, she is looking to post two Wildlife Crossing Signs along East Union Street. Lastly, Rajitha said that she has received a request from the Police Department to post an additional speed limit sign on Oak Street near the town line.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve the horse crossing sign along Howe Street and Cross Street, a deer crossing signs along East Union Street, and an additional Speed Limit Sign on Oak Street as presented. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 4-0-0.

### **Commercial Vehicle Bylaw**

Chief Craig Davis explained that when he reviewed the current Commercial Vehicle Bylaw he found flaws and therefore he is suggesting a change that would be more reasonable when referring gross weight. Chief Davis explained that he is suggesting an increase of the gross vehicle weight to 10,000 lbs. and allow leeway for residents to apply for a variance, if needed.

Rob Scherer thanked Chief Davis for a great job during the Marathon. Rob asked about parking tickets that were issued during the recent event held at the Warren School. Chief Davis explained the reason so many tickets were issued was due to the road hazard created by the cars parked on Fruit St.

### **Downtown Update**

Andrea Green, from the Downtown Collaborative, updated the Board on the downtown improvement projects and the progress. Andrea Green explained that the main concern of downtown businesses was the potential loss of customer parking if improvements included enhancing the downtown green. Andrea also reported that the Collaborative will be seeking grant monies to construct a gazebo on the downtown green. Curbing will be completed at 125 Front St. In addition, new destination signs will be installed at various location in town on both town and private property, with the permission of the owners.

### **Donation Bin Bylaw**

Steve Mitchell explained that the Board of Selectmen is promoting a Donation Bin Bylaw that will be on the Warrant, Article 23. The Board reviewed a presentation that included pictures of a variety of collection bins in various locations in Ashland.

### ***Selectman Appointments***

#### **Town Counsel**

The discussion regarding the renewal of the Town Counsel contract was deferred until the next meeting when Chairman Magnani is present.

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

#### **Auxiliary Police Officer**

Michael Herbert explained that he is appointing Peter Slamin to the Auxiliary Police to fill a vacancy. Peter Slamin explained that he recently moved to Ashland, currently works for the Town of Natick in the DPW and is a member of the Natick Auxiliary, but he would like to serve in the community where he lives.

Chief Davis requested that the Board waive the 15 day waiting period.

Yolanda Greaves moved to approve the appointment of Peter Slaimin to the Auxiliary Police and waive the 15 day waiting period. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 4-0-0.

### ***Consent Agenda***

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve the consent items, which include the Acceptance of Gift for the Ashland Cultural Council, Declaration of Surplus for a 2005 Ford Expedition from the Animal Control Dept. and the approval of Firefighters MDA Boot Drive on August 27, 2016. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 4-0-0.

*Old / New Business*

**Decisions at Every Turn Steering Committee Membership**

The discussion regarding the Every Turn Steering Committee was deferred until the next meeting when Chairman Magnani is present.

**Discussion of response to Open Meeting Law Complaints:**

Michael Herbert explained that he has worked with Attorney Mead regarding the complaints filed with the Attorney General regarding Open Meeting Law violation: Stephen Morgan dated 4/13/16, and Daniel Hill dated 2/3/16.

Michael Herbert reported that Attorney Mead drafted a response to the Attorney General and he asked the Board to review the letter and notify him how they would like move forward. Michael also reported that Open Meeting Law training will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Board members agreed to support the letter as drafted.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve the letter in response to the Open Meeting Law violation submitted by Steve Morgan dated 3/16/16. This motion was second Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 4-0-0.

Michael Herbert explained that there is an Open Meeting Law complaint filed by Daniel Hill with regards to executive session. The Board decided to defer this item until the next meeting, and before Town Meeting.

**Post Town Meeting and Town Election Warrants**

The Board discussed warrant articles and understands that changes moving forward would have to be done at Town Meeting.

Yolanda Graves made a motion reopen the 2016 Town Meeting Warrant. This motion was seconded by Carl Hakansson with a unanimous vote of 4-0-0.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to remove Articles 4, 19 and 21, amend Article 20 as indicated by Michael Herbert, and amend Article 22 as described by Chief Davis. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 4-0-0.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to close the 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and post it. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote 4-0-0.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve and post the Town Election Warrant for May 17, 2016. This motion was seconded by Carl Hakansson with a unanimous vote of 4-0-0.

**Suburban Coalition**

Rob Scherer made a motion to support the resolution calling for full funding of the Foundation's Budget Review Commission's recommendations. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 4-0-0.

**Street Names – Review and Update the list**

Susan Robie provided an update concerning an approval for a development street name.

**Hillside Estates - Hickey – Street Name Request**

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve the extension of High St. Ext. and approve the naming of Weaver Rd. as presented on the sketch plan. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote 4-0-0.

**Proclamation – Women’s Lung Health Week**

Yolanda Greaves read a prepared proclamation declaring the 2<sup>nd</sup> full week in May Women’s Lung Health Week.

**BAA Grants**

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to approve the BAA grants; American Legion Baseball Team-\$2,000 from the runners account; Auxiliary Police-\$2,100 from the gift account, Ashland Community Gardens-\$1,500 from the runners account, Ashland Community Theatre-\$1,500 from the gift account, Ashland Council on Aging-\$5,000 (or \$7,500 if that is the program amount), the Ashland Day Event-\$3,000 and the Ashland Summer Concerts from the gift account, DPW vending machine purchase-\$1,500 from the gift account, Ashland Emergency Fund-\$2,000 from the gift account, Ashland Explorers-\$5,000 from the gift account, Ashland Healthy Harvest-\$850; Ashland High School ELL-\$0, Ashland High School Fine Arts Dept.-\$0, Ashland Middle School Library-\$0, Ashland Parent Teacher Organization Character Building Program-\$700 from the runners account, Ashland Police Dept.-\$1,000 from the runners account, Pop Warner Football and Cheer Leading-\$3,000 from the runners account, Ashland Public Library-\$500 (based on funding from the Friends of the Library), Ashland Public Schools-\$0, Ashland Recreation-\$4,500 from the runners account, Ashland Teen Advisory Council-\$676 from the runners account, Ashland Youth and Family Services-\$fully funded from the runners account, Ashland Youth Baseball-\$1,902 from the runners account, Ashland Youth Lacrosse-\$2,000 from the runners account, Ashland Youth Soccer-\$1,000 from the runners account, Board of Selectmen Account Grants-\$2,000 flower wall, \$4,975 war memorial, Camp Bailout-\$3,000 from the runners account, Decisions at Every Turn-\$5,000, Friends of the Ashland Library-\$1,000 from runners account, Green-up Ashland Committee-\$2,000, Junior State of America Ashland-deferred for more information, Ashland Economic Development Dept.-\$2,000, Metrowest YMCA-deferred.

As a result of the approved grants totaling \$66,498, Susan Robie report the following account balances; \$34,258.64 runner account balance and \$26,879.18ift account balance.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to allow the Board meeting to go beyond 10:00PM. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 4-0-0.

***Town Manager Reports***

**Rail Transit District Update**

Michael Hebert reported the information was provided to the developer and a response from MEPA is pending, as well as a number of open items.

**Upper Charles Trial – Funding**

Michael Hebert reported there are monies earmarked for the trial and he is working with the Town Planner on how to disburse the funds.

**FY17 Capital Plan / Town Meeting and FY17 Budget Update**

Michael Hebert reported that he plans to include the capital plan spreadsheet in the budget book for FY17 and will be published next week. Michael will also request WACA to host the Town Manager’s Forum next Wednesday in the Board of Selectmen’s Room.

***Board Reports***

**Carl Hakansson**

Carl wished Joe a speedy recovery.

Carl reminded the Board of the dedication of the High School baseball field.

**Rob Scherer**

Rob wished Joe well.

**Yolanda Greaves**

Yolanda attended the Metrowest Regional Collaborative meeting last week and the collaborative is hosting a legislative breakfast at the library on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Yolanda mentioned that the Washington Street Players are presenting the Fantastics this weekend and next weekend; and the Little League parade is next Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

**Steve Mitchell**

Steve wished Joe the best.

Steve once again thanked the marathon runners.

Steve reported that this Saturday Arts Ashland Alliance and Friends of the Ashland Public Library are presenting a program.

Steve mentioned that the Farmers Market will open on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

***Adjournment***

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