



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

SELECT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2023 – 7:00 PM
Town Hall, 101 Main St Ashland - Hybrid Meeting

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, inclusive, and attractive environment for residents and visitors. We will embrace all differences and ensure that all persons have the opportunity to enjoy, contribute and be part of the Ashland community.*

Mission Statement - *The Ashland Select Board 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 Select Board 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.*

1. Call Meeting to Order

The October 18, 2023 Meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:00 PM; present at the meeting were: Robert Scherer, Claudia Bennett, Yolanda Greaves, Brandi Kinsman and Joseph Magnani. Also in attendance were Town Manager Michael Herbert, and Assistant Town Manager Jenn Ball (remote). The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mr. Magnani addressed the atrocities going on overseas.

2. Scheduled Appearances

a. Presentation by Karen Spilka and Jack Lewis

i. Citizen of Year – Bernie Temple

Representative Jack Lewis discussed his interactions with Bernie Temple over the years; Representative Lewis noted that he has enjoyed his own involvement with Boy Scouts and thanked Mr. Temple for reintroducing him to Scouting. Representative Lewis noted that Mr. Temple has done so much for the Community; he thanked Mr. Temple on behalf of the Speaker and his colleagues, and read a Citation recognizing Mr. Temple as Citizen of the Year from the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Karen Adelman-Foster noted that Mr. Temple is a shining light in the community; she congratulated him and read a Citation from the Senate President, Karen Spilka.

Mr. Temple discussed his history with the Boy Scouts, and noted he has seen 52 or 53 Eagle Scout projects over the 15 years that he has been involved. Mr. Temple stated he is appreciative to the community for their support.

ii. Grand Marshall – AREA (Ashland Residents for Equity & Action)

Representative Lewis next presented the AREA Group a Citation as Grand Field Marshall; he noted that AREA has filled a gap that existed in Ashland, he thanked them for their support of all residents and engaging the community in difficult conversations. Representative Lewis thanked the AREA Group on behalf of the Speaker and his colleagues, and read a Citation recognizing AREA for serving as the Grand Field Marshall for Ashland Day 2023 from the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Karen Adelman-Foster read a Citation from Senate President Karen Spilka, congratulating AREA for being named Grant Field Marshall of the 2023 Ashland Day, and in gratitude of the support and awareness they have provided throughout the community.

Maggie Musoke, AREA President noted they are humbled to be here and to receive the Grand Field Marshall Award, and the recognitions from the Senate and House of Representatives.

Ms. Musoke read the AREA Mission Statement: *"Ashland Residents for Equity and Action is a group of People of Color and their allies in Ashland working together to ensure that their voices are represented in local civic organizations, government, and the schools. We support and promote People of Color-run businesses in Metro-West as engines of economic development that benefit the community at large. Through community action we want to make Ashland a safe and inclusive community for all."*

Ms. Musoke thanked her family and the AREA Board Members, Cara Tirrell, the Town's committees and organizations, and Police and Fire; Ms. Musoke noted that they keep the younger generation involved with activities as well, and are grateful to be part of such a wonderful community.

b. Discuss the events happening in Israel and the Palestinian Territories – Select Board Statement and Vigil

Mr. Scherer asked that this item be put on the agenda to discuss the Select Board's Statement that was released last week on the Town's social media page; Mr. Scherer read the Select Board's Statement: *"We are deeply disturbed and horrified by the recent events in Israel, and our hearts go out to all those who are grieving and those desperately awaiting news of their loved ones. While we recognize the legitimate rights and aspirations of people worldwide, we strongly condemn acts of terrorism, brutality and inhumanity. They have no place in the goal of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East"*.

Temple Shaarei Shalom held a community vigil at 125 Front Street.

Mr. Scherer added his own statement that Israel and US leaders used their power wisely and when it comes to civilians in Palestine.

Ms. Bennett thanked Mr. Scherer and Mr. Herbert for putting the Statement together; it is hard to understand such barbarism and terrorism.

Ms. Kinsman was at the Vigil and thought it was important for the community to do this, it was an opportunity to come together and grieve together; it is heartbreaking and important to support one another.

Mr. Magnani stated that it is up to two governments to get together and someone needs to take the first step; he asks for people to pray that it doesn't grow into a world conflict.

Ms. Greaves agreed it is hard to understand, and important for the community to keep supporting each other as we move forward.

Mr. Herbert noted that human beings can be the most compassionate people, while others use cruelty and destruction as a way of life; it is hard to rationalize some of the things that have happened. It is important to be tolerant and willing to work out differences without using violence.

Motion: Ms. Greaves made a motion to remove Item D from the Consent Agenda and discuss it now, which was seconded by Ms. Bennett.

Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

Appoint Joshua Abrams to WACA Board of Directors effective November 1, 2023 for a term that will expire on October 31, 2026

Joshua Abrams was in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Scherer noted that the Board has reviewed his Talent Bank form and that he seems very well-qualified. Mr. Abrams noted that he was asked by Barbara and Paul at WACA if he would be interested in the position; he stated he would be happy to do it with the Board's approval. Mr. Abrams stated that he has lived in Ashland for approximately 20 years and has two children in the School District; he and his children have been involved with WACA sports announcing which has been a great experience for his children.

Ms. Bennett stated that she has had the opportunity to hear Mr. Abrams' children announcing on WACA and they both have the skill to speak publicly, which isn't always the case with kids at young ages.

Ms. Greaves noted that it is good to have someone who has experience on the broadcasting side step up to be on the Board. Mr. Abrams is hoping to bring more kids into the program and will work with the Athletic Director.

Mr. Scherer stated that Mr. Abrams will be taking the place of Kim Wales who will be resigning; Mr. Scherer thanked her for her service.

Ms. Kinsman knows Mr. Abrams and believes he will become a strong advocate for cable access which is really needed; WACA does a fabulous job, we rely on them heavily.

Motion: Ms. Greaves made a motion that we appoint Joshua Abrams to the WACA Board of Directors effective November 1, 2023, for a term that will expire on October 31, 2026; the motion was seconded by Ms. Kinsman.

Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

Mr. Herbert announced that Friday, October 20th is Community Media Day; he thanked WACA, and Mr. Abrams, for their service.

3. Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni, resident, stated he is grateful for the Select Board's Statement regarding the events in the Middle East. Mr. Dassoni noted that the WACA has grown to be a great channel for the Town. Mr. Dassoni is grateful that he can participate in person during the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

4. Old/New Business (15 minutes)

a. Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Herbert discussed the October 19, 2023 Comprehensive Plan meeting; on the agenda will be some administrative matters and then our Consultant, JM Goldson will lead an exercise. The Committee is starting to dig into some of the planning aspects, and the website is up and running. Mr. Herbert noted that he and Mr. Matchak have been working to provide the back data and reports JM Goldson has requested; they are just about complete.

Ms. Kinsman noted that Members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee were at the October 7th Farmers Market; there were many questions asked and lots of activity around the table. Ms. Kinsman explained that they are asking residents to submit photos of "special places" in Town through the Comprehensive Plan website. Ms. Kinsman reminded residents that there will be a Community Visioning Forum in December; it is important for the public to attend and be a part of the process. Ms. Kinsman noted that after their first meeting with Goldson; Goldson was able to really help pull the Committee together in a cohesive way that will be very representative of Ashland.

Ms. Greaves agreed and noted that Goldson was able to come in and smooth out some of the concerns of some of the Members. Ms. Greaves will be recommending to the Comprehensive Plan Committee that the meetings be moved from the Library to the Mindess Cafeteria, due to the size and technical capabilities of the Cafeteria.

Mr. Scherer noted there are now two large public forums coming up in December; this and the Valentine Property.

b. Discuss Date for Public Forum on the Valentine Property Uses

Mr. Herbert noted they discussed the Valentine Property at a recent Historical Commission meeting, he has also met with some of the staff regarding some of the detail work that can be buttoned up. Mr. Herbert noted that it may be better to have the public forum in January. Ms. Greaves inquired if it needs to be part of the 2025

budget discussions if we can wait. Ms. Greaves discussed having a balance between getting public input on the plan and having the right amount of detail already in place for the public. Mr. Herbert noted that the proposal is based on the original public input, but agreed we don't want to go too far down the road.

Mr. Herbert inquired as to whether we want to piggyback the Comprehensive Plan public forum with an event that is already happening in December; what do we want to forum to look like, could it be during an event such as the Holiday Stroll. Goldson will come up with the program but wants the Committee to take an active role in facilitating.

c. Discuss Grant Programs (BAA Grant and Select Board Community Grant)

i. Extension of the Deadline

The Board agreed to move the grant applications due date to Friday, November 3rd. This will start the new cycle for the new process; if you apply in the Fall for the full amount as a non-profit, in the Spring you would only be eligible to get another \$2000. Ms. Kinsman and Ms. Bennett will meet the following week and will plan to have the Grant Recommendations on the November 15th meeting.

ii. Clarification of the New Guidelines

Ms. Kinsman noted that a couple of months back the Board had approved a new program for the BAA grants by breaking it into two separate programs; the funding mechanism for the Runners Account was only to 501(c)(3) organizations. Ms. Kinsman explained that they wanted to figure out a better way to utilize the funds; possibly by making the policy retroactive or specify the maximum per cycle. Ms. Kinsman suggested as a new program, everyone can start fresh and apply for \$4000 for 501(c)(3), or \$1000 for the Community Grant; the amounts are on a rolling basis and the maximums are applied in the Spring.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Accept Regular Session Minutes from October 4, 2023.

b. Notification of the Town Manager's appointment of Brittany Lally as Assistant Recreation Director.

c. Re-appoint Debbie Bresnick and Moala Kitayimbwa to the Ashland Cultural Council for their second term which will expire on 11/17/26.

d. Appoint Joshua Abrams to WACA Board of Directors effective November 1, 2023 for a term that will expire on October 31, 2026.

Motion: Ms. Greaves made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with Item D having been removed. Mr. Magnani seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

Mr. Herbert noted that Brittany Lally did not accept the position. Mr. Scherer thanked Debbie Bresnick and Moala Kitayimbwa for re-upping on the Cultural Council.

6 Town Manager Report

a. Fire Prevention Week – Open House Public Safety Building Saturday October 7th and Movie Night October 13th

Mr. Herbert noted that the Fire Department had an unbelievable Movie Night; there were about 180 people in attendance. They played the Paw Patrol movie; the Open House was also a great success.

b. Update on Downtown Project

Mr. Herbert noted they are finishing up the bricks on the medians, then they will move to the punchlist on the streetscape work. Mr. Herbert noted that they will be starting the process of putting out the bid documents for the connections; Verizon has started pulling their cable, then it is just a matter of taking the poles down.

c. Update on the Budget

Mr. Herbert stated that the budget is in good shape; he will be keeping a close eye on the legal budget.

Mr. Herbert reported that we received notification of the Free Cash approval; the free cash certification is \$1.7MM. Also, retained earnings in the Water Enterprise Fund is about \$1.5MM; Sewer Enterprise Fund is about \$1.45MM; Solid Waste Enterprise Fund is \$293,000; Athletic Fields is \$175,000; Cable Access Enterprise Fund is \$213,000; Stormwater Enterprise Fund is \$213,000. Mr. Herbert noted these are healthy numbers. Free Cash will be divided according to our policies, including more into the Special Education Stabilization Fund.

d. Update on Priority Projects as discussed at the Select Board Retreat

Mr. Herbert updated the Board on the list of Priority Projects that were decided on during the Select Board Retreat, which includes the Upper Charles Trail and Valentine Property; Mr. Herbert noted that the Valentine Barn should be done by the end of the month and is looking great. Mr. Herbert will get back to the Board with a date in January for the Valentine Property Public Forum.

Mr. Herbert noted that he did receive an update on the MBTA Station which included work that has been completed on both the outbound side and the inbound side; Mr. Herbert noted that it has been difficult to get updates.

Clover Road Brewery will soon be moving to the Boards and Committee stage, with an expected Spring opening. They will need Site Plan Review from Planning, and Stormwater Permitting from Conservation.

Ms. Ball discussed Citizens Academy, which is an opportunity to take teach citizens about the inner workings of government and exposure to different departments over a period of months, including site visits. Ms. Ball explained that the first class would be limited to 10 to 15 people, keeping it relatively small so that it is interesting and interactive. It would be an 8-10-week Program, twice per month, a Talent Bank-like form would be used as an application; Board Members agreed this would be a great opportunity to get new people engaged.

7. Board Reports

Claudia Bennet: Ms. Bennet attended a School Building Committee; they have been working feverishly on the playground which should be available for the children within a few weeks. There will be a basketball court, and they are working on the bus loop. Ms. Bennet was invited to attend Senate President Spilka's Citizen's Legislative Seminar and is looking forward to it.

Brandi Kinsman: Ms. Kinsman discussed getting information out regarding our leash laws and understanding the ramifications of dogs being off leash. It would answer questions such as what to do if you are bit, or your dog is attacked. This will be put on a future agenda. Ms. Kinsman noted that FallFest was last weekend, there were over 400 people in attendance; she thanked Beth Reynolds and Melissa Hayes for a great Corner Spot season, it has become a real community place. Next Saturday marks the end of the Farmers Market, she thanked all the volunteers for all of their work. Trick or Treating at Town Hall is next Wednesday from 4:00 - 6:00 PM. This year kids will get a pass to go to other businesses for treats as well.

Joe Magnani: Mr. Magnani reported that he and Ms. Greaves had Office Hours at the Farmers Market last week; some of the concerns had to do with street conditions, including Green Street and High Street. There were some sidewalk concerns as well. We told them they are on our list. Another couple expressed concern with excessive speeds of cars in Town. Mr. Magnani announced the Parade and Kids Night Out on the Friday before Halloween, prizes will be awarded for best costumes. Mr. Magnani added that the MBTA Zoning Group meeting are going well; he will report on these meetings to the Board in a couple of weeks.

Yolanda Greaves: Ms. Greaves reported that she is going into Boston for her MMA Policy Meeting on Friday to discuss the Governor's Housing Bond Bill. Ms. Greaves noted they have a Metro West Regional Collaborative Trails Meeting at Loring Arena on October 26th to discuss the trails and how they are connected. Ms. Greaves noted the Hopkinton Center for the Arts and Metro West YMCA have partnered for a Halloween event called The Haunt, it should be a lot of fun.

Robert Scherer: Mr. Scherer discussed the Board's December meeting schedule, they usually only meet once in December, they are currently scheduled to meet December 6th, a second meeting may be added if necessary. The MBTA Commuter Rail Committee and the Sustainability Committee Advisory Board had a joint meeting on Monday to hear about electrification and schedule updates. The locomotives that they acquired in the 70's and 80's will be reaching their end of useful life in 2034, it is a big budget capital item they are approaching. The Upper Charles Trail Implementation Team is meeting tomorrow with the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and the Planning Department. KG Narayana has notified the Board that the Diwali Event will take place on November 5th. Mr. Scherer recognized Carl Hakansson and Greg Wands for their Warren Woods event and noted it was nice of them to do that. The Town Forest Conference is coming up on Saturday.

8. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Kinsman made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Magnani.

Vote: 5-0-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:58 PM.

ASHLAND SELECT BOARD
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 10/18/2023 MEETING

For BAA Grant:

Increase the grant amount that a 501(c)(3) can apply from \$2,500 to up to \$4,000 to better utilize the funds in the Runner's Account.

Request that if the organization has applied for grant funds in the past, they must provide a summary of the previous request, receipts and/or detailed spending report of how those funds were previously used.

Select Board sub-committee reviews application/proposal for use of funds and backup of previous grant spending and if it is a valid request, they will grant the amount of the request up to \$4,000.

If the total of all requests for a grant cycle exceeds 50% of the balance in the Runners' Account, there will be a pro-rata percentage reduction of all grant amounts to ensure that only 50% of the Account balance is used.

Establish maximum grant award through 2 consecutive grant cycles. If the organization has requested a BAA grant in the previous cycle (fall/spring), they can make another request up to a total of \$6,000 through the 2 cycles with documentation of previous grant spending.

Recommendations of sub-committee come before full Select Board for vote

For Select Board Community Grant:

For groups that do not have official 501(c)(3) status, they can apply for up to \$1,000 of grant funds, which would come from the Select Board's gift account.

Request that if the organization has applied for grant funds in the past, they must provide a summary of the previous request, receipts and/or detailed spending report of how those funds were previously used.

Select Board sub-committee reviews application/proposal for use of funds and backup of previous grant spending and if it is a valid request, they will grant the amount of the request up to \$1,000.

Establish maximum grant award through 2 consecutive grant cycles. If the organization has requested a grant in the previous cycle (fall/spring), they can make another request up to a total of \$1,500 through the 2 cycles with documentation of previous grant spending.

Recommendations of sub-committee come before full Select Board for vote

modified October 5, 2023

Interested in applying for a grant

The Select Board opened up the Fall Grant round at their September 6, 2023 meeting. They made some modification to the program and are committed to continuing to offer grants twice a year.

The biggest change you will see is that we now have 2 separate applications. One application requires that you are an eligible 501(c) 3 Non-Profit Organization. The other application is open to everyone that does not meet that criteria.



Tools

[RSS](#)

Categories

- [All Categories](#)
- [Home](#)

Hopefully you find the new applications easy to use and that uploading documents simplifies the process.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any problems, questions or just need assistance. Please call Susan Robie 508-532-7921 or email srobie@ashlandmass.com

[BAA Grant Application for 501\(c\) 3](#)

[Select Board Community Grant](#)

Next ⇒

[2024 Boston Marathon](#)

Other News in Home

2024 Boston Marathon

Posted on: August 29, 2023



Posted on: September 13, 2023

Interested in applying for a grant

The Select Board opened up the Fall Grant round at their September 6, 2023 meeting. They made some modification to the program and are committed to continuing to offer grants twice a year.

The biggest change you will see is that we now have 2 separate applications. One application requires that you are an eligible 501(c) 3 Non-Profit Organization. The other application is open to everyone that does not meet that criteria.



Hopefully you find the new applications easy to use and that uploading documents simplifies the process. Please note that grant submissions are due October 10, 2023 at 5:00 pm!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any problems, questions or just need assistance. Please call Susan Robie 508-532-7921 or email srobie@ashlandmass.com

[BAA Grant Application for 501\(c\) 3](#)

[Select Board Community Grant](#)

Next ⇒

[2024 Boston Marathon](#)

Other News in Home

[2024 Boston Marathon](#)

Posted on: August 29, 2023



May 17, 2023

Name of Organization	Sub-Committee	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
A.R.E.A.	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00
A Simple Gesture	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Ashland Bark Park	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00
Ashland Boy Scouts	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00
Ashland Cub Scouts 3001	750.00	750.00	750.00
Ashland Day Committee	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00
Ashland Day Committee	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00
Ashland HS All Sports	1500.00	2500.00	2500.00
AHS Class of 2025	1250.00	2500.00	1250.00
Ashland Lions Club	1045.00	1045.00	1045.00
Ashland Preschool PTO	1500.00	2500.00	2500.00
Ashland PTO K-12	1500.00	2500.00	2500.00
Ashland Public Library	2500.00	2478.44	2500.00
APS Helping Our Own	1250.00	2500.00	2500.00
Ashland Youth Basketball	1000.00	2500.00	2500.00
Ashland Youth Lacrosse	1000.00	2500.00	2500.00
Ashland Youth Soccer	1000.00	2500.00	2500.00
Giulietta Nardone	498.60	498.60	498.60
MetroWest YMCA	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00
RAM community Host	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00
SPORT-IFIED Inc.	1500.00	2500.00	2500.00
Stone Park Music Festival	1500.00	2500.00	1500.00
The Corner Spot	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Totals	36293.60	48272.04	46043.60

Scherer motion to approve the list as revised with a total of 46,043.60 seconded by Magnani vote of 4-0-0.



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

SELECT BOARD

Minutes

October 4, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Town Hall, 101 Main St Ashland - Hybrid Meeting

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, inclusive, and attractive environment for residents and visitors. We will embrace all differences and ensure that all persons have the opportunity to enjoy, contribute and be part of the Ashland community.*

Mission Statement - *The Ashland Select Board 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 Select Board 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.*

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The October 4, 2023 Meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:00 PM; present at the meeting were: Robert Scherer, Brandi Kinsman, Joseph Magnani, and, Claudia Bennett participated remotely. Also in attendance were Town Manager Michael Herbert, Assistant Town Manager Jenn Ball, and Executive Assistant Susan Robie. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **Citizens Participation**

Stephen Morgan, resident, spoke to the Board in regards to issues at his home; he stated that people were trying to install a gate into his yard and change the fence materials. After a meeting with the Town's Project Manager and Police Chief he stated he thought there was an understanding and then received a notice to take the sign down. Mr. Morgan stated that he wants his signs put back and the fence put back where it was. Mr. Scherer noted that the Town Manager is trying to reach out to him and will be in touch.

Mark Dassoni, resident, thanked Michael Herbert for the shout out in the Town Manager's Newsletter; Mr. Herbert noted that everyone knows how dedicated Mr. Dassoni is to the Town.

Mr. Scherer acknowledged all of the Boy Scouts in the audience tonight.

1. **Scheduled Appearances**

a. **7:05 pm – Ashland Day Presentation**

i. **Citizen of Year – Bernie Temple**

Mr. Magnani noted the Citizen of the Year award was named after Rick Carl Ghilani who was involved in many projects around Town. Mr. Magnani stated on behalf of the Ashland Day Committee, it is an honor and a privilege to announce Bernie Temple as Citizen of the Year. Mr. Magnani described some of Bernie Temple's many accomplishments. Mr. Temple has been involved with the Boy Scouts since 2006. In those 17 years Mr. Temple has led 52 Boy Scouts to becoming Eagle Scouts; that success has come from his leadership. Mr. Magnani thanked Mr. Temple for all that he has done over the years; noting that Ashland has been very fortunate to have such great leadership and role models for the Boy Scouts who are the future. Mr. Scherer read a Proclamation from the Select Board and congratulated Mr. Temple on being Citizen of the Year.

Ms. Kinsman thanked Mr. Temple for all that he has done to make the Ashland community a better place.

Ms. Bennett noted Mr. Temple has been a leader in the community, along with his wife, and there is nothing more important than people who lead for our children; he has done a tremendous job.

ii. Grand Marshall – AREA (Ashland Residents for Equity & Action)

Mr. Magnani asked Maggie Musoke, AREA President to come to the podium; he noted that Alan Galiwango, AREA Chief Operating Officer, was also in attendance remotely. Mr. Magnani noted that the Grand Marshall award is given to different committees throughout Town who show a community spirit, a community need. This year's recipient goes to Ashland Residents for Equality and Action (AREA). Mr. Magnani thanked the founders of AREA, which was created in June 2020, and has become an essential part of Ashland. Mr. Magnani thanked the Group for their efforts and initiatives; their dedication is important and greatly appreciated. Mr. Scherer read the proclamation and thanked the Group for all that they do for the Town.

Maggie Musoke, AREA President, asked the Junior AREA Members to join her because the next generation is involved as well. Ms. Musoke discussed AREA's history and thanked the Town Manager and community of Ashland. Ms. Musoke thanked the Town Boards, Committees, Clubs and School leaders for being a part of these important conversations, as well as Ashland Fire and Police. Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, AREA Member and Board of Health Member, thanked the Town of Ashland for always being open to listening and hearing our plans for events, and encouraging us all.

Ms. Kinsman noted she has gotten to know Ms. Musoke through her work with Leadership MetroWest and knows the work AREA has been doing. Ms. Kinsman thanked the Group for their work, they have made us more aware and made us better; the work is incredibly important, she is appreciative for their community spirit.

Ms. Bennett thanked the Group for all their efforts to help us learn, explore and celebrate the richness of our community.

Mr. Herbert thanked the Group for all their hard work, their recognition is well-deserved.

b. 7:15 pm – Cynthia Cincotta – Review and Sign the Anticipation Note Documents for the Mindess School in the amount of \$17,458,103 with a Net Interest Cost of 3.885%

Mr. Herbert reminded everybody that this is the last tranche of money that we are borrowing for the Mindess School Project; it came out to \$17,458,103; we netted out what we get from the MSBA reimbursement.

Cynthia Cincotta, Town Treasurer, explained that the Town went out to Market on September 26, 2023, and received five bids. The winner was TD Securities who had the lowest interest cost. This is a one-year BAN, the payment will be structured like a bond, with interest and principle payments.

Mr. Magnani, as Clerk read the following:

Motion: I, the Clerk of the Select Board of the Town of Ashland, Massachusetts, certify that at a meeting of the Board held October 4, 2023, of which meeting all Members of the Board were duly notified and at which a quorum was present, the following votes were unanimously passed, all of which appear upon the official record of the Board in my custody:

Voted: We hereby determine, in accordance with G.L. c. 70B, that the cost of the of the David Mindess Elementary school construction project authorized by vote of the Town passed on January 23, 2021 (Article 2) being financed with proceeds of a portion of the Notes defined below, together with all other bonds and notes of the Town previously issued to pay costs of this project, does not exceed the portion of the total cost of the project that is not being paid by the school facilities grant and we hereby approve the issuance of notes and bonds to finance this project under G.L. c. 70B.

Further Voted: to approve the sale of a \$17,588,103 at 5.00 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (the "Notes") of the Town dated October 10, 2023, and payable October 10, 2024, to TD Securities (USA) LLC at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$196,107.35.

Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated September 19, 2023, and a final Official Statement dated September 26, 2023, each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that the Town Treasurer and the Select Board be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the Town, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Notes for the benefit of the holders of the Notes from time to time.

Further Voted: that we authorize and direct the Town Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and continuing disclosure procedures in such forms as the Town Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Notes and to comply with relevant securities laws.

Further Voted: that any certificates or documents relating to the Notes (collectively, the "Documents"), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a ".pdf" file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures.

Further Voted: that each member of the Select Board, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

I further certify that the votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that a notice stating the place, date, time and agenda for the meeting (which agenda included the adoption of the above votes) was filed with the Town Clerk and a copy thereof posted in a manner conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in or on the municipal building that the office of the Town Clerk is located or, if applicable, in accordance with an alternative method of notice prescribed or approved by the Attorney General as set forth in 940 CMR 29.03(2)(b), at least 48 hours, not including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decision in connection with the sale of the Notes were taken in executive session, all in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §§18-25 as amended.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Kinsman.

Vote: 4-0-0. Motion approved.

c. 7:25 pm – Assistant Planner Alvaro Esparza – Cadillac Paint Presentation, 409 Eliot Street.

Mr. Herbert introduced Assistant Planner, Alvaro Esparza, who has been with the Town for about six months; Mr. Esparza has taken an interest in the Cadillac Paint property and had a couple of ideas. Mr. Herbert noted that they met with Ed Hart and gauged his thoughts before presenting to the Board tonight.

Mr. Esparza shared a slide presentation titled Ashland Arboretum; Mr. Esparza explained that an Arboretum is described as a place where trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes; this would be a great space to bring in different species of trees, plants, shrubs and grasses, which the community can see how they look when they are fully grown. Mr. Esparza believes this type of green space would balance out the development that is occurring and give a sustainable aspect to the Town. An arboretum would also bring recreational opportunities, for walking through, or as a volunteer. To go from something that was a rundown building to an enjoyable, promising area, would be a good story to be told, especially for the younger generation. Mr. Esparza has been working with the Conservation Agent to identify some of the possible species that could be planted. Ms. Kinsman really likes where this is going, and it is a great concept. Ms. Kinsman inquired as to the maintenance. Mr. Esparza noted that based on the species they are looking at maintenance that would be minimal.

Ms. Kinsman likes the idea of kiosks identifying the species as well as kiosks recognizing the history of Cadillac Paint, and pays tribute to the hard work of Ed Hart and others.

Ms. Bennett thanked Mr. Esparza for a great presentation; even seeing the photos of what it could be, made her happy to see. Ms. Bennett noted we would need to be careful of maintenance requirements, but there are many varieties that do not require much upkeep. We can also ask residents if they would like to donate plants to offset costs.

Mr. Magnani thanked Mr. Esparza for the presentation, he thinks this would be a great legacy for the Town. Mr. Magnani thanked Mr. Hart for all his work as well.

Mr. Scherer likes the emphasis on native plants and simplicity; Mr. Herbert noted that they may form a non-profit for donations.

Ed Hart stated that he likes the plan very much; he has talked with five of the abutters and they all like the plan and thinks it will be unanimous in the neighborhood. It is important that remember that Ashland has dealt with this since 1937; it has been a problem since the 70's and 80's. As you enter Ashland from Sherborn, you would see an old paint factory, now you will see the Ashland Arboretum. Mr. Hart suggested using the name The Ashland Arboretum as it is an asset for the entire Town. Mr. Hart stated he likes the idea of native plants, pollinators, grasses, and that it is self-sustaining.

Mr. Herbert stated he really likes the idea of taking a brownfield site and turning it into a natural educational place; we can get additional information on maintenance and cost and bring it back to the board.

Ms. Kinsman noted this should be on May Town Meeting for the CPC funding request.

2. Old/New Business (15 minutes)

a. Discuss providing feedback on changes to state programs and draft a letter communicating our needs.

Mr. Scherer noted that we received an email from the Mass. Selectman's Association; the Collins Center is putting together comments to make to the Healey administration pertaining to changes on State programs and regulations from municipal viewpoints. Mr. Scherer noted that he will be responding to state that they should look at a general formula aid and de-emphasize the targeted grants. Mr. Scherer asked if any other Members had comments.

Ms. Kinsman noted that there are no real incentives for partnerships between the State and developers for affordable housing for some real incentives to partner on affordable housing. People want ownership opportunities; developers want to maximize their return. She would add "We encourage the State to adopt more incentives and programs for developers to partner with communities to develop affordable housing on the lower AMI side."

Mr. Magnani agreed wholeheartedly; particularly for people on fixed incomes. Instead of matching grants they should come up with an incentive to help builders and provide monies to offset their cost to do this.

Ms. Bennett agreed and would love to see that; affordable housing is so critically needed.

Ms. Kinsman discussed how costly infrastructure is; MassDot's website talks about their mission being to assist cities and towns; she would ask that the State put resources towards helping complete infrastructure projects not only through the funding mechanism but the resources behind it. Ms. Kinsman noted there is so much infrastructure that needs to be fixed in the State and the State isn't stepping up to do it, as MassDot says they do.

Mr. Herbert explained Chapter 90 and TIP funding; he noted you need to have staff resources to apply for the grants.

Mr. Herbert would also like them to focus on expanding open space; example: for every 10 units, an acre of land must be preserved. Mr. Herbert also suggested members of the Healey administration go to a Planning or Zoning Board meeting with a multi-family home on its schedule, to experience what it is like. Ms. Kinsman agreed. Mr. Herbert and Ms. Kinsman will each put together a few sentences and will forward to Mr. Scherer.

b. Review 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant

- i. Due Diligence October 6, 2023 – November 1, 2023
- ii. November 1, 2023 Close and Post the Warrant
- iii. November 29, 2023 Special Town Meeting

Ms. Ball updated the Board on some of the upcoming Warrant Articles so far.

- Free Cash Appropriation
- The Senior Property Tax Exemption
- The Acceptance of Land on 0 Fountain Street (donated by Bill & Carolyn Bell).
- Easement on High Street for DPW maintenance access.
- Authorizing the Home Rule position to increase the number of liquor licenses.
- CPC funding articles includes funding of the dog park construction; for \$225,000.
- CPC to extend allocation of 2018 funds for Riverwalk, for design of the flood plain change.

The Board discussed whether Sustainability will have an Article; Ms. Ball noted they still have some work to do on the Tree Bylaw. The enhanced Stretch Code is being discussed internally about whether they want to bring it to Fall Town Meeting. Ms. Kinsman noted it is in their best interest to start doing some outreach.

c. **Most Recent OPEB Valuation Report**

Mr. Herbert discussed Other Post-Employment Benefits which pertains to retiree health insurance; every two years they are required to provide an actuarial study about our OPEB liability, including obligations.

Brittany Iacaponi, Town Accountant, stated it is a good report, our total OPEB liability is just over \$63MM, while our funded ratio increased by 2%. We are just shy of 10% of our funded ratio, and just shy of \$6.3MM in our OPEB Trust Fund. OPEB is still funded through the General Funds Health Insurance Budget, each year we put into the Trust Fund at least \$500,000. S&P, the standard employers rating agency, looks favorably at that. Mr. Herbert noted we have almost \$7MM in ten years from crafting good policies.

Mr. Scherer noted it is an example of obscure good government/good Town management for continuing to stay on this and work on this; Mr. Scherer thanked Mr. Herbert and Ms. Iacaponi for their ongoing efforts.

d. **Update on Comprehensive Plan**

Ms. Kinsman updated the Board on the most recent Comprehensive Plan meeting which was held two weeks ago; they were joined by the Consultant, Jenn Goldson, and her Team. They went through an outline, a timeline and the components of a comprehensive plan. We are going to have our first Community Visioning Forum in December. That will be the first formalized opportunity for community feedback. They did group exercises in which they identified Special Places in Ashland and areas of opportunity. They are a good team and will work well with this large group; their model of community engagement is top notch. Ms. Kinsman recognized Rajashree Ghosh and Stacey Grant Lewis who were voted as our Co-Chairs for the group. Ms. Kinsman thanked the community members who responded to the call for names for the group, they have received over 40 suggestions which they are working through. We will soon launch a new website for the Steering Committee; the next meeting is October 19th.

e. **Update on the Federal Government Shutdown**

Mr. Scherer noted that congress has avoided a government shutdown; fortunately, we are okay for now.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Accept Regular Session Minutes from September 20, 2023.
- b. Notification of the Town Manager's appointment of Lisa Donovan as a Public Safety Dispatcher with a request to waive the 15-day waiting period.
- c. Notification of the Town Manager's appointment of Justin Blanchette as a Light E1 equipment Operator with a request to waive the 15-day waiting period.
- d. Declare Surplus a 2014 Ford Explorer 1FM5K8AR3EGB54563.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Magnani and seconded by Ms. Kinsman to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: 4-0-0. Motion approved.

4. **Town Manager Report**

- a. **Fire Prevention Week – Open House Public Safety Building Saturday October 7th 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.**

Mr. Herbert noted that our Fire Department is kicking off Fire Prevention Week with an Open House at the new facility on October 7th, starting at 11:00 AM. It will be a fun event for the kids.

b. **Update on Downtown Project**

Mr. Herbert discussed the Downtown Project, he noted that the painting/lining of the streets was supposed to occur but it did not happen. Mr. Herbert reported that the stamped asphalt at the crossing islands did not look as expected. They will now use brick on the crossing island, and next year the medians will be done. Mr. Magnani noted a crack in a new brick on Main Street outside of Nick's Pizza; Mr. Herbert noted this will be added to the punch list. Mr. Magnani said the Project has come to fruition and it looks really good.

c. **Update on the West Union Sidewalk**

Mr. Herbert noted that the engineering is complete on the permanent sidewalk; there are a number of driveway aprons he will need to speak to Mike Carter on. Mr. Herbert suggested that the prudent thing to do is to take the \$250,000 already allocated for that sidewalk, and the \$250,000 allocated to do the High Street sidewalk, combine those to make sure they do the West Union Street sidewalk. Evan White is applying for a \$250,000 grant to cover the cost. Mr. Magnani noted the Traffic Study Committee is meeting tomorrow at 10:30 AM at the APD substation, this will be discussed. Mr. Herbert noted that in addition to a 5-foot sidewalk, there is additional space to create a 4-foot shoulder on the other side and create a marked bike lane. There are also two electronic crosswalks, one at Edgewood, and one at the Middle School. For a temporary solution, Doug Small and Kevin Langmeyer had an idea to incorporate flexible bollards/stanchions at the crosswalks.

5. **Board Reports**

Ms. Bennett discussed the reimbursement of between \$3.4MM – 3.8MM from the State.

Ms. Bennett noted that workers are trying hard to get the playground done at the Mindess School.

Ms. Bennett enjoyed attending the Project Empathy Group in Hopkinton; Ms. Bennett commended Mr. Herbert on his contribution which she stated was impressive; it is important for people to hear what makes us all human. It's not easy to put yourself out there; she is appreciative.

Ms. Kinsman noted that Saturday, October 14th is FallFest at the Corner Spot, which is one of our cornerstone events; she is hopeful for a nice day.

Ms. Kinsman thanked the organizers of PorchFest, she heard it was a great event. Mr. Magnani and Ms. Greaves will be at the Farmers Market for Office Hours on Saturday.

Ms. Kinsman had another friend involved in the Project Empathy Group, it is a good reminder for all of us to remember where people came from.

Mr. Magnani met with Trisha Kendall and Peter Matchak; they set their agendas with some of the Zoning issues they will be looking at. They will be doing a walking tour off of Pleasant Street, if anyone wants to join them.

Everyone is welcome to join the Traffic Study Committee meeting tomorrow.

October 27th is the 35th annual Halloween Parade and party for the kids starting at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Scherer went to PorchFest; it was a great idea. The musicians were all volunteers.

The MBTA new schedule is out, there has been some feedback received regarding no 'late' night, as well as issues with westbound commuters. The Commuter Rail Committee is having a meeting with the Sustainability Committee of the Advisory Board on October 16th at 10:00 AM on Zoom. They will be discussing scheduling issues. Mr. Scherer discussed the MBTA zoning and the formulation; he would like to pursue this. The Lieutenant Governor visited Chestnut Place; he wasn't able to make it.

The MMA tradeshow is January 19 and 20; it is a good event.

The MARPA conference is next Tuesday.

The Ashland Cultural Council was at the Farmers Market last week; they are pushing the Starbucks mural.

Mr. Magnani noted there is paperwork that is needed to be signed by the Board.

6. **Adjournment**

Motion: Ms. Kinsman made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Magnani.

Vote: 4-0-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

ASHLAND SELECT BOARD
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 10/4/2023 MEETING

Re: Ashland Cultural Council

1 message

Debbie <debbie.bresnick@gmail.com>
To: Susan Robie <srobie@ashlandmass.com>

Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 1:13 PM

Hi Susan,
Please renew my membership for another 3 year term.
Thanks so much,
Debbie Bresnick

On Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 10:05 AM Susan Robie <srobie@ashlandmass.com> wrote:
Good Morning,

Thank you so much for serving on the Ashland Cultural Council. Your 3 year term is expiring on 11/17/23. I'm reaching out to you to see if you are interested in being re-appointed for another 3 year term. Please let me know either way so I can update my records.

Thank you,

Have a great day!

**Susan Robie***Executive Assistant**Town Manager/Select Board***Town of Ashland**

a: 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA 01721

p: 508-532-7921

f: 508-881-0171



Please remember when writing or responding, the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that e-mail is a public record. This e-mail is intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient(s) named above. Any use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this message by unintended recipients is not authorized and may be unlawful.

RE: Ashland Cultural Council

1 message

Kitayimbwa, Moala <Moala.Kitayimbwa@lmi.com>

Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 10:07 AM

To: Susan Robie <srobie@ashlandmass.com>, Debbie <debbie.bresnick@gmail.com>

Hi Susan,

Thank you for the reminder! Hard to believe I've already served 3 years on the Council. Can you please renew my appointed position for another 3 years.

Best,

Moala





From: Susan Robie <srobie@ashlandmass.com>**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 10:05 AM**To:** Kitayimbwa, Moala <Moala.Kitayimbwa@lmi.com>; Debbie <debbie.bresnick@gmail.com>**Subject:** {EXTERNAL} Ashland Cultural Council

Good Morning,

Thank you so much for serving on the Ashland Cultural Council. Your 3 year term is expiring on 11/17/23. I'm reaching out to you to see if you are interested in being re-appointed for another 3 year term. Please let me know either way so I can update my records.

Thank you,

Have a great day!

	<p>Susan Robie <i>Executive Assistant</i> <i>Town Manager/Select Board</i> Town of Ashland a: 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA 01721 p: 508-532-7921 f: 508-881-0171</p> <p>  </p>
---	---

Re: Online Form Submittal: Talent Bank Form

1 message

Barbara Chisholm <barbara@wacatv.com>
Reply-To: barbara@wacatv.com
To: Susan Robie <srobie@ashlandmass.com>

Wed, Oct 11, 2023 at 2:33 PM

**Barbara Chisholm** <barbara@wacatv.com>
to Susan2:20 PM (11 minutes
ago)

Hi Susan,

Thanks for the clarification.

Knowing there was a vacancy on our Board due to Kim Wales asking not to be reappointed, we talked with Josh Abrams about the possibility of him serving. Josh has been involved with WACA as a sports announcer along with both his sons as well as with Rob Silver. I had a detailed conversation with him about our Board, how many meetings we have during the year which are approximately 10 to 12 meetings. I explained what the expectations and requirements are. I also offered to give him our minutes so he could get up to speed. After that conversation, Josh let me know that he was indeed interested in serving on our Board. At which time, I told him that he needed to complete a talent bank form which he did.

We have known him for a considerable time and feel he would be a great addition to our Board.

Barbara Chisholm
Executive Director
508-380-4397
WACA TV
Ashland Community Media
Follow Us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/home>
Follow Us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/wacatv>

Online Form Submittal: Talent Bank Form

1 message

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
To: srobie@ashlandmass.com

Sun, Oct 8, 2023 at 12:51 PM

Talent Bank Form**Page 1**

TALENT BANK FORM

Please note that current vacancies can be found by looking at "Volunteer Opportunities". As vacancies become available we update the website to reflect the opening(s). If you apply for groups that doesn't have an opening your Talent Bank Form will be shared with the chair of the group. The Select Board, the appointing authority will be unable to appoint you if there is no vacancy. Each committee or position has a different level of commitment and the Select Board requests that everyone attend a meeting or two prior to seeking appointment. This allows you to understand what the group is working on and what the actual commitment would be. Most committees meet on a regular schedule, typically once or twice a month in the evening. Committee chairs and or staff are happy to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have about a particular group.

Upon receipt, your Talent Bank Form will be reviewed and shared with the chair and the Select Board. We will not be able to proceed if no matches exists between your request and our openings. Your application will be added to the list of volunteers who have expressed an interest in serving. We thank you for your interest in serving the Town of Ashland and returning this application.

Please remember that all meetings are open to the public, so even if you are not a member it does not exclude you from getting involved.

Name	Joshua Abrams
-------------	---------------

Email Address	
----------------------	--

Address	
----------------	--

City	Ashland
-------------	---------

State	MA
Zip Code	01721
Home Phone	
Cell Phone	

Page 2

I am interested in serving the Town in the following positions: *Field not completed.*

Other: WACA Board of Directors

Finance Committee is appointed by the Town Moderator *Field not completed.*

BACKGROUND:

Employer	Dell Technologies
Position	Consultant, Product Marketing
Education	B.S. Broadcast Journalism/English Textual Studies, Syracuse University '91

Page 3

Please describe any training/experience you possess: 20+ years of marketing experience for technology companies; 7 years as a volunteer sports announcer for Ashland High School sports; 2 years as a volunteer PA announcer for Ashland High School football; 2 years as a professional sportswriter; 1 year as a professional radio news and sports anchor/reporter

Please describe other skills and interests: Other skills include video production and editing; writing and editing.

Interests include sports, reading and travel

Please describe your government or community volunteer experience (Ashland or elsewhere): I served on the Clocker Club board for 3 years and helped plan/execute their annual golf tournament and pancake breakfast. I've been volunteering with WACA for the past 7 years as a sports announcer and have recorded voiceover for a few of their commercials. I volunteer at Temple Beth Shalom in Needham for their annual Project Ezra program. This program delivers meals on Xmas Day when Meals on Wheels is not available.

Oct.4, 2023

Dear Select Board,

I have decided not to be re-appointed to the Ashland Cable Access Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly A. Wales". The ink is a light grey color.

Kimberly A. Wales

cc. Ashland Cable Access Board of Trustees