

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

To be held virtually

To join the meeting, please use the information provided at the bottom of this agenda
MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Members present: Silver-Smith, Falletti, Phillips
Guests: Paul Varga, ZEO Michael D'Amato, Jeffrey Silver-Smith
3. Hear from the public
4. First Selectman's Briefing
 - American Rescue Plan packet for review: The BOS discussed informational materials previously distributed. Possible funded projects included the following: town-wide installation of broadband communication, evaluation of HVAC systems in the TOB, Knowlton Hall, Senior Center and senior housing, installation of technology to enable hybrid meetings, installation of safeguards to aid reopening of town facilities. Silver-Smith and Falletti will concentrate on air quality and ventilation issues.
5. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees
6. Falletti moved acceptance of minutes of Regular Meeting of 6/7/2021. Phillips seconded the motion which passed. Falletti moved acceptance of the minutes of the Special Meetings of 6/8/2021. Phillips seconded the motion which passed. Falletti moved acceptance of the minutes of the Special Meeting of 6/9/2021. As Phillips was excused from that meeting, Silver-Smith seconded the motion which passed.
7. Old Business
 - A. Discuss reopening strategies – Town facilities
 - Silver-Smith related that Eastern Highlands Health District has reported that 54% of Ashford's residents have been vaccinated and that there have been 247 confirmed COVID -19 cases in the town.
 - Purchase of a pamphlet kiosk for placement in the lobby of the TOB will provide a distribution point for town department information.
 - The BOS discussed the implementation of Wednesday hours (11 am – 7 pm). Silver-Smith reported that she would like to roll back the open hours to 10 am-6 pm. Falletti asked that the 11-7 hours, as noticed in the June edition of the Ashford Citizen be continued for at least one month and that if the decision is to change the hours to 10-6 it not be done until it is noticed in the Ashford Citizen.
 - B. Continued discussion regarding Howard Road noise complaints: Silver-Smith reported that Howard Road residents have contacted the State Police a few times regarding the noise emanating from 7 Howard Road. The BOS also discussed the Kidder Brook Road gunfire noise complaints. Silver-Smith reported that in addition to Falletti, she also has had conversation with the real estate agent handling the sale of a Kidder Brook Road property about the target shooting taking place. The life safety issues that concern members of the BOS have been communicated to the real estate agent and he and the property owner will be encouraged to contact the state police should the complaints continue.

- C. Executive session to discuss pending and potential litigation and to protect the Towns' collective rights and interests relating to the lots that comprise and are known as the Cadlerock properties in both the Towns of Ashford and Willington pursuant to CGS 1-210(b)(4). Being no updated information, this item will be carried on future agendas.
 - D. Discuss proposed Tremko House project. Silver-Smith reported that Robert Hurd, the architect who previously did work on this project, has not responded to her calls. The BOS discussed contracting with another architect experienced in working with historic buildings to formulate a use plan. The BOS also discussed what would be entailed to enable use of the Ashford Academy building.
8. New Business
- A. Phillips moved ratification of the following resolution relating to Ashford's Affordable Housing Plan Technical Assistance Grant application. Falletti seconded the motion which passed.

**Town of Ashford
Board of Selectman
Affordable Housing Plan Grant Resolution**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING**

Whereas, The State of Connecticut's Department of Housing has made monies available for communities seeking assistance to prepare and adopt and Affordable Housing Plan pursuant to the provisions of the CT General Statutes 8-30j; and

Whereas, Ashford is required to prepare and adopt and Affordable Housing Plan; and

Whereas, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Ashford make application to the State for \$15,000 to support the development of this required plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASHFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That it has been made aware of the requirements related to the submission of such a grant application; and

That the filing of such grant application seeking financial assistance from the Affordable Housing Technical Assistance program by the Town in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 is hereby approved and, that Michael D'Amato, the Town's Zoning Officer is authorized to file such application and provide additional documentation and/or information as required and to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance if such an agreement is offered.

B. Board/Commission/Committee appointments

- Inland Wetlands & Watercourses: Fill Alternate vacancy created by the elevation of Cheryl Chase to Regular member status. (Can be D, R or U)
- Inland Wetlands & Watercourses. Fill Alternate vacancy created by the resignation of Ken Garee. (Can be D, R, U)
- Board of Assessment Appeals: Fill vacant Democrat seat to 11/9/2021.

- Recreation Commission: Fill two Alternate member seats – terms to expire 3/31/2024 and 3/31/2026.
 - Commission on Aging: Four commission two-year seats expire on 6/30/2021 (Jagodzinski, Martin, Sampson, Wilmes-Pandolfo). At least one seat must be an R or a U.
- C. Tax Refunds: none
- D. Review and act upon acquisition of Everbridge Mass Notification System: Members of the BOS discussed the Everbridge estimate and the notification system’s capabilities. Silver-Smith suggested that the decision about using Everbridge be delayed until the next BOS meeting, where she will present an overall communication strategy. It is anticipated that the cost of implementing this notification system will be \$4,624.69 for the first year and that this cost will be an eligible expenditure under use guidelines contained in the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.
- E. Discuss and act on request for Town of Ashford support of Transportation and Climate Initiative legislation to be considered during the 2021 special session. The BOS took no action on this item.
- F. Falletti moved recommendation to Board of Finance of the allocation of \$16,366 either from any excess funds left over after end of year adjustments or from the undesignated fund balance for the replacement of roadway lighting at Pompey Hollow Park citing safety issues relating to inadequate illumination presently available in the areas of the Senior Center and Senior Housing. Silver-Smith offered a friendly amendment to Falletti’s motion increasing the funding request to \$18,000. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.
- G. Following acceptance of the notification of the intended June 30, 2021 retirement of Christine Abikoff as Ashford’s Animal Control Officer, Falletti moved the appointment of Dennis Day to the position of Ashford Animal Control Officer effective July 1, 2021. Falletti further moved the appointment of Christine Abikoff to the position of Ashford’s Assistant Animal Control Officer effective July 1, 2021. Phillips seconded the motion which passed.
9. Adjournment at 8:38p.m.

Christine K. Abikoff

Board of Selectmen Meeting – June 21, 2021

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