

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 305 **To be held in person and via ZOOM** MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Members present: Falletti, Phillips, Silver-Smith
Guests: Sherri Mutch, Sheri Soucy, Mark Robbins, Marian Matthews, Jim Rupert, Cindy Ford
3. Hear from the public: No members of the public wishing to be heard at this time
4. First Selectman's briefing:
 - The connecting gate between Public Works and the Transfer Station has been installed. Installation of pertinent signage on all gates leading to the Transfer Station was discussed.
 - Falletti reported that a dead tree in South Cemetery has been taken down
 - A tree that fell onto the Heffley property has been removed by DPW
 - Falletti will inquire of PZC regulations pertaining to scenic roads and tree removal, e.g., Varga Road
 - Ashford School shared COVID testing kits that expire at the end of January 2023
 - Silver-Smith suggested that face masks be available in each of the Town's offices
 - Falletti reported on the status of the Ashford School generator. Claim paperwork has been filed with CIRMA. Presently they are renting a generator.
 - The Assessor is working on the Grand List and expects it to be ready to submit "on time."
 - The Assessor will complete her recommendations to the Board of Selectmen in relation to currently enacted veteran exemption legislation
 - Falletti reported that we have received a "Demand to Negotiate" the next AFSCME contract.
 - Falletti requested that one of the Selectmen make a motion permanently filling the position Treasurer of at the end of the agenda
5. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of the minutes of 12/19/2022 with clarification of her comments regarding the Town's Tree Warden and his responsibility in determining which trees are a danger of can impact power lines. Phillipa seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of the minutes of 1/10/2023. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
6. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees
7. Old Business
 - A. Ashford School Roof Project
 - Review RFP responses for financial advisor: Silver-Smith moved, for the purpose of discussion, consideration of the acceptance of an RFP received for the services of a Financial Consultant. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Following discussion and review of the proposal, the BOS unanimously voted to hire the firm of Munistat to provide the services of Financial Consultant for the Ashford School Roof project bonding at an estimated cost of \$15,000.
 - Set date for Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting – bond authorization: Following discussion regarding the proposed meeting date of Saturday, February 11, 2023 and methods of approving the bond issue at said meeting, Silver-Smith moved the scheduling of a Public Hearing immediately adjourning to Special Town Meeting to be held in the cafeteria of the Ashford School on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to consider

approval of the bonding of \$5,000,000 for the Ashford School roof project. Phillips seconded the motion. At their meeting of Tuesday, January 24, 2023, the BOS will review voting procedures to be followed at the February 11, 2023 Special Town Meeting

- B. Ashford Advisory School Building Committee: Discussion between the BOS and guests (Rupert, Robbins, Matthews) regarding the Ashford School roof project and the installation of solar panels. It was understood that solar panels have been considered in the design of the roof and can be installed once the roof project is completed. Unfortunately, because of the holdup of the project, one year of ZREC credits will be lost. Robbins will investigate the possibility of an appeal. Rupert advised that roof warranties could be extended because of the installation of the solar panels.
 - C. Ashford School oil tank replacement project status: Falletti reported that the oil tank intended for the Ashford School has been ordered. It is hoped that the tank will be delivered the third or fourth week of June.
 - D. Status of after school childcare program as proposed by the Recreation Commission: Falletti reported that two applications have been received for the proposed staff positions and two more are expected.
8. New Business
- A. Board/Committee/Commission appointments
 - Recreation Commission – 1 Regular Member seat which expires 4/01/2026: The BOS and Sherri Mutch, Ashford Town Clerk, discussed the filling of seats on this Commission. Sherry York, Recreation Director, will be asked to attend the 1/24/2023 meeting of the BOS to discuss procedures for filling vacancies on this Commission.
 - Agriculture Commission – 1 Regular member seat which expires 3/15/2025
 - Conservation Commission – Alternate vacancy term of which expires 11/21/2023
 - Economic Development Commission – two vacancies which expire 2/02/2025
 - Commission on Aging – vacancy term of which expires 6/30/2023: A letter of interest filling this vacancy has been received. Falletti will contact the Chairman of this Commission to obtain the Commission's recommendation.
 - Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission: 1 vacant Regular Member seat Lipstreu) which expires 6/01/2025; 2 vacant Alternate Member seats which expire 6/01/2023
 - Zoning Board of Appeals – 1 Alternate Member seat which expires 11/05/2025
 - B. Tax Refunds: none
 - C. 2023-2024 budget status report: Soucy reported that most budgets have been received. The Chairman of the BOF has requested a budget document for the Board's consideration.
 - D. Method of conducting future Selectmen's Meetings: We have been advised that TEAMS meetings can be recorded and archived on the Town website
 - E. Remarks for the good
 - F. Items for next BOS meeting:
 - Consideration of Recreation Commission appointments
 - February 11, 2023 Special Town Meeting voting procedures
 - G. Silver-Smith moved addition to the agenda of the permanent appointment of a Treasurer. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Following discussion, Silver-Smith moved the appointment of Sherri Soucy to fill the vacant, unexpired term of Treasurer of the Town of Ashford effective 12/28/2022 under the terms and conditions set when the position was provisionally filled (18 hours per week at the rate of \$28.00 per hour to include one day per week in person). Term to expire 6/30/2023. Phillipa seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
9. Adjournment.

Ashford Board of Selectmen – Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89056472113>

Meeting ID: 890 5647 2113

Dial by your location

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 305 224 1968 US

Meeting ID: 890 5647 2113

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd6twENgJY>