

# Town of Ashford

*Established 1714*

**REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 305  
To be held in person and via ZOOM  
MINUTES**

1. Call to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. Members present: Falletti, Phillips, York  
Guests: Sherry York, David Roston
3. Hear from the public
4. First Selectman's briefing
5. Acceptance of the minutes of 1/17/2023. Request to consider acceptance at January 31, 2023 BOS meeting
6. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees
7. Old Business
  - A. Review of Ashford School Roof Project bonding procedures
  - B. Set date and approve legal notice for Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting to approve issuance of Ashford School roof bond. Date set for Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Ashford School Cafeteria. Discussed options relating to voting methods. Ashford Town Clerk and Registrars of Voters recommend in-person voting only. Neighboring towns have been polled and most conduct in-person voting only. Based upon his research, Falletti strongly recommends in-person voting only. Phillips concurs. Silver-Smith moved that voting at the Special Town Meeting of February 11, 2023 be conducted in-person only. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Silver-Smith withdrew her motion to approve the notice as presented by Bond Counsel. Phillips withdrew his second. Silver-Smith commented that BOS meeting packets sent on Sunday prior to this meeting did not give her enough time to review material pertinent to this agenda, e.g., legal notice options prepared by Bond Counsel. Lengthy discussion regarding legal notice options and suggested clarifications as to form of notice. At this time, Silver-Smith moved approval of the Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting related to Ashford School roof project as revised. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Silver-Smith moved approval of placement of a pre-legal notice relating to the upcoming town meeting advising Ashford residents of the upcoming meeting to appear on the Town of Ashford website and Town of Ashford Facebook page. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously..
  - C. Recreation Commission membership: Sherry York, Ashford Recreation Director, representing the Recreation Commission, asked to address concerns expressed by the Town Clerk regarding quorum and membership procedures and meeting participation concerns relating to the Commission. Silver-Smith comments on proper Commission membership appointment procedures involving letter of interest to the BOS and appointment recommendation from the Recreation Commission. Falletti expressed concern over lack of Recreation Commission Chairman. Continuing to research whether Commission member holding an Alternate member seat can serve as Chairman.
  - D. Status of after school childcare program as proposed by the Recreation Commission. Four people who have expressed an interest in staff positions. Two applications in hand and two expressed interest only. York reported that in the October and December editions of the Ashford Citizen staff applications were solicited. Discussed Roston funding presentation related to anticipated self-sufficiency of program, participant costs, staffing and start-up related costs. Silver-Smith questions

who would be responsible for administration of the program. Program run during school year – 40-41 weeks. York related that the Recreation Commission would like to see any end-of-year surplus funds be rolled into day camp program. Silver-Smith comments re: where provision of childcare lies and consequences of program failure. Falletti notes the town’s fiduciary and responsibility. Responsibility for program will not rest with the Recreation Commission but with the Board of Selectmen. York questions responsibility of Recreation Commission in relation to the proposed childcare program. The Board of Selectmen want to be sure that they are looking at the broad picture relating to the proposal and want it to be clear that the program is not in place as yet. They recognize the efforts that have been made to further the childcare program

Silver-Smith left the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

#### New Business

##### E. Board/Committee/Commission appointments

- Recreation Commission – 1 Regular Member seat which expires 4/01/2026
- Agriculture Commission – 1 Regular member seat which expires 3/15/2025: Falletti move the appointment of Joe Murphy to serve to 3/15/2025 as recommended by the Agriculture Commission. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- 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
- 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

##### F. Tax Refunds: none

G. Discuss potential ARPA allocations: Ashford School request to purchase 24 passenger bus in lieu of their annual request to purchase the annual full-sized bus. Phillips move to authorize the BOS to go to town meeting to request an appropriation from American Rescue Plan funding in an amount not to exceed \$90,000 for the purchase of a 24-passenger, gasoline powered mid-bus. Falletti seconded the motion which passed.

##### H. Method of conducting future Selectmen’s Meetings

##### I. Remarks for the good

##### J. Items for next BOS meeting

8. Adjournment.at 10:44 a.m.

Ashford Board of Selectmen – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88287997801>

Meeting ID: 882 8799 7801

Dial by your location

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 305 224 1968 US

Meeting ID: 882 8799 7801

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88287997801>