

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 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
3. Hear from the public
4. First Selectman's briefing
 - Reminder of 2/11/2023 Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting, Saturday, February 11, 2023, 10:00 a.m. in the Ashford School Cafeteria. The Board discussed material submitted by the Town's Financial Advisor. Silver-Smith made a motion to add an item to the end of the agenda to review and act on proposals received from our Financial Advisor on the financing for the school roof. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - Thanks to the EMD, Public Works and the Fire Department for their assistance during the recent cold snap. Falletti reported that St. Philip the Apostle Church offered their hall for use as a warming station if needed. The Senior Center was also available as a warming station
 - Frontier is continuing to perform their fiber optic cable upgrades
 - Eversource tree trimming is continuing with attention being paid to areas experiencing greater-than-normal service interruptions
 - The gasoline dispenser has been installed at Public Works and is expected to be optional by next week
 - The street light at the intersection of Route 74 and Upton Road has been installed
 - Falletti reported that the Tremko House Study Committee (Funk, Gardner, Bowley)met. The Committee requested the Regional Engineer review a site plan and expressed concerns about the foundation. Bowley stressed that the Historical Society's main focus is preservation. Silver-Smith questioned whether the members of the Committee had been inside the building to observe its onndition.
 - Additions to agenda: Resolution regarding bond term, filling of Webmaster position, APRC appointment of interim Chairman
5. Acceptance of the minutes: Minutes of 1/17/2023 were approved on 1/31/2023. Phillips moved acceptance of the minutes of 1/24/2023 corrected to reflect that "Minutes" should replace "Agenda" in the heading and addition of the attendance of Silver-Smith as a member present – not York. The motion passed unanimously. Phillips moved acceptance of 1/31/2023. Silver-Silver-Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
6. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees
7. Old Business
 - A. Status of after school childcare program as proposed by the Recreation Commission: No action at this time
8. New Business
 - A. Board/Committee/Commission appointments
 - Conservation Commission – Alternate vacancy term of which expires 11/21/2023
 - Economic Development Commission – two vacancies which expire 2/02/2025

- 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: Silver-Smith moved approval of a tax refund to Timothy and Dawn Barrett-Walsh in the amount of \$880.54 citing CGS 12-129. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- C. Discuss and/or act on setting a special town meeting date for proposed ARPA allocations:
- Purchase of 24-passenger mid-bus which Falletti and Phillips approved on 1/24 at a cost not to exceed \$90,000. Discussion on why this purchase would not appear as a capital project funded item for 2023-2024. Silver-Smith concerns about dipping into ARPA funding for items that qualify as capital project expenses.
 - Purchase of additional owl and video equipment for Selectmen's 3rd floor conference room at a cost of \$5,000. Tyche has met with Savage to evaluate existing equipment and the addition of equipment needed for hybrid meetings. Expected time table?
 - Discussion regarding expenditures made without town meeting approval.
 - Discussion regarding unspent ARPA allocations
 - Discussion regarding Social Service targeted ARPA allocations
 - Solar powered speed warning signs at Ashford School. Estimated at \$15,000 plus installation
 - Replacement of Welcome to Ashford signs and replacement sign at the beginning of Tremko Land estimated at \$12,000
 - Pickleball court repairs – investigate warranty
- D. See Silver-Smith motion and Phillips second made under Selectmen's Briefing to add review and action on proposals made by the Town's Financial Advisor on the financing for the school roof. Discussion regarding what exactly is the public being asked to vote on. Silver-Smith moved that the Board of Selectmen recommendation of acceptance of the 15-year bonding term be recommended to the public for the purpose of the noticed Special Town Meeting. Phillips seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Request amendment of Financial Advisor's memorandum to reflect that final approval of bonding term by the Ashford Board of Selectmen and Ashford's Treasurer.
- E. Silver-Smith moved addition to the agenda for discussion and/or action of appointment of a Webmaster. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Silver-Smith moved the appointment of Karen Zulick, effective 2/1/2023, to the position of Town of Ashford Webmaster and amendment to an agreement between the Town of Ashford and Local 4 of ASCME which would require the signatures of all members of the Board of Selectmen approving the addition of a position. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Thanks to Karen for her willingness to serve in this position.
- F. Phillips moved addition to the agenda of the appointment of an interim Chairman of the Recreation Commission. Silver-Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Phillips moved that, on advice of Town Counsel, the Board of Selectmen appoint Alternate Recreation Commission Alternate member, David Roston, to the position of interim Chairman of the Recreation Commission with the understanding that Mr. Roston would not be entitled to make a motion or vote unless seated for a regular member. Silver-Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board of Selectmen thank Roston for his willingness to serve in this position.
- G. Remarks for the good
- H. Items for next BOS meeting
9. Adjournment at 8:15 p.m.

Ashford Board of Selectmen – Regular Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83479565586>

Meeting ID: 834 7956 5586

Dial by your location
+ 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+ 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kdZfCuZe4A>