

Town of Ashford

Established 1714

REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MONDAY, July 3, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

ASHFORD TOWN OFFICES

To be held in person and via ZOOM

MINUTES

1. Call to order at 7:09 p.m.
2. Members present: Falletti and Silver-Smith. Phillips arrived at 7:17 p.m.
3. Hear from the public: no members of the public wishing to be heard at this time
4. First Selectman's briefing:
 - Once redesigned roadway at the Transfer Station is completed, the final destination of the guard station will be determined
 - 4th of July parade is still on schedule – depending on the weather. Karen Zulick will be available to post updates on the website and Katie Connolly will be available to post on TextMyGov
 - The DPW Director transition seems to be going smoothly
 - Falletti noted that both Open Houses (AVFD and Public Works) were well attended
5. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of the minutes of Special Meeting of 6/20/2023. Falletti seconded the motion which passed. Silver-Smith moved acceptance of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 6/27/2023 item 7.A. corrected to reflect that “the BOS exited Executive Session at 10:09 a.m.” Falletti seconded the motion which passed.
6. Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees
 - Cemetery Committee: Silver-Smith reported that she inspected damage in South Cemetery. Falletti reported that we are awaiting an interpretation of the governing statutes regarding ownership of gravestones from Town Counsel.
7. Old Business
 - A. Status of after school childcare program as proposed by the Recreation Commission. A meeting with the Ashford School Superintendent and the Chairman of the Ashford Board of Education is still planned. Falletti reported that he is receiving emails expressing interest in participation in this program. Silver-Smith requested that “interest” emails be forwarded to members of the BOS.
 - B. Act on Ashford School Building Committee recommendation regarding issuance of RFP for architectural services relating to the Ashford School roof project: Silver-Smith moved approval of the RFP as presented pending completed review by Town Counsel. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - C. Consider funding options relating to initiation of Ashford School roof project: No action
 - D. Ashford Citizen: review draft of establishment of policies and procedures relating to production and content of the Ashford Citizen as prepared by Silver-Smith: No action. This item will be carried on future agendas.
 - E. Update on Transfer Station upgrades: reported above under briefing
 - F. Ashford Housing Authority request for ARPA funded appropriation: Falletti has requested dollar breakdowns relating to Housing Authority's proposed Senior Housing rehabilitation projects
 - G. Discuss and/or act on AFSCME contract: no action

8. New Business

- A. Silver-Smith moved approval of a request from the Conservation Commission for permission to hold a winter Farmer's Market on the first and third Sundays during the months of December, January, February, March and April in Knowlton Hall between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. pending formulation of an MOU outlining user responsibilities (to be prepared by Town Counsel). Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- B. Consideration of a request from Ace Equipment Sales, Inc. to access their 38 acre parcel of land (GIS map #38, block A, lot 2) through land presently owned by the Town of Ashford (aka Cadlerock property) for the purpose of a log harvest. This item will be considered following provision of a damage agreement document from Town Counsel and will be carried on a future agenda.
- C. Silver-Smith moved adoption of a revised Town of Ashford employment application as provided by Town Counsel. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Attorney Forsyth was thanked for his attention to this revision.
- D. Board and Commission Appointments
 - Conservation Commission – 1 Alternate Member vacancy term of which expires 11/21/2023
 - Economic Development Commission – 2 vacancies terms of which expire 2/02/2025
 - Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission – fill 1 Regular Member vacant seat the term of which expires 6/01/2025; 1 vacant Alternate Member seats terms of which expire 6/01/2027.
 - Zoning Board of Appeals – 1 Alternate Member seat term of which expires 11/05/2025
- E. Phillips moved the following tax refunds citing CGS 12-129: Skaye or Joseph Wilcox in the amount of \$41.06 and Julie Marsh in the amount of \$147.58. Silver-Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- F. Review of cemetery statutes relating to ownership of gravestones: Briefly discussed above under "Hear from Boards, Commissions, Committees."
- G. At this time Silver-Smith moved addition to the agenda of the interim appointment of a Department of Public Works Director. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Silver-Smith moved that Casey McCue be named as interim Department of Public Works Director effective July 1, 2023 at the pay rate of \$31.25 per hour over a 40 hour week with full benefits. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. This appointment will be evaluated at the 90- and 180-day mark. Upon advice of AFSCME Council 4, a MOU will be formulated detailing McCue's retention of union rights during the interim appointment period.
- H. At this time Silver-Smith moved addition to the agenda of acceptance of a contract with Tyche Planning and Policy Group for provision of zoning enforcement services. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Silver-Smith moved endorsement of Tyche's zoning enforcement services contract effective 7/1/2023. Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- I. Agenda items for upcoming BOS meetings
- J. Adjournment

Christine K. Abikoff