



Town of Ashland
New Hampshire 03217

TOWN OFFICE
OFFICE (603) 968-4432
FAX (603) 968-3776

TOWN BULLETIN

Volume II issue #5
June 19, 2014

News from the Town Office

At the Board of Selectmen's televised meeting held on June 16th in the Elementary School Library, the Board signed the Ambulance Contract with the Town of Plymouth, reviewed the Concerned Citizen log, discussed the vacancies that exist on various Town Boards, Commissions and Committees, heard updates from the Town Administrator and reviewed the Town's finances.

The Chairman announced that the Board had given the approval to have M E Latulippe carry out road drainage improvements on lower Leavitt Hill Road. Our Public Works Department will be supplying pipe which will reduce the cost to the Town.

Jill White, the Regional Vice President of the local Meredith Village Savings Bank, was appointed to the Ashland Economic Development Committee and will be sworn in shortly.

The Board asked that the questions and answers given by the Town Assessor, Phil Bodwell, when he came to the Selectmen's meeting on May 5th be posted on the Town's website which will help residents better understand how the Property Tax Assessment and Abatements work in Ashland.

The Board heard from the Town Administrator that he attended a meeting in Campton on June 9th, orchestrated by the Campton Town Administrator, to meet with representatives of the law firm BCM Environmental & Land Law to discuss the current situation regarding the permitting process for Northern Pass. A suggestion has been made that at the appropriate time the Ashland Selectmen should consider joining forces with other surrounding communities to act as interveners.

Improvements to the Town Hall will not happen this year as the costs for the custom-made windows and labor charges have risen significantly and are not in the budget. Grant opportunity discussions with the folks at USDA Rural Development will begin again in 2015.

The Town Office has developed a Concerned Citizen issue log which is updated and reviewed by the Selectmen at their regular and work session meetings. In this way, any complaints can be discussed and monitored until resolution.

Last month the Selectmen visited properties at the Mill complex with a view to discussing if there would be an opportunity for future Economic Development at the site. Discussions regarding the next steps will be taking place.

The Board Chairman gave updates on the July 4th celebrations and the Town Administrator confirmed that volunteer forms were in the Town Office, the fireworks permit had been returned and the Police Department had received the 'Parade Permit.' The parade rules and guidelines have been posted in the Town Office and on the town website.

The Town Administrator confirmed that he is working on material for the Board as respects the upcoming meeting with Utility Partners and for Health Insurance comparisons with our current provider in an effort to seek lower costs.

Discussion continued on the drainage issue on Smith Hill Road and the Public Works Director was asked to seek estimates for the work that would be required to resolve this issue.

The Board signed the three-year renewal of the Ambulance Contract with the Town of Plymouth which calls for an expiring premium of forty six thousand seven hundred and twenty three dollars annually.

The Board approved the purchase of a plaque dedicated to Ashland resident Karen Potter who passed away recently. Karen donated the bench and funded the planting of flowers and trees in the garden area outside of the Town Office.

In an on-going effort to reduce costs, the Town Administrator has been instructed by the Board to seek alternative companies to our current IT provider and request proposals accordingly.

The work session concluded with a review of the Town's financial position and discussions on the various budget lines that look as though they are stretched.

In other news:

The Town Beach will be opening tomorrow, June 20th, and the public is reminded to observe the posted beach rules. For safety reasons, **the beach will be closed on Wednesday June 25th** while paving is carried out on the lower half of Leavitt Hill Road.

The first free outdoor Movie in the Park of the summer is the animated film “Frozen” which is showing tomorrow evening, June 20th, at the Town Ballfield. The rain date is June 21st. Food and beverages will be on sale. This movie is sponsored by the Ashland Comfort Inn and is presented to the public by the Ashland Area Recreation Association.

There are vacancies on the Ashland Conservation Commission, the Ashland Economic Development Committee and the Land Use Boards and if anyone is interested please contact the Town Administrator at 968-4432 or e-mail at townadmin@ashland.nh.gov

The ‘Got Lunch’ program to provide meals during the summer to Ashland and Holderness students kicked off its 2014 operations on Monday, June 16th, at the St. Mark’s Church parish hall. It is estimated to cost \$110 (one hundred and ten dollars) to provide lunch for each child during the summer holidays. Donations are still needed and can be sent to the Got Lunch program c/o Anne Lamson, 3 White Mountain Court, Ashland, NH 03217

Although the Town’s 150th celebrations are still a long way off, donations may be made payable to the ‘Ashland 150th Committee’ and sent to the Ashland Historical Society, PO Box 175, Ashland, NH 03217. All donations are tax deductible as the Society is a 501(c)3 organization. The Committee is working diligently to ensure the success of this event celebrating 150 years of Ashland’s history. Planning meetings will be held this year at the Ashland Fire Station on the following dates: July 22, August 26, September 23, and November 25 with a “kick-off party” scheduled for Sunday, September 14, at the Ashland Train Station Museum from 2 pm to 5 pm.

The Ashland Historical Society has been raising money over the past year specifically for the painting of the Ashland Railroad Station and for upgrades to its security system. If you would care to make a donation to the painting of this piece of Ashland history, you can do so by mailing it to the Society at PO Box 175 here in Town.

On Wednesday, June 18th, Selectman Jeanette Stewart was installed as President of the Ashland Woman’s Club. Congratulations Selectman Stewart.

Meetings and Events:

Please go to the Town website at www.ashland.nh.gov to view the days/times and locations for meetings for: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, CIP Committee, Budget Committee, Water & Sewer Commissioners, Electric Commissioners, Conservation Commission and Housing Standards Board.

The Ashland Board of Selectmen`s meetings can be seen on public access local channel 3 at the following days/times:

Ashland BOS CH 3 Regular Schedule:

| <u>TUE</u> | <u>WED</u> | <u>THU</u> | <u>FRI</u> | <u>SAT</u> | <u>SUN</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 12:00 PM | 11:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 12:00 AM | 07:00 AM | 12:00 AM |
| 4:00 PM | 6:00 PM | 5:00 PM | 07:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 09:00 AM |
| 09:00 PM | 08:00 PM | | | 05:00 PM | 05:00 PM |

.....
Important Telephone Numbers

Town Office hours: Mon. Tues. Wed. & Fri. 8am-4pm; Thursday 8am-5pm
Phone (603) 968-4432

Board of Selectmen: Chairman-Normand DeWolfe Phone (603) 968-9630
Phil Preston Phone (603) 968-7959
Jeanette Stewart Phone (603) 968-7240
Fran Newton Phone (603) 573-5330
Steve Felton Phone (603) 340-2801

Police Department Phone (603) 968-4000

Fire Department -NON EMERGENCY- Phone (603) 968-7772

Public Works Department Phone (603) 968-3166

Utility Department hours: 8am-4pm Mon-Fri.
Electric Phone (603) 968-3083

Water & Sewer Phone (603) 968-4002

Parks & Recreation Department Phone (603) 968-9209

Welfare Department Phone (603) 968-4432

Welfare hours: 5:00-7:00pm Tuesday.

Health Officer Phone (603) 573-5330
Transfer Station hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-4pm;
Saturday 8am-4pm. Phone (603) 968-9032
Building Inspector hours: Mon. Wed. & Fri. Phone (603) 968-4432
Jim Van Valkenburgh cell Phone (603) 393-1274
Library hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs.1-7 pm; Friday & Saturday 10 am-2pm.
Closed: Wednesday & Sunday. Phone (603) 968-7928
Ashland Food Pantry hours: Thurs.12-6 pm; Fri. 12-6 pm; Sat.10 am-2 pm
Closed: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Phone (603) 968-9698

Reaching your U.S. Legislator

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2841

Sen. Kelly Ayotte
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3324

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter
1530 Longworth House Office building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5456

Rep. Annie Kuster
137 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5206

Please remember the Town website at www.ashland.nh.gov should be consulted when looking for specific information about the Town. This newsletter helps the Town Office share information and establish a direct connection with our audience, the residents (and taxpayers) of Ashland who are unable to view our website or attend Selectmen meetings. We try to keep them informed and remind them of the many ways their local government is working to improve their quality of life.

Paul C. Branscombe, Town Administrator