

**TOWN OF ASHLAND  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020  
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE  
5:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Town of Ashland Chairman of the Board Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and requested a roll call of the Selectmen; Vice Chairman Kathleen DeWolfe, Selectman Frances Newton, Selectman Alan Cilley and Chairman Eli Badger all acknowledged they were present via the video conference, constituting a quorum of the board. Chairman Badger notified attendees that the meeting was occurring over video and teleconference, a provision authorized by the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 that waived the physical presence of board members during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

a. **Sale of town land (property lot off Winter Street);** Chairman Badger opened the public hearing at 5:31 p.m. for public comment about the potential sale of a town owned lot off Winter Street. Per RSA 41:14-a this was the board’s second public hearing on the potential sale of town owned land. Ashland resident David Ruell asked if the property was owned by the paper mill. Through deed research, surveyor Anthony Randall, who was representing the potential buyer Commerce Properties, confirmed the property was not owned by the paper mill. Commerce Properties was offering to buy the land for \$1,000 through a quitclaim deed that waives liability for the town. Board closed the public hearing at 5:41 p.m.

**MOTION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe

*To approve the sale of town owned land off Winter Street to Commerce Properties for \$1,000 with the conditions that Commerce Properties also pay for the quick claim deed and recording fees.*

**SECOND:** Selectman Newton

**VOTE:** 4 – 0

**MOTION PASSED**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Selectman Newton

*To approve the meeting minutes of August 3, 2020 as amended.*

**SECOND:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe

**DISCUSSION:** Board removed “being alone at the utility building” on page 3, line 23 and 24.

**VOTE:** 4 – 0

**MOTION PASSED**

1 **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

2 a. **NHDOT Bridge Design, Jerry Zoller, P.E.:** next fiscal year New Hampshire  
3 Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is proposing repainting two state bridges in  
4 town; bridge 2-3 off exit 24 and bridge 4, near North Ashland Road. Repainting the  
5 bridge next year is contingent on the funds being in DOT’s budget, Jerry Zoller  
6 confirmed the expectations are the funds should be available, total cost for the project is  
7 an estimate \$3 million. If the project does not move forward this year it would be pushed  
8 back to 2022. Each project should take about 8-10 weeks to complete. NHDOT has  
9 proposed lane closure. NHDOT requested the town sign a “work zone agreement” that  
10 grants oversight of the project to NHDOT. Before the project goes to construction  
11 NHDOT will have a public hearing with the town.  
12

13 b. **Ashland Parks & Recreation**

14 i. **After School Program:** Ashland Parks & Recreation Director Barney  
15 forwarded a plan to the Board of Selectmen about reopening the After-School  
16 Program. Director Barney worked with the School on what would work best to  
17 reopen, which is like what the department used in reopening the Summer Camp  
18 Program. Maximum attendance for the program will be 15 enrollees. Children  
19 attending will wear masks while in the building, hands sanitized, temperatures  
20 taken, tables are separated for social distancing (Fire Chief reviewed floor plan),  
21 and equipment at the building will be sanitized at end of day. Program will not  
22 restart until after Labor Day.  
23

24 **MOTION:** Selectman Newton

25 *To approve the plan submitted by Parks and Recreation to reopen After School*  
26 *Program.*

27 **SECOND:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe

28 **VOTE:** 4 – 0

29 **MOTION PASSED**  
30

31 ii. **Use of Town Beach:** a local church approached Director Barney about having  
32 a “baptizing” function and using the facility electric, bathroom, etc. Director  
33 Barney informed the church that the beach was closed for the season but would  
34 ask the Board about an exception. Being that the beach was closed, summer  
35 staff no longer available to clean the facilities, and not wanting to make  
36 exceptions the board voted to keep the beach closed for the season.  
37

38 **MOTION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe

39 *To officially close the town beach for the summer and facility not available for*  
40 *functions.*

41 **SECOND:** Selectman Newton

42 **VOTE:** 4 – 0

43 **MOTION PASSED**  
44  
45

- 1 c. **Vendor Permit Application:** the company “Wicked Eats” applied for a vendor permit  
2 to operate a food truck selling breakfast type on Sharps Lane. Wicked Eats intends on  
3 operating their breakfast truck Friday through Sunday from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and  
4 closing for the season November 1<sup>st</sup>. Board approved the application.  
5

6 **MOTION:** Vice Chairman DeWolfe

7 *To accept and approve the vendor permit application for Wicked Eats.*

8 **SECOND:** Selectman Newton

9 **VOTE:** 4 – 0

10 **MOTION PASSED**  
11

12 **V. OLD BUSINESS**

- 13 a. **Ashland Trustees of the Trust Funds/Scribner Trust:** for general knowledge as  
14 managers of the prudential investments of the town, Trustee Amanda Loud forwarded  
15 the board proposals from vendors to repair the oil tank at the Scribner Building.  
16 Apparently, the filler pipe has a hole which is causing water to leak into the line and  
17 contaminating the oil tank. To help save with costs as Trustee Loud mentioned the  
18 Scribner Trust was depleting and did not financially appreciate since the trust’s  
19 inception, Public Works will help dig up the line for repairs. Trustee Loud also asked  
20 if the board would release the legal opinion about nonpublic meetings to the Trustees;  
21 consensus of the board was to allow the email to be forward to Trustees.  
22

23 **VI. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 24 a. **River Street Crosswalk:** Public Works Director Moore was approached by residents  
25 about installing a cross walk on River Street. Board did not object to the request. Public  
26 Works to also research into installing permanent “No Parking” signs along the street.  
27
- 28 b. **Interviews for vacant Selectman position:** The Board interviewed applicants “Andy  
29 Fitch” and “Bob Letourneau” for the vacant Selectman position. Both applicants  
30 provided a background and answered questions on why they are a good selection. Term  
31 for the position would only be until the next election in March. Board to consider a vote  
32 on the applicants at their meeting in September.  
33
- 34 c. **September 8<sup>th</sup> Primary:** The Board provided the public an update about safety  
35 precautions being taken during the pandemic for voters at next months state primary.  
36

- 37
- 38 **VII. ADJOURNED** – the Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 7:49 p.m. and will  
39 reconvene at their next meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020. Note: generally, the board  
40 meets on the first and third Monday of each month. Since the first Monday in September is a  
41 holiday (Labor Day) and the state primary the following day (September 8<sup>th</sup>) their first meeting  
42 in September was moved to the following week.