

Assessors Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2016

The meeting was held on Thursday May 5, 2016 and called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Sandy Lilly.

Present: Sandy Lilly (SL), Donna Sarro (DS), Amy Shapiro (AS), Jennifer Morse (JM), George Stephan (GS)

**Minutes -**

*A motion was made by AS and seconded by DS to accept the meeting minutes of April 20, 2016. VOTE: SL- Abstained, DS- Aye, AS- Aye 2-0-1*

**Signatures - Signed by all board members unless otherwise noted**

Motor Vehicle Monthly List – April 2016 Levy of 2016

RE/PP Monthly List - April 2016 Levy of 2016

**Old Business**

FCAA Annual Meeting - SL, DS and JM attended the Franklin County Assessing Association Annual Meeting on April 28, 2016 at the French King Restaurant. SL gave an overview of the meeting and the speaker Alison Wright from DCR. Ms. Wright presented Forestry and the history of Chapter 61 using Ashfield in more than one point. Ashfield has a high number of loggers and mills compared to other local towns and a lot of land in Chapter 61 programs. SL shared that a lot of the supporting documents can be found through the Mohawk Woodlands Program website.

Estimated Tax Rate- JM shared the estimated tax rate prepared for the Finance Committee. If all funding passes at Annual Town Meeting the estimated tax rate is \$17.29 for fiscal year 2017.

**New Business**

3ABC Forms - JM reported that several exempt property owners in Ashfield have failed to submit their 3ABC forms for Fiscal Year 2017. JM will mail letters to the Ashfield Community Preschool, South Ashfield Library Association, Spruce Corner Community House Inc., The Field Board Inc., Trust for Public Land and the Trustees of Sanderson Academy. The deadline to submit the forms will be extended to July 1, 2016.

FVAC 17 Chapter Land Values - The DOR released the recommended values for fiscal year 2017 chapter land. Reviewing the document – chapter 61A croplands will be the largest increase in value. The other categories remain the same or slightly higher in value.

Mayflower ID Cards - GS had mentioned that a business card would be a solution for ID cards for Samuel from Mayflower. JM created a business card and will try to edit the card before shipment that stated that Samuel is a field appraiser for Mayflower. JM will also work on a lanyard for Samuel to carry.

ATB Ashfield House - Town Counsel forwarded notice of appearance documents and the answers to the FY16 case for review. JM discussed the Luce case; town counsel will send a request to inspect the property, if permission is not granted town counsel will file a motion to dismiss. JM does not believe hiring Mayflower for the Luce case makes sense. Mayflower will charge \$900 per case, if the board rests on the values and the ATB rules in favor of the owner or splits the value it will be less than the fee from Mayflower. JM will draw up the scenarios and will present at the next meeting.

Other

Judy Haupt send SL an email request seeking value information going back to 2001 to show what it would have cost the town for the community preservation act. JM will reach out to Judy for more information on the information she is seeking.

Sandy Lilly spoke at length about her time on the boards, the role of the assessors and the relationship with Mayflower.

**Meeting Schedule**

May 16, 2016 - 6 p.m.

A motion was made by DS and seconded by AS to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. VOTE: 3-0

Submitted:

Jennifer Morse – Assessors Clerk

May 9, 2016

Approved: 5/16/16 Vote- 2-0-1