

Board of Selectmen
Extension 109
Town Administrator
Extension 109
Town Accountant
Extension 120
Town Clerk
Extension 114
Tax Collector
Extension 113
Treasurer
Extension 112 or 110
Board of Assessors
Extension 111
Land Use Office
Extension 117
Planning Board
Extension 121
Conservation Commission
Extension 115



Animal Control
Board of Health
Building Commission
Conservation Commission
Council on Aging
Cultural Council
Electrical Inspector
Gas & Plumbing Inspector
Historical Commission
Municipal Planning
Parks & Recreation
Planning Board
Zoning Board of Appeals

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TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

*Town Hall, 32 Main Street
Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430*

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT October 7, 2013

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

TOWN COMMITTEES

Currently there are openings on the following (1) Conservation Commission, (3) Council on Aging Board, (1) Board of Assessors, (1) Capital Planning, (1) Advisory Board and (4) Cable Advisory Board. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

After reading all the complaints from other communities across the state, MMA is reaching out to communities to see how the new computerized DUA reporting/claims system is doing

1. The system does not allow input to show the information we need to provide.
2. It limits the input to specific responses that are not responsive to the situation.
3. Claims are being approved without our input.
4. System seems to be set up to approve claims for individuals who are not entitled.

MMA to take forward these and other concerns to Secretary Joanne Goldstein.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Warrant Articles will be set and voted on this evening.

STRETCH ENERGY BUILDING CODE

A public forum was held on Tuesday October 1st at the Public Safety Building Training room. Jim Barry the Regional Director of the Green Communities Program put on a presentation with an opportunity for question and answers.

FLOOD INSURANCE

October 1st begins the implementation of the Biggert Waters National Reform Act of 2012, which allows FEMA to issue new flood water maps. It also requires the National Flood Insurance Program to substantially increase their rates to help shore up the Federal Program that is billions of dollars in the red. This may also affect residents in Ashburnham that currently require flood insurance or that may have to with the new delineation of flood areas.

In response Massachusetts legislatures sent a letter to House and Senate leadership last week calling for a delay in implementing the portions Act. The letter was initiated by Sen. Edward J. Markey and signed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Reps. Richard Neal, Jim McGovern, Michael Capuano, Stephen Lynch, John Tierney, Niki Tsongas, Bill Keating and Joe Kennedy.

DPW

We will begin negotiations with the DPW union on October 9th 2013.

We have submitted for reimbursement from FEMA for the October storm of last year for \$36,000. Mary Calandrella did a great job getting everything together.

RETIREE HEALTH CARE

An actuarial study is being conducted to get an understanding of the impact of the retirees' health care benefit on town finances. Open enrollment is beginning and benefits scheduled to start around the February 1st time frame. Once the financial impact is identified I will be bringing to the board and article for the ATM to accept section 9(d) of chapter 32b which will allow widows and widowers of retirees to get continued coverage at the 50% level. This is consistent with both Westminster and the AWRS District.

FARMER SERIES POURING PERMIT

We received our first application for a Farmer Series Pouring Permit. Sylvia reached out to her counterparts in other towns in the Commonwealth, regarding what they are charging as a fee for the Farmer Series Pouring Permit. Six communities responded with fees ranging from \$50.00 to \$1,000.00.

Our present license fees are as follows:

All Alcoholic Common Victualler (Restaurant)	\$700.00
All Alcoholic Club	\$550.00
All Alcoholic Package	\$650.00
Wine and Malt Package	\$400.00
One-Day Special Liquor License	\$ 10.00
Common Victualler	\$ 20.00
Class II Used Car	\$ 50.00
Class IV Repairman	\$ 50.00
Entertainment machines (pool tables)	\$ 50.00 each machine

Our recommendation for the Farmer Series Pouring Permit fee is \$100.00. A Public Hearing is scheduled for the next Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, October 21st at 6:45 p.m. The applicant is Keith Kopley, owner of Hillside Cellars, at 28 Corey Hill Road.

VETERANS DAY

Joe Gadainowicz contacted our office asking which one of the Selectmen would be willing to speak at the Veterans Day services on November 11th.