

MEETING MATTERS

Ashburnham BOARD OF SELECTMEN SEPT 18.

Compiled by

Caitlyn Kelleher
Journal Staff Writer



Top Story:

Selectmen continued the discussion whether to buy a piece of conservation land on Russell Hill Road until a special meeting could be held on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

The board meet with Gary Howland, the president of the Ashburnham Land Trust, Lorraine DeSouza, of the conservation commission, and Dan LaRoche, of the Mount Grace Land Trust, in executive session during their Sept. 18 meeting.

Before the executive session, LaRoche told the board that his land trust helps groups with the initial purchase of land but does not usually retain the ownership.

"We've done this kind of thing before in the area," he said.

The owner of the Russell Hill parcel of land is taking it out of Chapter 61A protection which means the town has the right of first refusal to buy the land to keep it as conservation land.

The town is legally allowed to buy the land itself, to let the owner remove it from a conservation status or the transfer their right to purchase to a third party conservation agency.

Howland said that conservation commission has

already applied for a self-help grant to buy the land back from the Mt. Grace Land Trust if they town decides to purchase the land or to ask the trust to purchase the land.

The selectmen will hold a public hearing on the matter at a meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 6 p.m.

In Other News:

- The owner of a black lab did not attend the public hearing about this dog. So selectmen order the dog to be restrained, the three outstanding fines to be paid and the owner to license the dog after a brief meeting with Animal Control Officer Margaret Bennett.

- Selectman Christopher Gagnon was appointed to the Briggs Building Committee.

- Selectmen began a discussion about the keeping of records including meeting minutes and tried to encourage the use of the Web site.

- The fire department was recognized for the large number of grants they have applied for and received.

Next Meetings: Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.

Memorial golf tournament for Ashburnham man

By **Caitlyn Kelleher**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The Raymond A. Dennehy Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on September 25 at the Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg.

The memorial for the Ashburnham man is still organized by his son, Selectman Jonathan Dennehy, and a group of other participants.

The tournament started because Dennehy wanted to thank the Diversified Visiting Nurses Association Hospice program based at the Burbank Campus of Health Alliance

Hospital.

Raymond A. Dennehy Jr. used the hospice service before he died 13 years ago.

Last year's tournament raised \$17,091 for the Diversified Visiting Nurses Association Hospice Program.

The realtors have raised over \$100,000 in contributions raised in support of Hospice since 1993 through the annual Raymond A Dennehy, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournaments.

The money raised by the tournament helps cover expenses for families not covered by insurance.

Dennehy said between the golfing, the dinner, the auctions and other, smaller fundraisers, they raise between

\$15,000 and \$20,000 a year.

The Hospice Program is affiliated with Health Alliance, and it strives to enhance the quality of life for a seriously ill person, allowing the individual to remain at home with family and friends. The Hospice Program coordinates a team of dedicated physicians and professionals to help both the patient and family share fully the remaining days. Your donation helps the VNA care for those people whose medical needs exceed their financial coverage, providing emotional and social support for the patient, their family and friends during a very difficult time.



For more information please contact:

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Directions:

Take the Mass Pike to Exit 9, Sturbridge. Bear right onto Route 20 West Exit, then take 1st right onto New Boston Road. Follow 2.5 miles, then take left onto Hamilton Road. Club will be on your right. (Follow Signs)

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