

## ***Community Value***

Ayer Board of Selectmen Meeting

April 2, 2019

Writer: Anthony Winship, ASRHS Correspondent

To open the meeting, Janice Livingston gave a moment of silence for Ernie Blasetti. Ernie recently past on March 21, 2019 at 102 years old. He was the oldest member of our community. Ernie graduated from Ayer High School in 1937 and joined the Navy in World War II. The Devens Memorial Museum recognized him with the Quilt of Valor. He will be remembered as a smiling face and will be missed.

Alan Manoian, the Director of Community and Economic Development, brought two major ideas to the meeting. First, he brought the idea to start an "Adopt-A-Street" program to town. He plans to hire the company Adopt-A-Highway to come and clean up Westford Road. Adding the cost of paying the company and police detail for them will cost about \$1,000-\$1,200. He wants to launch this in mid to late June and hopes we could do something like this once or twice a year. Secondly, he brought the idea for a "Welcome to Ayer" sign. Now this would not be a simple "Entering Ayer" sign. So far the plans are for it to be a large granite rock located just off the rotary on East Main Street. The sign will likely have "Welcome to Ayer" and "Est. 1871" scrawled on it, however nothing is set in stone. He has a budget of \$12,000 for this project so far and is looking for input for what the sign will say.

In the Town Manager's Report, Mr. Pontbriand had two exciting things to say as well. First, he informed the Board that the Sandy Pond School House would like to do a community event to celebrate their upcoming 150th birthday. We'll have more on that later. Second he asked the Board to officially accept a list of historic gifts, which they did. Anne Schorka donated a large number of items from St. Andrews. These included pictures, portraits, and many other things. The total value of the donation is \$4,225.