

TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

ADAMS TOWN HALL BUILDING, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES May 1, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Duval at 7:00 p.m. Present were Vice Chairman Nowak, Members Blanchard, Hoyt, Bush, Town Administrator Green, and Town Counsel St. John III.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: *The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *April 3, 2019 and April 4, 2019 minutes were presented for approval. Motion made by Member Blanchard to waive reading and approve the minutes for April 3, 2019 and April 4, 2019 as submitted, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: *No public comments were made at this meeting.*

PUBLIC HEARING: FY2017 Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing, 7:10 pm. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to go into public hearing, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.* Community Development Director Cesan gave a background and update on the FY2017 Community Development Block Grant program. She advised that this is the second public hearing, and the first was in February 2017, prior to application for funding. She explained that the Town received a six month extension from the state, and will be closing out the program by June 30th of this year. The different activities of the program were reviewed. The first was the construction of the Visitors Center Parking Lot Improvement Project. Funds were noted as being for program delivery, staff time and other expenses as well as parking and also funding for drainage. The second activity was the design of the 1 Cook Street property and work to complete the plan for a park at the one-acre site. She advised that work is being done with a company out of Hudson, NY. The expended funds were reviewed. A little funding was carried over from winter for the parking lot and engineer. It was noted that the contractor and town staff did a walkthrough and decided to carry the project over the winter months to be sure the lawn could be seeded and the landscaping would not need to be replaced. Some of the remaining work has been done and there is one more final meeting before the job is accepted from the contractor to close out the project. The Park Project went through procurement to hire a landscape architect. The Town formed a steering committee with Board of Selectmen Member Bush and worked with the designer on various themes and designs for the park. The project is on schedule to finish before June 30th. She advised she will come before the Board with the design but in the fall will decide on the application for design funds. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to exit the Public Hearing, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*

NEW BUSINESS

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Community Survey: *Community Development Program Manager Ferguson* advised that the previous plan expired in December, 2018. Community Development is updating the Adams Open Space Recreation Plan and looking to set priorities for the Town for the Division of Conservation Services. She advised that she was collecting community input and gathering responses over the next couple weeks from online surveys. Paper copies of the survey will also be available at Town Hall, the Council on Aging and the Library.

Williams College Opioid Epidemic Team Report: *Member Hoyt* gave a brief overview of the takeback day for opioid prescriptions. John Morando and Zach Brand of the Williams College Opioid Epidemic Team were introduced and gave a background about the program. They explained that this issue is faced by Berkshire County they wanted to do something for the community. They said a medical facility identified that secondary access to medications from those prescribed them was a problem and

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helped to design the program. The incentive offered for turning in the medications was a \$10 gift card to Walmart but future iterations could include local businesses. The program was modeled on gun buyback programs, and a survey done showed the voucher was a good incentive for participation. Awareness was raised for the existing disposal of medications. Fifteen people participated and responded to the incentive and the survey data found that a majority of respondents were unaware of the proper storage and disposal of the prescriptions. Paula Consolini, Chief Tarsa, and The Berkshire Eagle were thanked for their support. Brief discussion took place about the contents of the survey. It was explained that this was a pilot program and the plan is to reach out to other police departments to have a county-wide take back plan.

Facility Use Requests:

Adams Visitors Center & Train Station: *Glen Diehl, Berkshire Scenic Railway*, requested use of the Adams Visitors Center and the Train Station from May 25, 2019 through December 22, 2019 on weekends and holidays as provided. *Community Development Director Cesan* reviewed this request on behalf of the Town. Mr. Diehl reported that there are 600 trains running, and each year the number of riders has increased. Last year there were almost 9,000 riders. A professional marketing firm has been contracted and the expectation is for larger numbers this year. He explained that Berkshire Scenic Railway has made an Adams Dining Guide available to all the riders and it will show other points of interest in an effort to get the riders to walk around town. It was noted that the Visitors Center is not staffed by employees and the Berkshire Scenic Railway will staff it during those hours as well as doing everything possible to upkeep the train facilities. He explained the crew will use the train station building for the crew to get ready for the day and maintenance equipment is stored there. He pointed out that there is a need for rest rooms in that facility. Clarification was given that the building could not be occupied because it had no restrooms and when it has a Certificate of Occupancy the coach will move away from the platform and the ticketing and information will move into the building. Design for bathrooms almost done and sewer lines and potable water needs to be hooked up to the building before it can be opened. Marketing efforts were briefly discussed and it was noted that bus tours are important. It was noted that people come from New York City and the eastern part of the state to stay overnight and take a day trip to take the train, see Mass MOCA and go to Williamstown. Concern was expressed about the Berkshire Scenic Railway in Lenox bypassing this area with competing train rides. It was explained that Northern Berkshire County has cultural venues that bring them to this community and they are differentiated as two separate markets for southern and northern corridors. A brief discussion took place regarding signage. ***Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the use of the Adams Visitors Center and Train Station by Berkshire Scenic Railway for weekend and holiday use from May 25, 2019 through December 22, 2019 on the dates as provided and with coordination by the appropriate Town staff, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

Renfrew Field: Philip Jude KoaMaya and Chris DeGraff of Berkshire Adult Baseball League applied to use Renfrew Field from May 5, 2019 through August 28, 2019 on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, June 12, 2019 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. It was noted that the Parks Commission and DPW reviewed and approved the use contingent on field conditions. ***Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the use of Renfrew Field by Berkshire Adult Baseball League from May 5, 2019 through August 28, 2019 on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, June 12, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. contingent upon field and facility conditions., second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.***

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES May 1, 2019

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Administrator Report: A meeting took place with the Prudential Committee of the Fire District which hopefully is the beginning of developing a good relationship. On Monday, Senator Hinds brought Developer Jeff Cohen to town for the 5-7 Hoosac Street, Spinning Mill Project and pitched the project to convert the mill to market rate housing. Mr. Cohen is slowly moving forward with the project. Tuesday, Senator Hinds and Secretary Kennealy from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development went to the Greylock Glen and the Town was able to get on his radar. Secretary Kennealy came out and looked at it, and State Representative Barrett advised that he was the first Secretary of Cabinet to come to the Greylock Glen. Scaffolding has been assembled for the Town Hall Roof Project, which will be a 60 to 90 day project depending on the weather. They are looking at the Clock Tower and making structural repairs. Community Development has been busy, and director Cesan is reviewing MEMA funding to assess funding for flooding damage and to find the best project to fit that funding. The Municipal Vulnerability Program through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is more broad than the MEMA grant, and gives an opportunity to look at flooding areas in Southwick Brook and Davis Street areas.

Town Counsel Report:

SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: *Member Hoyt* advised that the Licensing Sub-Committee met last week in preparation for the meeting scheduled for tomorrow. She advised that the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee met and is finishing the last step in the process before moving forward to Town Meeting. Operations of school district pretty much the same. She advised that the District will no longer be Adams-Cheshire Regional School District, but will be Hoosac Valley Regional School District instead. She advised that she attended a public forum for the Adams Fire District where there was discussion about two items being put forward to Fire District members on May 14th. She noted that there was good discussion at that meeting and there are three ways to vote at the May 14th election from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Early voting is available now at the Fire District during regular hours or by Absentee Ballot at the Town Clerk's office or at the Fire District until May 14th. Citizens were encouraged to be educated about the questions before casting their vote. *Vice Chairman Nowak* advised that he attended the Finance Committee meeting and there was good discussion. He advised that he went to the Planning Board meeting and work is being done on zoning changes for 40R for reuse of buildings to be housing units but the key is to utilize existing buildings to put in tenants as there is not a lot of space in the community. He advised that he attended the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee meeting and learned a lot. He noted that it is a whole new agreement that seems short and precise, and it is important that everyone is on the same page. He thanked Member Hoyt for overseeing that process. *Member Bush* advised that he attended the Council on Aging (COA) meeting on Monday where Canna Care Medical Marijuana 101 was presented. He noted that the COA gave assistance with people preparing their taxes doubled this year. The Mobile Food bank served 265 households. The Matter of Balance class has completed and had 12 participants. He announced the upcoming events at the Council on Aging including chair and hand massages, a pizza party to recognize those who volunteer to help with the lunch program from Bfair, the Walk to End Alzheimers, and the Longest Day event. A new initiative called Hospitality is Our Obligation is taking place to have the luncheon site be like a café for social events coming up. He also noted that the Cheshire COA lost their meal site Director and Adams COA Director Girenti agreed to collaborate with them. He said he attended lunch there and it is working well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER: *Member Blanchard* wished outgoing Cheshire Selectman Carol Francesconi congratulations after serving 30 years. He noted she is retiring and he wished to honor her for her service. *Member Hoyt* advised that the Adams Free Library has a book sale going on through tomorrow. She announced that there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at We All Need Bodywork on Park Street, and Jessica Wilson will provide light refreshments and giveaways from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She reminded citizens that the Town Election will be held on Monday, May 6th at the DPW Garage and citizens are encouraged to write in candidates for empty Town Meeting Member positions. She thanked current Board

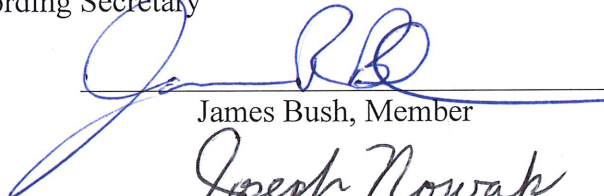
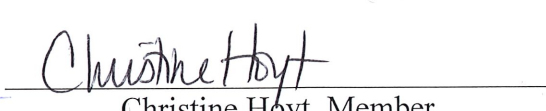
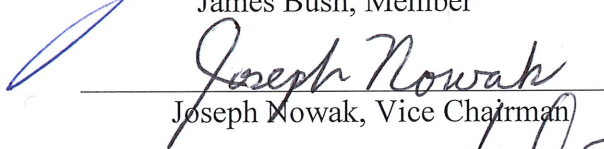
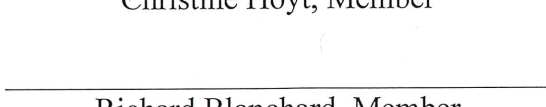
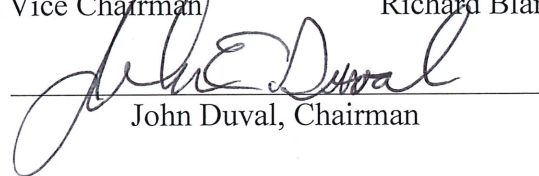
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Members Blanchard and Nowak for putting their names on the ballots for a third term, and thanked them both for their service to date. She announced that iBerkshires Reporter Jack Guerino's birthday was today and wished him a happy birthday. *Vice Chairman Nowak* reiterated best wishes to Carol Francesconi for her retirement and noted that it is great to see someone who has devoted so much time to the community. He explained that he has been talking with Girls' Basketball Coach Wojcik and was asked for signs to be placed at the corridors for Adams, stating that Adams is the Home of the MIAA State Championship. He asked citizens to vote, and noted that 19% of citizens voting has been the average, so this year the goal is 20%. *Member Bush* announced that there will be an event with Eleanor Roosevelt on May 22nd at 6:30 p.m. with a pizza party. Those interested should contact Pam or Ed St. John at 743-5603 or the Council on Aging at 743-8333 for tickets. He reported that The Mount in Lenox will be having a Black Tie Gala and those interested should contact Aleta Moncecchi at 743-663-3014. *Chairman Duval* noted that the first meeting after the election will be reorganization, and he will not seek a third year as chair. He thanked Town Administrator Green and Community Development Director Cesan for their hard work with the Board and for the Town.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Bush. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary

 _____ James Bush, Member	 _____ Christine Hoyt, Member
 _____ Joseph Nowak, Vice Chairman	 _____ Richard Blanchard, Member
 _____ John Duval, Chairman	