

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 19, 2019

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 29, 2019 minutes were presented for approval. *Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to waive reading the minutes for May 29, 2019 and approve them as presented, second by Member Duval. Abstention by Member Blanchard. Voted in favor were Chairman Hoyt, Vice Chairman Bush, Members Duval and Nowak. Motion passed.*

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of New Potential Business, Douglas Rosenthal - Outdoor Marijuana Cultivation: Member Duval recused himself due to workplace conflict regarding marijuana. He left the table and joined the audience. Douglas Rosenthal gave his background. He explained that his father owns property on Walling Road in Adams, set back from East Road and Walling Road in a secluded area. He expressed a desire to have a family farm to cultivate marijuana and is seeking a Tier 1 license to grow and sell marijuana in bulk to dispensaries locally and throughout the state. He noted the intention to begin in a gradual way with 25 plants which is double what can be done per household. He expressed a desire to draft a logo that highlights and promotes Adams, and to call the business Greenlock Farms with a farm to table marketing strategy. He explained that people want healthier choices than a factory manufactured product. Security of the operation was outlined and will meet state and local requirements. It was explained that marijuana would not be planted in areas that border residential areas in order to cooperate with the community and the neighbors. Mr. Rosenthal noted that the operation cannot be conducted currently due to zoning bylaws, as it is a Residential District 2, and the bylaw is limited to only indoor growing. He advised that he met with Community Development and discussed potential creation of an amendment to the bylaws which would provide a special permitting process. Board Members addressed concerns regarding neighboring property, and Mr. Rosenthal advised that he would look into the concerns further and connect with the Police Chief to work on this.

Member Duval rejoined the Board at the table.

Certificate of Appreciation: Quinton Thomas. Chairman Hoyt gave some background on the work done by Quinton Thomas to beautify the Veterans Memorial Park in working towards his Eagle Scout Service Award. She listed the work he had done and noted that the raised beds were made at McCann Technical High School under the supervision of Pat Ryan. She explained that DPW Parks and Grounds Foreman Skrocki and the Department of Public Works provided stain for the benches and are continuing to water the plants. *Quinton Thomas* thanked the other Scouts, the Scout Master and his father for their help with the project. He advised he wanted to make sure the monuments and landmarks were beautiful and saw that Memorial Park needed work. He pointed out that he wanted to plant flowers for every person that served for the country and to be beautiful to honor the veterans but had to make adjustments. Board Members commended Mr. Thomas for spearheading the work, and thanked Don Girard for all the years he served the Scouts. It was acknowledged how much effort it takes to be an Eagle Scout and how much positive impact this has for the community. The Board Members provided a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Thomas.

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Facility Use Requests:

Transfer Station, Alert Hose Company, August 10, 2019, August 17, 2019, August 24, 2019, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to table the Facility Use Request for the Transfer Station by Alert Hose Company, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.*

Town Common, Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, July 28, 2019, 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the Pedal and Plod: Brad Schueckler took it over last year and was able to raise \$1000 for the Habitat for Humanity last year, and he noted that the Eagle Scouts built the sheds for the last two houses they built. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the use of the Town Common by the Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity on July 28, 2019 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the Pedal and Plod, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.*

Report on Town Census for 2019: *Chairman Hoyt* read a letter provided by Town Clerk Meczywor reporting an annual census population for 2019 of 8,442 persons, decreasing 34 persons from last year.

Approval of Sub-Committee and Liaison Assignments: It was explained that after the workshop last week the list was revised. *Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to approve the Sub-Committee and Liaison Assignments as presented, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Administrator's Report: The Department of Public Works is working on vegetation control for guard rails, the parks, fields, and flood control area. They are working on structures, manholes, storm water drains and filling pot holes, which are 90 percent complete. The roller motor is still out of service and the crew is hand rolling small areas but larger areas need to wait for the proper equipment, which is expected the first week of July. Sheriff Bowler is providing manpower for the flood control areas to support the Department of Public Works over the next couple weeks as weather permits. Town staff will be at the Transfer Station selling permits and bag tags on Saturday, weather permitting. *LCSquare* has received their provisional marijuana cultivation license. A Town Meeting Member workshop took place to go through the warrant articles and was well attended. The audio system at the Hoosac Valley Elementary School auditorium was addressed in preparation for Town Meeting. Participation with Chairman Hoyt at MASS MoCA took place and the Town of Adams was well represented in conversation with good ideas for regionalization. The Town is slowly moving forward with the Greylock Glenn and has received great press by the Berkshire Eagle. The East Road Solar Project approvals were received regarding vegetation removal and weather permitting will be completed. No power has been lost in this process.

Community Development Report: It was noted that this item would take place at a future workshop.

Town Counsel Report: *Town Counsel St. John III* reported that he prepared a pre-trial memorandum and appeared at a pretrial conference for Housing Court concerning a pending matter. He advised that he discussed a potential state sanitary code violation with the Code Enforcement Officer, reviewed and commented reviewed and commented on the Town Meeting Warrant, and reviewed and provided comment on the agenda for the June 26, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting. He reported that he reviewed and commended on emails and correspondence concerning a personnel matter. He advised he is currently reviewing an easement and title issues regarding the Route 8 Project, is reviewing issues concerning easements to the cemetery off Daniels Court and Upper Linden Street and reviewed emails concerning a proposal for outdoor marijuana cultivation.

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Sub-Committee and Liaison Reports: *Member Nowak* advised that he attended the Planning Board meeting, and noted that the zoning bylaws have not been updated in 20 years so work will be done to bring them up to modern times. Short-term rentals, such as Airbnbs and home-based businesses and their parameters, will be looked at to fit into zoning parameters. Committees will be put together to look at signs, locations, how they are constructed and lighting factors. He advised that the Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee (ASCCC) has had meetings regarding the financial roadmap to reach the goal of \$300,000 and they need more help with it. There is a representative looking at the Town Commons for refurbishing which will come before Town Meeting. He advised there was a meeting in Charlemont on the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership, and the threshold of 11 communities has been met so it can go forward. Work is being done with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to build a close partnership to find funding sources between state and federal agencies. There is a need to craft bylaws and a committee needs to be set up to look at the way Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership will split out funds. He reported that a guest speaker represented the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Greylock Glen will be a great addition to northern Berkshire County since recreation is important. He noted the hard work being done to get this through, and the downturn in the economy will make it harder. *Vice Chairman Bush* informed the Board that he attended the Hoosac Valley High School graduation. He also attended the Council on Aging Meeting. The Fallon House Program came to the Council on Aging and is willing to fund a program. He gave information on other grants for exercise equipment for the space used as a Board Room but there is concern about the size of the space. He advised he attended the Board of Health meeting where and dog excrement was again discussed and new signage is to be put up. There was a Public Hearing on haulers, and only one showed up. He reported that he and Chairman Hoyt attended the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition lunch. He advised there was a Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District meeting where there was discussion about North Adams joining. Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. is the Bulky Waste removal. *Member Duval* advised the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting for June has been cancelled. He advised that the repaving of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail from the Visitors Center to the Berkshire Mall will be started in early 2020. *Chairman Hoyt* advised that the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District had a Town Meeting workshop and advised that the Adams representative for Adams-Cheshire Regional School District position is still vacant. Anyone interested in serving a 3-year term on the School Committee should contact the Superintendent's Office to meet with the School Committee for a brief interview. More information is available from the School Committee or the Board of Selectmen. She noted that this position will assist in the search for a new Superintendent and the Chairman of the School Committee asked to have the Adams Board of Selectmen select a Board representative and also an Adams citizen to sit on the search committee. Board Members and anyone interesting in serving from the community were requested to contact the Town Administrator's office. She also noted that the Town received an update from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission regarding the alcohol license quota and licenses issued in this community.

Announcements and Good of the Order: *Member Nowak* advised that National Grid is replacing street lights with LED lights and they intend to make the change in the whole community. He congratulated Donna Cesan for being an Unsung Heroine for all of her work and dedication shown for this community. He praised her for being very adept at grant writing and being such a value to the community. He noted that many things could not be done without her expertise. He inquired how the Town Clerk's Office is able to provide correct numbers in the census. *Member Nowak* announced vacant positions on the Zoning Board the School Committee for the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District.

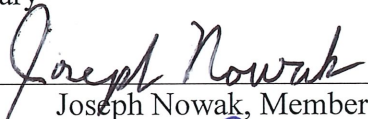
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Member Blanchard and *Vice Chairman Bush* also congratulated Donna Cesan and praised her for how much work she does for Adams and this community. *Chairman Hoyt* explained that Donna Cesan was nominated by Senator Adam Hinds for the award from the Massachusetts Commission for Status of Women for the 2019 class of Unsung Heroines. An award will be presented to Donna Cesan on July 22nd at 2:00 p.m. at Adams Town Hall. She announced that the Fairy Festival was held on Saturday, it was a really nice event and the grounds looked great. She advised that next Wednesday there will be a celebration at the Louison House that the Board is invited to for a ceremony to open the Old Columbia Street location, and Thursday, June 20th at 5:00 p.m. at 85 Main Street North Adams there will be a continuation of an inclusive redevelopment discussion. She reminded citizens that Monday, June 24th at 7:00 p.m. is the annual Town Meeting and encouraged anyone who is interested to attend as it is a great way to find out more about the town meeting process. She noted that Town Meeting will be recorded by Northern Berkshire Community Television and aired at another time. *Town Administrator Green* announced that Police Officer Whitney will start next week and will have a quick orientation a celebration will be held at Town Hall and all welcome.

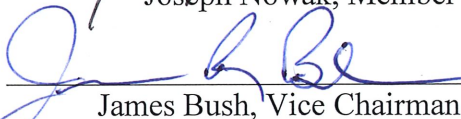
ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary

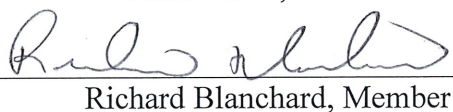


Joseph Nowak, Member

John Duval, Member



James Bush, Vice Chairman



Richard Blanchard, Member



Christine Hoyt, Chairman