



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017 – 7:00 PM

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

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** held a meeting at the **Adams Town Hall** at 7:00 p.m. **Chairman Jeffrey Snoonian** presided the meeting. Present were **Members Joseph Nowak, John Duval and Richard Blanchard**. Also in attendance was **Town Counsel, Ed St. John III**. *Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco was absent.*

The Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Letter to the Editor

Jeff Lefebvre requested the Board read the *Letter to the Editor* written by John Krol regarding the School District.

Municipal Aggregation

Jeff Lefebvre inquired if the Board was going to discuss the Municipal Aggregation of energy.

School Budget

Jeff Lefebvre advised there are a couple of school budgets being considered, both of which may require a Proposition 2 ½ Override. He asked that the Board not support it because it is not sustainable.

Bag Share Challenge

Francie Anne Riley announced the Bag Share Challenge, showed the bags that have been made, and requested donations from citizens. Bag making takes place on Saturdays and Sundays at the Firehouse Café. April 13th there will be a challenge at C.T. Plunkett School from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and all are invited.

Berkshire Mountain Faerie Festival

Richard Tavelli gave the Board an update on the Berkshire Mountain Faerie Festival. There will be new musical acts, and family friendly events. Performers and those wishing to volunteer were invited to contact the steering committee on www.berkshiremountainsfaeriefestival.com or the Facebook page. He announced there are new book markers that give a dollar off entry and describe the festival, which will be held on June 17, 2017 at Bowe Field from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Snoonian gave an overview of the two Facility Use Requests. In December the Adams Lassie League was granted permission to use Russell Field and the approvals would only be for use of Reid Field. He thanked those who had advocated for the use of the field for each group over the last few weeks.

Facility Use Request – Russell and Reid Fields, ACS Girls Softball

Board Members pointed out that the Board of Selectmen has no authority to determine how many leagues there are in Adams, or their structure, but only to approve field usage. Fragmentation of the leagues and the community was noted as a concern. Members of each of the leagues were asked to come forward to explain what the issue was, and it was also noted that one of the insurance documents was listed as the Dana Labbee Basketball League rather than the ACS softball league.

ACS Softball League representatives explained that Greg Charon authorized their League to be under the rider of the Dana Labbee Basketball League insurance until they were up and running as a 501(c)3. The breakdown of how the league would be run and how many divisions and teams there will be was outlined.



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The league would be a house-league only at the current time, and will use Bowe Field for practice. It was explained there were issues in the past with the Adams Lassie League that had gone unresolved and the girls wanted to form the new league.

Adams Lassie League representative explained that this league has been using Town fields for many years, and currently has 77 paid registrations, with more pending. He explained the Adams Lassie League is chartered with Babe Ruth, partnered with North Adams to provide extra games and they have all the insurance needed. Over the last couple years the league averaged 110 kids. There is a house program and a travel league. There is an expanded team schedule, and the league can offer a wide variety of programs for the kids. He advised they have always had both fields for their use, and field space is limited because they work around the High Schools. He expressed having 3 leagues on two fields would create a log jam. He explained that the Adams Lassie League has put money and equipment on the fields and don't think they have done anything to jeopardize using both fields.

Additional discussion over Parks Commission approving both fields for use by the Adams Lassie League in December 2016 took place. It was clarified that there were two applications, one for each field, and only one got to the Board of Selectmen for approval before the ACS League applied for use of Reid Field. Parents also gave information to the Board. Discussion about whether allowing a new league to displace a league that has been using the two fields for years is advisable.

Motion made by Chairman Snoonian to approve the use of Reid Field for the ACS Girls' Softball League April 10, 2017 through the second week of July 31, 2017 weekday evenings 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and weekends 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Second by Voted in favor were Chairman Snoonian, and Members Duval and Nowak

Voted in opposition was Member Blanchard

Motion passed

Facility Use Request – Reid Field, Adams Lassie League

Motion made by Chairman Snoonian to approve the use of Reid Field for Adams Lassie League

There was no second

Motion failed for lack of a second

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Vice Chair

Motion made by Member Nowak to appoint John Duval as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request - Adams Visitors Center, NBCC

Chairman Snoonian reviewed the application for the use of the Adams Visitors Center by Northern Berkshire Community Coalition (NBCC) on May 6, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the screening of the film "Faces" for addiction recovery in the community. A community conversation will follow, and NBCC will handle all cleaning. Insurance documents are current.



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Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the use of the Adams Visitors Center by NBCC on May 6, 2017 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Application for Sunday Entertainment License – Bascom Lodge

Chairman Snoonian briefly reviewed the Sunday Entertainment License application for Bascom Lodge.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Duval to approve the Sunday Entertainment License for Bascom Lodge

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Ice Cream Vendor By-Law

Chairman Snoonian advised this by-law is required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for ice cream trucks in town. This by-law has been vetted by Town Counsel, and his input was incorporated into the by-law by Chief Tarsa. The Board would vote whether to approve it to be put on the Town Meeting Warrant.

Chief Tarsa explained that in 2014 this became a mandate by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for municipalities to be responsible for Ice Cream Vendors. The Town must have a by-law in case a vendor wants to be licensed in the Town of Adams, as there is not currently an ice cream vendor business in Adams.

Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the Ice Cream Vendor By-Law to be put on the Town Meeting Warrant

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Approval of Strategic Plan

Chairman Snoonian advised he spoke with Community Development Director Donna Cesan and she needs another week or two for finalization of the Strategic Plan.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to table the approval of the Strategic Plan

Second by Vice Chairman Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Approval of Municipal Aggregation

The current rate is \$.08995, and per kWh; National Grid is \$.09787 per kWh. The new rate is \$.08668 per kWh and National Grid would be \$.09432 per kWh. The reason this is only a six month contract is this would put Adams in synchronization with the rest of the Berkshire County aggregation group. The energy market is fluid and the rates are only good for a couple days.

Board Members mentioned that a six month contract may be advantageous because if Pittsfield joins the aggregation, the price could go down. A question was raised about the Town of Adams having a lower rate than the larger aggregation group. This contract does not lock Adams into joining the larger aggregation group, and could continue to get its own rate through Colonial Power Group as it has been doing. Additional discussion took place about the contract timing and when rates go up.



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Motion made by Vice Chairman Duval to approve the Municipal Aggregation contract for six months at the \$.08668 per kWh rate

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Capital Improvement Plan Changes

Chairman Snoonian advised with the School budget in limbo and repairs for Town Hall on the plan it is not ready to go forward.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Duval to table the Capital Improvement Plan Changes

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Funding

Chairman Snoonian advised the School District has still not approved a budget, but the Board of Selectmen has. There is another School Committee meeting on Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Hoosac Valley High School.

Superintendent Robert Putnam advised that Attorney Jeffrey Grandchamp will be providing an opinion about how the budget should be presented to the Towns. The Administration will bring a presentation forward from that opinion on Monday night.

Board Members expressed a concern for what is best for the children, and that for the last two years the budget process has gone way beyond the usual timeframe. Superintendent Putnam advised he had passed out a plan he had previously used in other districts to the Audit and Evaluation Committee that sets a timeframe that begins the process in August. This would be helpful for preplanning and making necessary changes.

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Vice Chairman Duval will be attending the BRPC Executive Committee Meeting tomorrow and will report back at the next meeting.

Stormwater Management

Member Nowak and Vice Chairman Duval attended a seminar on Stormwater Runoff Management and techniques that can be used to harness some of the water before it enters into catch basins. There was not enough information on the financial impact that making changes would require to be in compliance.

Planning Board

Member Nowak attended the Planning Board Meeting and at 131 Columbia Street there will be a restaurant going in. Improvements will be made to the building. Work was done toward crafting a by-law for medical marijuana. There will be a meeting on April 24, 2017 to discuss this topic further.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator was not in attendance.



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Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III advised since his last report he reviewed and proposed changes to the Ice Cream Vendor By-Law, reviewed a proposed zoning enforcement order, responded to a question regarding an ethics issue, he corresponded with town staff and opposing counsel regarding a pending litigation issue, had correspondence with the code enforcement officer, and opposing counsel regarding a sanitary code violation matter, he reviewed a proposed warrant article regarding a street acceptance, he reviewed correspondence and provided comments to a pending criminal matter, and reviewed correspondence and provided comment concerning a donation of land in lieu of back taxes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Election Date and Voter Registration

Chairman Snoonian advised there is an election on May 1, 2017. The voter registration deadline is Tuesday, April 11, 2017. The Town Clerk's office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2017.

Bag Share Event

Chairman Snoonian advised on Saturday, April 8, 2017 two of the Board of Selectmen and the candidates for the Board of Selectmen will be at the Firehouse Café at 12:00 p.m. to make bags.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Member Nowak to adjourn

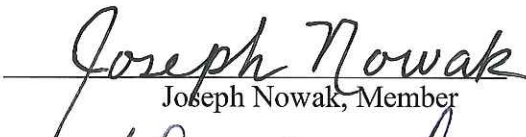
Second by Member Duval

Unanimous Vote

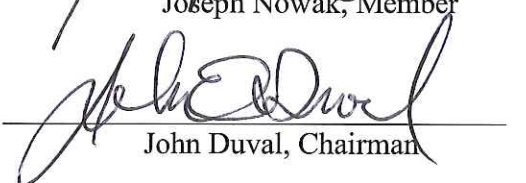
Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary




Joseph Nowak, Member



John Duval, Chairman

Christine Hoyt, Member



Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman