

Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

RECEIVED-POSTED
MAR 26 AM 10:19
TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date the Board of Selectmen held a meeting on the first floor of Adams Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Hoyt. Present were Vice Chairman Bush and Members Duval, Blanchard and Nowak. Also present were Town Administrator Green and Town Counsel St. John III.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the February 19, 2020 meeting were submitted for approval. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to waive reading the minutes for February 19, 2020 and approve them as submitted, second by Member Duval. Abstention by Chairman Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: Council on Aging Director Erica Girgenti advised the 2020 census will be rolling out. The Newsletter is out and a flyer will go out with dates on the Census. March 9th and March 12th information sessions will be held at the Council on Aging and the Library on the Federal Census. Staff will help with electronic returns. She advised that the Council on Aging Department has had a number of caregivers of those with dementia and Alzheimer's looking for support and she advised there is a caregiver support group through Council on Aging at the Visitors Center on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The program "What's Your Plan" is returning to provide information to those of retirement age or adult children of older parents to learn about end of life care, downsizing, and funeral preparations. The program will be hosted on March 9th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Services in attendance are legal, home care, visiting nurses, dementia daycare, hospice, funeral home and care coordination services. It was noted that seven individuals utilized the vans for voting, and there was not an increase in use. Richard Tavelli of the Adams Arts Advisory Board gave the Board Members an update on the Project Sunflower program. There will be a hands-on workshop on how to plant sunflowers on Saturday, March 28th, Saturday at the Visitors Center from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and seeds, soil and pots will be provided. There will be a handout for practical tips on growing sunflower seeds and work is being done with the Agricultural Fair to have a speaker. School groups, children, and civic clubs are invited to participate.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Use Request, Adams Visitors Center: Bianca Walker, on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, on October 3, 2020 from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Berkshire County Walk to End Alzheimer's. Bianca Walker: advised that this program is their largest fundraiser and this is the 23rd year of this event. The tent will be set up on October 2nd. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to put this request back on the table, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous. Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to approve the use of the Adams Visitors Center and parking lot by the Alzheimer's Association on October 3, 2020 from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Berkshire County Walk to End Alzheimer's, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*

NEW BUSINESS

Town Acquisition of Zylonite Station Road Parcel for Conservation Purposes from National Grid: *Town Administrator Green* advised that National Grid has been updating the substation in the Zylonite section of town and has been working with MassDEP to return it to conservation purposes in perpetuity. *Brett Turbridge of VHB* advised they are determining Town interest in the two acres of land at that site. He explained that National Grid did upgrades of the two-acre parcel with the Army Corps of Engineers and MassDEP and it required mitigation. He noted it is surrounded by wetlands and is being restored to wetlands subject to agricultural practices. The bulk of the restoration includes plantings, and permits are required for monitoring to make sure the rehabilitated land is functioning as a wetland for a five-year monitoring period which started in 2018. Invasive plant species were noted on the property and National Grid is treating them with an herbicide application for a five-year period. MassDEP asked National Grid to find the fee owner for conservation. National Grid generated a letter to the town with a request, map and summary of ongoing conditions and permissions. The request was for the Town to accept the two-acre donation to have wetland value, as an open space addition to the town. The agricultural space has met the definition of wetlands but has no vegetation to slow floods. It has no contaminants to be cleaned up. The prevalence and types of invasive species was discussed and National Grid is handling it for five years to comply with MassDEP guidelines. If containment is achieved then it will be eligible to be released from continued treatment. If bounds are deteriorating or nonconforming activity takes place it will have to be reevaluated. It was pointed out that there would be no obligation for the Town to do any work on the property. MassDEP does not want hiking trails or parking there as gravel for walkways conflicts with the intent of it being just an open space and would create safety issues. *Chris Pirella of National Grid* and *Attorney Colin Van Dyke* addressed questions regarding the National Grid property. It was noted that slumping of soil in the area was unlikely as it is removed from the river itself by a distance and it would take decades or centuries before it would happen. It was noted that plantings are being put in place to replace invasive species as they are removed. Verification was made that taxes are being paid on the National Grid property as long as they hold it until it becomes Town-owned land. It was explained that there will not be any impact on the next phase of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail as it will be just east of there. Different ways to approach approving the donation were reviewed. It was explained that National Grid had already made a presentation to the Conservation Commission and Chairman Fassell is already aware. A donation agreement draft and deed were reviewed by Town Counsel, and if approved he and the Town Administrator will work together to get the paperwork completed. ***Motion made by Member Nowak to accept the two-acre parcel from National Grid to be used for conservation purposes, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous. Motion made by Member Nowak to accept the two-acre parcel as a gift for the Conservation Commission to maintain, second by Member Duval. Vote: unanimous.***

Discussion and Approval of Traffic Commission Recommendation on the Parade Route for Susan B. Anthony Suffragette Celebration August 23, 2020. *Erin Mucci* of the Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee (ASCCC) explained the route presented to Traffic Commission. Police Chief Tarsa submitted a letter regarding action taken by Traffic Commission, which was read aloud by Chairman Hoyt. Praise was given to Erin Mucci, Peter Tomy and Paul Demastrie regarding the care and consideration given to all potential routes. The recommended Parade Route was reviewed. Citizens may walk to the Town Common for the unveiling of the Susan B. Anthony statue immediately thereafter. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to approve the parade route as outlined, second by Member Blanchard. Abstention by Member Nowak. Voted in Favor: Chairman Hoyt, Vice Chairman Bush, Members Duval and Blanchard. Motion passed.***

Facility Use Requests:

Greylock Glen: *Wedding, Daniel Savary, Barbara Bonnett, August 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve use of Greylock Glen for Daniel Savary and Barbara Bonnett on August 16, 2020 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. subject to insurance indicating the Town of Adams is listed as covered, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.*

Greylock Glen: *Wedding, Edward Bunn, July 25, 2020, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve use of Greylock Glen for Edward Bunn on July 25, 2020 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. subject to insurance indicating the Town of Adams is listed as covered, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.*

Greylock Glen: *Wedding, Samantha Horton, August 8, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve use of Greylock Glen for Samantha Horton on August 8, 2020 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. subject to insurance indicating the Town of Adams is listed as covered, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.*

Chairman Hoyt recommended that the Greylock Glen Committee meet regarding use of the Greylock Glen and put forth the recommendation of a fee for use. An inquiry was made whether weddings will be posted.

Formation and Appointment of Police Chief Screening Committee Members: *Chairman Hoyt provided information from the Personnel Sub-Committee to the Board. The Police Chief screening process was briefly reviewed. It was noted that last week the job was posted and applications are coming in. The deadline for applications is March 26th and an aggressive timeline has been set to get someone in place by July 1st. The proposed timeline of the screening committee was reviewed and it was noted the committee may start on March 30th. It was noted that research was done to find ways to involve the community and to promote community policing. The directive for the screening committee was reviewed aloud. Five committee members were recommended and discussion took place regarding the proposed makeup of the committee. Proposed structure of committee members includes a local business owner, a staff member, a criminal justice professional, a resident of the community and a School Department member. Individual proposed members were considered and their bios read. One Member expressed concern about not having time to consider the committee structure and members longer. Clarification on the difference between meeting with town staff and meeting with the public was made. Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to move forward with the Screening Committee and the Members proposed, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*

Designation of Special Municipal Employee Status: *Police Chief Screening Committee Members. Motion made by Member Blanchard to designate the Police Chief Screening Committee Member position as a Special Municipal Employee status, second by Member Duval. Vote: unanimous.*

Approval of Job Descriptions

Department of Public Works, Working Foreman – Highway; Department of Public Works, Working Foreman – Parks & Grounds. *Town Administrator Green advised that Community Development Director Cesan worked through the job description process to align the Highway and Parks & Grounds Foremen positions to finalize the structure of the Department of Public Works. The positions were budgeted in FY2020 and FY2021 and one position is vacant. The Parks & Grounds Working Foreman position is currently occupied, will not be posted and will be realigned appropriately. Member Nowak inquired if the positions are really needed in these tough budget times.*

He noted the Town just hired a Department of Public Works Director and an Operations Supervisor. The hierarchy of supervision over the other staff in the department was reviewed. Both job descriptions were reviewed with the DPW Director. Member Nowak requested the Board see if the positions were needed before going forward with the job description approvals. It was noted there is no financial impact, and the department structure and the history of putting the job description update in place was outlined. The DPW Director and Community Development Director will be invited to come to a future meeting to discuss the positions and the process further. ***Motion made by Member Duval to table the job description approvals, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.***

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator: Emergency Management Director Kleiner, Adams Ambulance Director Gleason, Building Commissioner Garner, Code Enforcement Officer Blaisdell and Town Administrator Green participated in a conference call put on by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding the Novel Coronavirus. It was noted that the risk in Massachusetts is and is anticipated to remain low. There are no actions required at this time. It was noted that Berkshire Medical Center and local First Responders have information on symptoms and criteria for testing. At this time the Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not expect widespread issues, is monitoring the situation and will adapt accordingly as information evolves. If information needs to be disseminated the Town will do so. Town Administrator Green was commended for the information provided.

Town Counsel: *Town Counsel St. John III* advised since his last report he performed work with staff on the Grove Street and Commercial Street order of taking and was involved in the recording of the necessary documents and plans at the Registry of Deeds. He advised he reviewed proposed PILOT agreements, reviewed the facility use applications for adequacy of insurance and provided comment on them.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: *Member Nowak* advised that the Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee is going full speed ahead. *Chairman Hoyt* advised she received a parade participation application for Sunday, August 23rd and will fill it out. *Vice Chairman Bush* advised that there was a Berkshire Community Action Council (BCAC) meeting where State Representative Barrett was the Master of Ceremonies and a discussion on poverty took place. *Member Duval* advised there was a Budget Sub-Committee meeting and there will be another in approximately two weeks. He noted the next step is for the Board to identify Workshop dates to review the budget submittal. The goal is to start March 23rd for budget workshops. The budget discussion with schools will be a workshop held on one evening with the Finance Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER: *Member Nowak* advised that on March 15th the Maple Grove Civic Club at the Polish National Alliance on Victory Street is holding a meeting at 3:00 p.m. with State Representative Barrett speaking. Member Duval inquired about the forum on Crotteau Street which was noted as having gone well. *Chairman Hoyt* advised it was well attended and the Community Development office will be connecting with some affected properties. VHB was there to answer questions and presented information on the project. The date on the project is pending but should begin this year. She reminded those looking to run for Town Meeting Member positions to pick up papers by next Thursday at the Town Clerk's office. She noted that there are other seats available and are listed on the Town's website. It was noted that there is a need for three people to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. An application is available on the Town website to be considered. She announced that Thunderfest is Saturday, March 7th from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Adams Visitors Center. ProAdams and volunteers were thanked for putting this event together.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

#6. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body;

#3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;

- Massachusetts Coalition of Police, IUPA, AFL-CIO Local 367

At 8:45 Motion made by Member Nowak to enter into Executive Session for Reasons #6 and #3 as read aloud coming out only to adjourn, second by Member Blanchard. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Hoyt, Vice Chairman Bush, Members Duval, Nowak and Blanchard. Motion passed.

At 9:50 p.m. Motion made by Member Nowak to exit the Executive Session, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Hoyt, Vice Chairman Bush, Members Duval, Nowak and Blanchard. Motion passed.

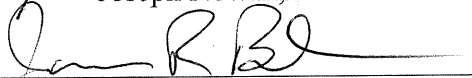
ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



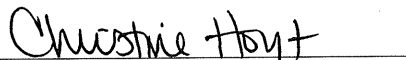
Joseph Nowak, Member

John Duval, Member



James Bush, Vice Chairman

Richard Blanchard, Member



Christine Hoyt, Chairman