

Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at the Town Hall Board of Selectmen Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Duval. Present from the Board of Selectmen were Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Hoyt, Members Blanchard, Nowak and Rosenberg. Also present were Town Administrator Green, Town Counsel St. John III, Administrative Assistant Dunlap, Town Clerk Meczywor, Todd Fiorentino of Poseidon Coffee, Erin Mucci of ProAdams and the Susan B. Anthony Celebration Committee, Don Sommer of Haflinger Haus, Michael Mach of the Susan B. Anthony Center, Peter Gentile from NBCTC and Greg Fournier from iBerkshires.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the *July 7, 2021 joint meeting, July 14, 2021 and July 21, 2021* meetings were submitted for approval. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Hoyt to waive reading and approve the minutes for the July 7, 2021 as submitted, second by Member Rosenberg. Abstention by Member Blanchard. Voted in favor were Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Hoyt, Members Nowak and Rosenberg. Motion passed. Motion made by Vice Chairman Hoyt to waive reading and approve the minutes for the July 14, 2021 Workshop and July 21, 2021 Meeting as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Town Clerk Meczywor* advised that the Adams Events Planning Committee is having Movie Night on Friday August 6th and will show the movie "Hook". Seating begins at 7:30 p.m. and the movie starts at 8:30 p.m. August 20th the movie "Onward" will be shown. On August 10th Melissa Brinton will be performing a concert from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on August 28th Straight Up will perform. The Town-wide Tag Sale will take place on August 14th, rain or shine, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and there are 37 participants. Maps are available at Town Hall, the Library, Visitors Center, Police Station, and on the Town Website via the calendar. *Don Sommer* inquired if the Board would consider a Charter Review Committee as the Charter is many years old and things have changed. He noted that it is long overdue. *Vice Chairman Hoyt* advised that at Town Meeting funding was appropriated for consultant to look at the Charter Review and it was slowed down with the pandemic. She stated she will send the information to Chairman Duval and Town Administrator Green to follow up on. *Town Administrator Green* confirmed that \$20,000 was appropriated and *Member Nowak* concurred with the need to review the Charter.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Use Request, Adams Visitors Center Property: *Todd Fiorentino*, Poseidon Coffee Kiosk from July 22, 2021. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to put on the table the Facility Use Request and Common Victualer License application for Poseidon Coffee, second by Member Nowak. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. Town Administrator Green*** briefly reviewed the request.

He noted that the iBerkshires reported a story on the coffee kiosk at the Visitors Center. He explained that if the Board approved the request to use the parcel at the Visitors Center then he would work with Town Counsel St. John III on creating the lease agreement for use of the property. *Todd Fiorentino* briefly noted that he operated in Pittsfield for a few years and is looking at the location by the bike trail for cappuccinos, coffees and other items. He explained that he has talked about getting a seasonal liquor license to make Kentucky and Irish Coffees as well. *Member Nowak* commended the Licensing Sub-Committee for working on the alcohol portion of the request and pointed out that there are a lot of items to be hashed out before that could be made possible. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Hoyt to approve the use of the Visitors Center from September 1, 2021 to November 1, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. contingent upon the lease, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

Common Victualer License Application: *Todd Fiorentino*, Poseidon Coffee Kiosk. Member Nowak inquired whether there would be pastries or just coffee and other beverages. Todd Fiorentino advised that there would be no food offered but has a food service permit from the Board of Health. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the Common Victualer License for Todd Fiorentino dba Poseidon Coffee, second by Vice Chairman Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

NEW BUSINESS

Update CDBG Public Hearing, Wednesday August 18, 2021 at 7:10 p.m.: *Chairman Duval* noted there will be a public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant application and it was explained that this information was provided for the Board of Selectmen to give public notice on the next public hearing for the CDBG application which is required by law to show Town's intent.

Report on Greylock Glen: *Member Nowak* emphasized the intent to have this project done correctly and the project involves more than just officials. He noted the importance of having the public and the Town of Adams to be part of the Greylock Glen and information will be provided as it evolves.

Report on Berkshire Regional Planning Commission / Metropolitan Planning Organization: *Chairman Duval* advised things are slow until September and reports will be provided as they unfold.

Appointment of Election Workers: *(See attached).* *Town Clerk Meczywor* advised that Election Workers serve from September 1st to August 31st each year. The list of Election Worker must be appointed by August 15th to be effective September 1st for the period of one year. She also asked for a vote by the Selectmen to authorize the Town Clerk to make emergency appointments if people cannot make it. She advised she anticipates only one election, in May 2022. *Chairman Duval* read aloud Town Clerk Meczywor's letter requesting the appointments. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Hoyt to approve the appointment list as posted, for September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. Motion made by Vice Chairman Hoyt to authorize the Town Clerk to make emergency appointments as necessary, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

Housing Authority Tenant Board Appointment: *Adele Hale.* *Town Counsel St. John III* advised when this was presented several weeks ago there was a situation where the election position was not filled and there was a request to have someone appointed to the position. Due to a recent change to legislature which provided the means by which a Tenant Member would be appointed to the Housing Authority a request was made for Housing Authority to reach out to the tenant organization and to post a notice that the position needed to be filled. Two people came forward, and it is the recommendation from members of the Housing Authority to appoint Adele Hale. *Vice Chairman Hoyt* inquired about it being the second time Ms. Hale is appointed to position without being elected.

Town Clerk Meczywor advised that Ms. Hale took out papers but was hampered in elections due to the pandemic. *Town Counsel St. John III* advised that this is now able to be an appointed position, and the Board could determine length of the term, at its discretion. It was explained that this is typically a five-year term, like the Planning Board, if elected. Questions were asked about whether an elected position that is transferred to an appointed position could be put back on the ballot. ***Motion made by Member Nowak to table the appointment until Town Counsel St. John III can look into the matter of the elected position transfer to an appointed position, second by Vice Chairman Hoyt.*** It was noted that this situation out of the ordinary and a request was made to add this topic to the workshop next week to discuss further with Town Counsel. ***Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

One Day Liquor License, Bounti-Fare, August 21, 2021 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Susan B. Anthony Celebration, Park Street, Adams. Erin Mucci of the Susan B. Anthony Celebration Committee advised that David Nicholas was unable to attend the meeting but he is participating in the festival. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the One Day Wine & Malt License for David Nicholas dba Bounti-Fare for the Susan B. Anthony Celebration on August 21, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., second by Member Nowak. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

One Day Liquor License, Bounti-Fare, October 3, 2021 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the Steel Rail Half Marathon. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Hoyt to approve One Day Wine & Malt License for David Nicholas dba Bounti-Fare on October 3, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

One Day Liquor License, Haflinger Haus, August 20, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 39 Commercial Street, for a music concert. Don Sommer advised Susan B. Anthony Center hosting a concert, serving beer and wine only, to kick off the Susan B. Anthony Celebration activities. Michael Mach advised there was a change of hours to 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the former St. Mark's Church at 39 Commercial Street. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Hoyt to approve the One Day Wine & Malt License on August 20, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to support a music concert at the former St. Mark's Church at 39 Commercial Street, second by Member Nowak, Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

Facility Use Request: Adams Visitors Center, Carol Cushenette, Fall Run for Registrations, September 18, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Hoyt to approve the use of the Adams Visitors Center for Fall Run registrations on September 18, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

Facility Use Request: Adams Visitors Center, ProAdams, October 10, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Ramblefest. Town Administrator Green reviewed the application briefly. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the use of the Adams Visitors Center by ProAdams on October 10, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Abstention by Member Rosenberg. Voted in favor were Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Hoyt, Members Nowak and Blanchard. Motion passed.***

Application for Temporary Sign on Public Way: Virginia Duval, from 5 to 10 lawn signs on Town Properties as appropriate, Route 8 from August 20, 2021 to August 23, 2021. Virginia Duval advised that the Susan B. Anthony Celebration inspired the request. The signs would be put in roughly the same places as before on Town properties to support the "Vote for Susan" campaign from Friday, August 20, 2021 until August 23, 2021. Board Members thanked Virginia for encouraging people to vote and putting the signs out during the celebration. She advised that if people want signs that she would be able to provide them. Member Nowak asked for Quaker Meeting House hours being provided by the Historical Society staff and it was noted they will run Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. until Columbus Day Weekend. She encouraged people to visit the Quaker Meeting House.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Hoyt to approve the placement of Vote for Susan signs on the Route 8 Corridor for five to ten signs from Friday, August 20, 2021 to Monday, August 23, 2021, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator: *Town Administrator Green* advised that the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room is back to direct cable use. He reported that the Covid-19 Delta Variant is taking its toll and being spread around the community. He noted that Adams has been declared an area of substantial transmission and the CDC is monitoring the Delta Variant. He advised that visitation at a public meeting or public building requires guests to wear masks. He pointed out that the data from the public health report is one week old, and at that time Adams had nine open cases of Covid-19 which were expected to be updated. He emphasized that there were 366 tests performed on Adams residents but only 2.4% came back positive. He explained that there is a reason to be cautious but no reason to panic. He reported that 46% of citizens county-wide have been fully vaccinated with two doses and an effort is underway to obtain another pop-up vaccination clinic for Adams at the Susan B. Anthony Celebration in a mobile clinic to offer the vaccine to the unvaccinated population. He encouraged citizens to make an informed decision on vaccination because the vaccine shows it may prevent hospitalization. He reported that last night was National Night Out for community engagement with law enforcement which was a great success. He thanked Chief Kelley and Sergeant Onorato for organizing the event, and noted all of the agencies that attended. He noted that on Thursday or Friday approximately five red historical aluminum signs will be installed for the Interpretive Historical Sign project. It was explained that Town Administrator Green, Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Hoyt and Member Rosenberg have been holding Community Roundtable meetings for those interested in doing things around town and thanked those who participate for believing in Adams. *Member Nowak* inquired about people being evicted from rental properties and it was noted that information on this has not come forward.

Town Counsel: *Town Counsel St. John III* advised that he spoke with Housing Court and opposing counsel regarding a pending Board of Health case. He reviewed the updates regarding the appointment of a Tenant Member to the Adams Housing Authority for compliance with the recent legislative changes. He assisted the Code Enforcement Officer in the filing of an emergency petition for a violation of the State Sanitary Code. He reviewed and commented upon an intermunicipal agreement between Adams and Savoy for the provision of services by the Adams Council on Aging to residents of Savoy. He participated in a meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee regarding the proposed coffee kiosk at the Visitors Center. He reviewed a construction contract and bonds for the Davis Street Culvert project. He also researched the deeds to the Adams Fire District property near Hoxie Brook Road. *Member Nowak* asked for additional information about the intermunicipal agreement between Adams and Savoy for Council on Aging services and it was explained that the Council on Aging has been reaching out to other communities to provide services for a fee. A preliminary agreement is in place with Savoy, and Town Counsel St. John III is making sure it is clear and as specific as possible for the services the Council on Aging will provide for what Savoy would be paying for. *Vice Chairman Hoyt* inquired if there was a decision by Judge Vrabel on the dog hearing, and it was noted that a decision is expected at any time.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: *Member Rosenberg* reported that the Community Roundtables have active support from community groups and a collegial exchange of information. *Vice Chairman Hoyt* reported that the Licensing Sub-Committee met and reviewed the request from Poseidon Coffee. Town Counsel St. John III is helping to research questions raised in the meeting.


Member Nowak reported that after research he found that the grant request for the Quaker Meeting House has been turned over to Community Development Director Coughlin. *Town Administrator Green* advised that the Chairman of the Cemetery Commission will attend the next Board of Selectmen Workshop and can report on it. *Member Nowak* noted that the Seasonal Laborers are working on the plant beds. He stated he approved of the Susan B. Anthony banners on Park Street. He reported that he attended National Night Out and was pleased to see that the turnout was pretty good. He emphasized that it is important for kids to see police officers in a different venue instead of just seeing them as arresting people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER: *Vice Chairman Hoyt* announced that the Susan B. Anthony Celebration on August 21, 2021 is still taking applications for vendors. The application is available on the www.celebratesusanbathony.org site or the Town website. She also announced that the second Coffee on the Court will be held on August 12th at 7:30 a.m. on Armory Court. Citizens are invited to have coffee with their neighbors and downtown businesses.

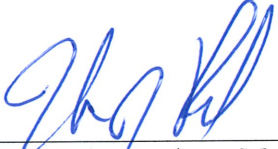
ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn, second by Vice Chairman Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

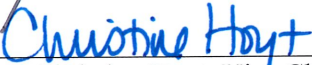
Deborah J. Dunlap, Recording Secretary



Joseph Nowak, Member



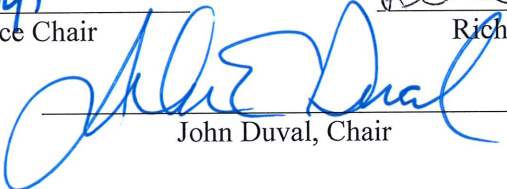
Howard Rosenberg, Member



Christine Hoyt, Vice Chair



Richard Blanchard, Member



John Duval, Chair