

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSHOP MINUTES 6/14/17

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CLERK

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Duval at 6:00 p.m. Nowak and Hoyt were present, as well as Community Development Director Donna Cesan and VHB Project Manager, Matthew Chase.

Transportation Projects

Complete Streets: Community Development Director Cesan gave an overview of the Complete Streets policy that was previously adopted and introduced Matthew Chase, the Engineer and Project Manager. Mr. Chase reviewed the three-tier process involved with MassDOT funding, selecting and ranking projects to be completed. Discussion included the Greylock Glen Master Plan Traffic Study and other traffic studies done at key intersections, and the location of sidewalks. Project scoring was also explained. Chapter 90 funding availability and the Transportation Improvement Plan were briefly discussed. The 25% engineering project completion was noted as helpful and northern end of the Route 8 Construction Project beginning at Lime Street was explained as being one third of the large project. Federal highway restrictions were noted as a factor, and on-street parking and bike lanes are an impact in the project. Some traffic study funds were received from the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The DPW and Traffic Commission will provide feedback. Further discussion on creating a plan for ranking the projects took place and it was recommended that Director Cesan and her staff create a list to submit to the Board for review and adjustment.

Route 8 Corridor Project: Mr. Chase explained the survey is complete and gave options of having 11' lanes with 5' shoulders and a 2' or 3' buffer between the drive lane and the bike lane. Bridges were noted as complicated and work is being done with MassDOT to decide where to terminate sidewalks. A meeting is being scheduled with Boston to include the Bridge, Complete Streets and ADA Departments. Buffered bike lane locations, sidewalks and guardrails were discussed along the route of the project. Green infrastructure is being looked at for drainage. MS4 compliance in July is being considered. Tree placement, lighting, rapid flashing beacons and grass strips were reviewed. This project is on the TIP for 2020 but may be sooner if good progress is made. A 25% design hearing is hoped for this year. Chapter 90 funding was able to be used. Five design concepts for the Route 8 North section were reviewed and discussed, including curb cuts, a buffer to the bike trail, where turns would take place, acceleration and deceleration lanes, eminent domain, reducing from four to two lanes, having a jug handle, U-Turns, a center planted strip and tree lining to produce an aesthetic impact on the community. Concern about traffic backup and local businesses and residents getting out of their properties was expressed. With effort the driveways impacted could be counted. Utility costs were weighed. A proposal of two lanes in each direction with 8' planted strip without a left turn option was considered. The next step was outlined for the Board to give Director Cesan projects for the list to be ranked before having meetings for public discussion with a deadline of September 1st. A meeting will be held with the Traffic Commission in July and again with the Board in August.

Pedestrian Bridges: Mr. Chase explained the bridge investigations are being done and he summarized the work done on the Murray Street and Gavin Avenue Pedestrian Bridges. Drones were flown underneath the bridges to get pictures and recommendations were created for the best possible solution to fix the bridges. Utilities need to be accommodated and possibilities are replacement or rehabilitation. The protection of the water source, and permitting costs were touched on. A steel truss option, built in

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 6/21/17

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Duval at 7:00 p.m. Blanchard, Hoyt and Nowak were present as well as Town Counsel Ed. St. John and Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco. The meeting was broadcast by NBCTC.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of minutes: Move by Member Blanchard to waive the reading of the minutes for May 3, 2017 and approve as written, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous in favor. Motion carried. Move by Member Nowak to waive the reading of the minutes for May 10, 2017 and approve as written, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: 3 in favor, 1 (Blanchard) abstained. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Member Hoyt gave information to the public about the Alzheimer's "Longest Day" events in progress at the Visitors Center. Resident Jeff Lefebvre noted Town Meeting went well and addressed the Board with questions regarding an increase in tax rate and the reduction of Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund, and the closed school while there being a \$300,000 increase in the budget.

Public Hearing

Public Hearing on Accepting Solid Waste at Adams Recycling Center, 7:10 p.m.: Move by Member Blanchard to open the Public Hearing, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion carried.

Town Administrator Mazzucco announced the Public Hearing was to receive public comment on taking solid waste at the landfill. A formal vote will take place on the next agenda. Citizen Jeff Lefebvre expressed concern about the process which was tried in the past, became chaos and trash was dumped on back roads by people refusing to pay for a sticker. The cost for DPW cleanup would increase. Greg Deblois of the Ad Hoc Committee on Solid Waste advised of a collection of televisions so they shouldn't be dumped on back roads and a fee chart is needed to help pay for the attendant. Resident Scott Cernik inquired what impact this change will have on local businesses who are refuse haulers. Resident Corey Bishop explained most commercial refuse haulers make money on the scale and typically go to North Adams because they won't pay by bag. Citizen Elizabeth Bushey expressed appreciation for the DPW getting rid of tree branches. David Rhoads of the Ad Hoc Committee on Solid Waste and the Board of Health explained in Needham the plan worked well and the recycle center was successful. He pointed out the cost is a bargain, is paid per user, and is not coming out of tax revenue. Town Administrator Mazzucco noted the \$30,000 per year cost to dispose of recycling and the fairness of having a per user fee to reduce the General Fund expense. He advised smaller haulers can purchase tags and use the service or go elsewhere. Private haulers are still an option and should not be impacted. There is a free system for grass clippings which will alleviate people dumping them in the storm drains. Member Nowak requested cameras be mounted on trees to catch people dumping shingles and roof materials on the side of the road. The formal vote will be on July 5, 2017.

Move by Member Blanchard to come out of the Public Hearing, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion carried.

Old Business

One Day Liquor License Application – St. John Paul II Parish: Mary Jette of the St. John Paul II Parish had submitted an application for a One Day Liquor License for the Polish Picnic on July 30,

place, or an option of a prefabricated fiberglass bridge were given. Bridge footings need to be considered for a heavier or bigger bridge, and the existing foundation's ability to accommodate it. Borings and calculations need to be done to make sure the bridge can be accommodated or put in new footings. Both bridges have different span lengths and estimates for the worked in design and permanent costs will be summarized in the report but are estimated to begin at \$300,000 to \$450,000 without a substructure. It was recommended that Murray Street Bridge be closely monitored and Gavin Street Bridge stay closed. The potential for future FEMA grants was discussed but the bridges don't qualify for the MassDOT Small Bridge Program.

Other Projects and Updates: Director Cesan advised of conversations with development partners that are moving forward. 90% complete plans for the passenger platform for the railway track extension have been received. Pressure treated hardwood in the plans may be replaced with another more attractive product. The intent is to have the same light fixtures as the Adams Station for continuity and an aesthetic canopy. A concern was expressed that entrance to the platform from Adams Station crosses the bike trail. She advised she continues to work with the engineer but Adams has not been given the right of way which could impact completion before the holiday season. Track is being stockpiled. It was noted that the conductor will get out instead of blowing the train whistle at Cook Street. Outreach will be done to those most impacted. The new section of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail has tall grass, and discussion took place regarding the Town having more to take care of with less staff and the need to prioritize in the budget hiring another four seasonal staff. Events and management of the upkeep of the Greylock Glen by the DPW was also covered. Board Members reviewed the upcoming event and outlined a need for staffing at the Visitors Center until 7:00 p.m. to support the shuttle. Volunteer recruitment was touched upon and Berkshire Scenic Railway volunteers may provide a stabilizing presence.

Committee/Liaison Assignments: Chairman Duval reviewed the liaison and sub-committee assignments with Members Nowak and Hoyt. Board Members will review the list and assignment interest. Finalization on assignments will take place at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Member Hoyt to adjourn

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous Vote

Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Workshop adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary


Joseph Nowak, Member

Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman


Christine Hoyt, Member


John Duval, Chairman