



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 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 Town Administrator Green. From the Board of Selectmen were Members Duval, Hoyt, Nowak, Blanchard and Rosenberg. Also present were Town Administrator Green, Administrative Assistant Dunlap, Finance Committee Chair Cushenette, Finance Director Wojcik, Council on Aging Director Fontaine, Community Development Special Projects Coordinator Cesan, Gail Sellers from Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival, Community Development Director Coughlin via Zoom, Brian Rhodes from iBerkshires, and Peter Gentile from NBCTC.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the *May 4, 2022 Meeting* were submitted for approval. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to waive reading and approve the minutes as presented for the May 4, 2022 meeting, second by Vice Chair Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Use Request, Greylock Glen: Edward Saharczewski, Road Runners Club of America, June 19, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Registration and Trail Races. Motion made by Member Blanchard to take this item off the table, second by Vice Chair Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. Town Administrator Green explained the timing of construction and the potential for impact. Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the use of the Greylock Glen by the Road Runners Club of America on June 19, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for registration and trail races with the understanding that the applicant be in touch with the Town Administrator's Office as the date of the event comes close, second by Vice Chair Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of Per Diem Council on Aging Van Driver, Charles Gebauer. Chairman Duval read the letter from Council on Aging Director Fontaine requesting the appointment of Mr. Gebauer. *Motion made by Vice Chair Hoyt to ratify the appointment of Charles Gebauer to the position of Per Diem Council on Aging Van Driver at the Grade 5, Step 1 rate of \$17.31 per hour, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*

The Longest Day June 21, 2022 Ribbons and Balloons: Council on Aging Director Fontaine explained the “Longest Day” fighting the darkness of Alzheimers. She reported that the Council on Aging is supporting this awareness and requested purple ribbons and balloons be shown prominently at the Town buildings to support the event.

Approval of Council on Aging Formula Grant: *Council on Aging Director Fontaine* explained there was a delay in the receipt of the contract and additional update of data before it was available tonight. She explained this is a Fiscal Year 2022 contract which is good for ten years and is based on 2010 Census data. *Chairman Duval* inquired when the 2020 census numbers will be used for the formula grant and it was noted the new numbers are expected in 2023. She advised the price per person will go up but the number of seniors may go down. It was noted that 60 years old is considered being a senior in Massachusetts. *Gail Sellers* inquired if the senior numbers that the grant is based on are only the ones that are checked in to the Council on Aging or all the seniors in Adams, and it was noted it is all of the seniors counted in the census.

One Day Entertainment License Application: *Gail Sellers, Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival, Bowe Field, Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.* *Gail Sellers* gave some background on the hiatus of the festival during Covid and the loss of the director. She advised the festival is being brought back for the fifth year, there are more people involved and signs are being put out. She reviewed the realization that there needed to be a license for entertainment, and entertainment will actually go until 10:00 p.m. She advised the group is working with Chuck Felix to use Bowe Field. Member Nowak expressed that this event has been very successful and allows children to reach a dream and parents to dress up and interact with their children. *Ms. Sellers* explained that people are coming into the area looking for things to do, and as this was once a humming mill-town, the faeries are coming off the mountain to bring prosperity to Adams and to celebrate the arts. She noted the festival is engaging young people in Arts Management from MCLA who are willing to participate. A bookmark is being distributed locally to get \$2 off the entrance fee. She noted that this is bringing a new vision to energize the community, and pointed out that J.K. Rowling, the writer of the Harry Potter series, mentioned fairies are around the mountain in the mist. ***Motion made by Vice Chair Hoyt to approve the One Day Entertainment License for Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival on Bowe Field for Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership: *Review of Flyer and Request for Public Input. Motion by Member Nowak to table this item, second by Vice Chair Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review and Approval. *No citizen input.* Chairman Duval advised the Articles will be reviewed and voted on to send them to the Finance Committee for recommendations. He reviewed the articles individually and asked Board Members to hold any articles they wished to discuss further. Articles held for discussion by Member Nowak were Article 4 and Article 21. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles 1 through 3, Articles 5 through 20, and Articles 22 through 26 as presented, second by Vice Chair Hoyt. Vice Chair Hoyt thanked the Planning Board for continuing to amend the bylaws with ever-changing marijuana laws and praised the enterprise sanitary sewer fund and very good start. Praised land disposition of 20 East Street and Community Development has worked hard on these items and a lot of hard work moving Adams forward. Abstention by Chair Duval on Article 20. Voted in favor of Article 20 were Vice Chair Hoyt, Members Blanchard, Nowak and Rosenberg. Voted in favor of Articles 1 through 3, Articles 5 through 19, and Articles 22 through 26: Chairman Duval, Vice Chair Hoyt, Members Blanchard, Nowak and Rosenberg unanimous.: Motion passed.***

Article 4: *Member Nowak* advised he was speaking as a Member of the Board of Selectmen, and not under any other category. He reviewed past meetings held and where the stipends were lowered and expressed that after serving for many years, he felt his time was deserving of more funds. He noted that if it stays only \$300 for a year, those making good salaries should pitch in also. He pointed out that the Board of Selectmen oversees the whole community and the time and service to this community is worth more than \$300 to the community. He advised that some don't have great income streams and every little bit helps to pay the bills. *Vice Chair Hoyt* reviewed in 2020 when making ends meet with the budget, the issue of salaries came up and conversation took place about what boards make how much money. She explained that in order to save jobs in the Town, the stipends were all lowered equally and saved around \$18,000 to make ends meet for the 2020 year. She advised that in 2021 nobody spoke up that this was a hardship and a decision was made to keep the stipends at this level. She noted that this issue did not come up in the budget review and approval meetings in April. She pointed out that in 2019 when she was unemployed could not collect her stipend and she raised the issue for those who were furloughed or laid off. She expressed that though it has changed in the unemployment guidelines it personally affected her. *Member Nowak* emphasized with a savings of \$17,000 with the size of the Town budget, it doesn't make sense in the fiscal framework because it doesn't make a difference. He noted that maybe this is a small reason why people are not running for positions on boards and commissions. He suggested that those with high salaries put some money back to help. *Vice Chair Hoyt* advised this is only one of a number of cuts made that year and the Town furloughed many employees. *Chairman Duval* noted this did happen in a certain year to save staff positions in Town government and next year it may be discussed regarding putting it back to where it was in the next budget cycle. ***Motion made by Vice Chair Hoyt to approve Article 4 to go forward, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous, motion passed.***

Article 21 – *Member Nowak* noted that anything that can be done to preserve the Quaker Meeting House it is well worth it. He pointed out it is a one-of-a-kind building, historical in nature and brings people to the community. He requested the Town work diligently to find money to fix the base of the building. *Town Administrator Green* advised in Fiscal Year 2021 there was an appropriation plus what is being sought this year, and there will be \$11,500 to work on it. He noted that Eugene Michalenko will be seeking outside funds. *Community Development Director Coughlin* advised it is an important building, it is on the Town Seal and it is crucial to the Town's history. He noted there was a good plan from a timber framing company out of New York to fix up the building for around \$128,000 and the foundation is being looked at to see what will be required to replace it. He explained that the money and appropriation will help to fix up the building and he will be looking more seriously at grants this year to see if more funds can be gotten in the fall. ***Motion made by Vice Chair Hoyt to approve Article 21 to move forward, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*** *Chairman Duval* advised that all of the articles have been approved to be forwarded to the Finance Committee for recommendations tomorrow.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator – *Town Administrator Green* advised he was pleased to announce that the Town is receiving \$2.9 Million in federal funds for water infrastructure and it will fund Phase Two of the potable drinking water at the Greylock Glen. He congratulated Donna Cesan for the labor -intensive grant application since the Town now has funds to complete the infrastructure. He announced the departure of the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen's Administrative Assistant on June 3rd, and that the position has been posted. He advised of the other positions available as well at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Per Diem Council on Aging Van Driver position and the Part-Time

Financial Assistant position in the Assessor's Office. He advised he is arranging to have Congressman Neal and the Governor here in July and the groundbreaking to take place in June. It was announced that the Firehouse Café on Park Street is almost ready to open and it is good to see business buzzing in the downtown. Gail Sellers was thanked for her work with the Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival, and Member Nowak praised the Administrative Assistant for her work.

Town Counsel: *Town Counsel St. John III* advised he received the decision from the arbitrator in the Foster v. Board of Health matter. The decision favored the Board of Health and the Code Enforcement Officer. He reported he spoke with Sean Walsh of the ABCC regarding the issuance of a seasonal license and provided information from that telephone call to the licensing subcommittee. He advised he provided one of the selectmen with a legal opinion concerning the means of filling a vacancy on a board. He reviewed the town meeting warrant, and reviewed an application for a transfer of an all alcoholic beverages license. *Member Nowak* expressed concern about certain boards having write-ins, specifically for the Board of Health. He noted he is not concerned with the capacity of the Parks Commission but the Board of Health is an instrumental position for the community and it should be looked at for whether it should be legitimate for write-in positions.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS – *Chairman Duval* reported that there will be a Berkshire Regional Planning Commission meeting tomorrow night.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER – *Member Nowak* expressed concern about a heated conversation at the last meeting and noted it doesn't help the community. He advised that democracy indicates "freedom of speech and expression". *Chairman Duval* noted that any board member who is out of line will be addressed and he hopes the Board Members will work well together going forward. He pointed out that negative words against other Board Members or people in the room will not be tolerated, but otherwise Board Members are free to speak. Discussion took place regarding the impression of their being a clique between certain Members of the Board, and of things being orchestrated before the meeting, including the reorganization of the Board. A brief explanation was made regarding the process of the reorganization, and it was noted that there is no clique among Board Members. It was offered that if there are concerns that the Chair, Town Counsel and the Town Administrator will meet with a Board Member to discuss them and work them out. *Vice Chair Hoyt* noted that the Firehouse Café is about to open and there will be a Ribbon Cutting event next Thursday, May 26th at 3:30 p.m. The Board of Selectmen and the public are invited. There will be a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30th at 10:00 a.m. kicking off at the corner of Valley and Columbia Streets. She reported that today the state announced there are a number of grants coming to Berkshire County in the amount of \$386,000, which will be spread throughout Berkshire County. From those funds, Adams will have two startup businesses started this summer, a grant for downtown signage and up to five businesses in Adams will receive \$1,000 for façade work. *Member Rosenberg* thanked the Administrative Assistant for the work she has done. *Member Nowak* expressed he was pleased to see small businesses coming on Park Street, and noted that Yina Moore with the Adams Theater will be an anchor in the downtown. He noted the Town needs to do something about a building in the downtown that has been worked on for thirteen years but nothing has happened with it. He advised that people are driving and walking through the downtown and asking what is happening with that building. He noted that when Greylock Glen is open a lot of people will be coming to the downtown. *Member Nowak* inquired what the \$2,500 for the alliance food safety program in the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) budget is for. *Chair Duval* explained that in the past an organization worked with communities in Berkshire County to collectively get a price for food and the organization was no longer able to do it so BRPC has taken it on.

ADJOURNMENT: *At 8:09 p.m. Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn, second by Vice Chair Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah J. Dunlap, Recording Secretary

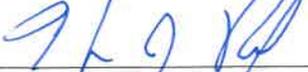


Joseph Nowak, Member

Richard Blanchard, Member



Christine Hoyt, Vice Chair



Howard Rosenberg, Member



John Duval, Chair