

Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, October 04, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

**TOWN HALL, 8 PARK STREET, ADAMS, MA 01220
1st Floor, Board of Selectmen Meeting Room**

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 6:00 PM at the Adams Town Hall. Board Chair Christine Hoyt opened the meeting. Present: Chairman Christine Hoyt and Members Rick Blanchard, John Duval, and Joe Nowak were present. *Vice-chair Howard Rosenberg and Attorney Edmund St. John III were absent.* Also present were Jay Green, Town Administrator; Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary; Eammon Coughlin, Community Development Director; Ryan Biros, Chairman of the Adams Historical Commission; Deb Calderara; Representatives of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority; and residents of the Town of Adams.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The September 20th, 2023 Meeting Minutes were submitted for approval.

Member Duval made a motion to accept the September 20th, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented and waive the reading. Member Nowak seconded the motion. The motion passed with three votes in favor and one abstention from Member Blanchard as he was not present for the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chief Scott Kelley, Member of the Adams Lions Club approached the board. The Lions Club will be holding the children's parade on Sunday, October 29th at 3pm. The Starting point will be in the parking lot behind the future window world building on the corner of Park Street.

Speaking as the Chief of Police, Chief Kelley stated that it became public knowledge today that there would be a grant for police departments for start up funds to outfit officers with body worn cameras. The Adams police department received \$110,000, which was the amount requested, in order to provide for the cameras and hardware. This includes a clip that automatically turns the camera on whenever an officer draws their service weapon. The Police Department is still working to finalize the contract with their vendor as well as the Body Worn Camera Police. Once those two items are finalized, Chief will return to the Board to present the info.

NEW BUSINESS:

Set 2023 Halloween Trick-or-Treat Hours

Tuesday, October 31st is when Trick or Treat will be.

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ADAMS MASS.
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Member Duval made a motion to set the Halloween Hours for Tuesday, October 31st from 5:30-7:30pm. The motion was seconded by Member Blanchard. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Deborah Calderara to the Adams Historical Commission

Ryan Biros, chairman of the Adams Historical Commission requested that the Board move onto the Licensing items on the agenda as Ms. Calderara had not yet arrived.

Licensing

One Day Liquor License, to serve at the Adams Theater, 27 Park Street, Friday, October 6th from 5pm-9pm, Fire House Café

Member Blanchard made a motion to Approve the One Day Liquor License application for Xavier Jones of the Fire House Cafe, to serve at the Adams Theater, 27 Park Street, Friday, October 6th from 5pm-9pm. Member Duval Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

One Day Liquor License, to serve at the Adams Theater, 27 Park Street, Saturday, October 7th from 5pm-9pm, Fire House Café

Member Blanchard made a motion to Approve the One Day Liquor License application for Xavier Jones of the Fire House Café, to serve at the Adams Theater, 27 Park Street, Saturday, October 7th from 5pm-9pm. Member Duval Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

One Day Liquor License, to serve at the Adams Theater, 27 Park Street, Sunday, October 8th from 5pm-9pm, Fire House Café

Member Blanchard made a motion to Approve the One Day Liquor License application for Xavier Jones of the Fire House Cafe, to serve at the Adams Theater, 27 Park Street, Sunday, October 8th from 5pm-9pm, Member Duval Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

One Day Public Entertainment License, BART Charter School International Festival, 1 Commercial Street, Sunday, October 15th from 1pm-4pm, BART Charter School

Member Blanchard made a motion to approve the One Day Entertainment License for BaRT Charter School for Sunday, October 15th from 1pm-4pm pending receipt of payment. The motion was seconded by Member Duval. The motion passed Unanimously.

Appointment of Deborah Calderara to the Adams Historical Commission

Deborah Calderara approached the board. Deborah is a History Teacher at BaRT Charter School and has a passion for local history.

Member Nowak made a motion to appoint Deborah Calderara to the Adams Historical Commission for an appointment to expire in June of 2026. Member Blanchard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Proposed Bus Stop, Rauley Caine, BRTA General Manager

Eammon Coughlin, Community Development Director approached the board and introduced the topic being that the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) will be transitioning from a “flag stop” program to a more efficient “fixed stop” system. At the moment, the only thing being installed is some signage. Over the next few years, the community will see some concrete pads being installed and, in some locations, and eventually some fixed structures in some of the locations.

The signs will include numbers and colors in order to make them as accessible to as many people as possible. Mr. Caine, approached the board and spoke about some of the challenges around a flag stop programs including safety issues, lack of knowledge about the program, and potential conflicts. *Member Duval* asked if this constituted a policy change and what sort of advertising needs to be done. Mr. Caine spoke about the fact that this change doesn’t constitute a policy change but is just building on the existing system.

Member Blanchard asked if the flagging system will continue to be utilized after the new stops are established. Mr. Caine mentioned that the driver of the bus will attempt to beacon people over.

Bob Malnati, Administrator of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority stated that every year there are annual appropriations are put in the federal register. We are considered as small urban area. Once the information is posted, BRTA places an application to the Federal Government for the funds. BRTA must at that point break down how the funding will be used. There are also application processes for discretionary funds, which pays for some of the larger ticket items like new busses.

Member Nowak asked how BRTA ascertains working people’s job start time. Mr. Caine stated that the service territory is about the size of the state of Rhode Island. A bus every hour on every route is not always possible. BRTA engages the customer and actively seek rider feedback. *Member Nowak* asked about the process of transitioning to an electric fleet. The operating cost is such that it would be a three or four-to-one swap, meaning it would require three or four vehicles be swapped out for one electric vehicle. The range is also such that it doesn’t make sense to make that switch. Meanwhile there are a few vehicles that are hybrid

Tax Rate Classification Preliminary Information Session, Paula Wheeler, Town Assessor

For the last five years, there has been a tax classification information session prior to the Tax Classification Hearing. The Assessor has asked that Chairman Hoyt inform the board that the tax Classification Hearing will take place on Wednesday the 18th. There will not be a meeting prior to the public hearing. The Assessor will welcome any questions from the Board once they receive their packets. She is willing to make herself available outside of office hours if need be and is hoping to get information to the Board on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. The hearing will need to be held on the 18th because the Treasurer has stated that it is necessary for those tax bills to go out in order to support cash flow.

Greylock Glen Project Update, Jay Green, Town Administrator

There are a lot of projects going on with the Greylock Glen. The Outdoor Center construction is continuing and the work will continue through the winter. The work is anticipated to be completed in the late spring. The indoor framing

Regarding the operation thereof, there has been response for the Request for Proposal for the Education Provider. That respondent was Mass Audubon Society. Mass Audubon has been very vocal for a while now regarding their intention to submit a proposal as the Education Provider for the Greylock Glen Outdoor Center. An internal review panel will be assembled and after that point, the Mass Audubon Society will be asked to make a presentation to the board.

Additionally, the Water System Project has had most of the underground system completed. This month, the subcontractor will begin working on the water tank. The tank is slated to be completed by next summer. The primary use of the water system is for fire safety and fire suppression, so the completion of the water system project will need to be coordinated with the grand opening.

The lease agreement and development agreement with Shared Estates is still an ongoing process. So far there have been no snags, but the legal documents are long and intense. Those agreements should be wrapping up this winter. After those are finalized, the more public process begins.

The two job descriptions, Executive Director and Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, are nearly finalized and will be advertised by the end of the month.

Member Duval asked where the Town stands regarding funding and how that is going. On the 8.3-million-dollar project, we have only seen about \$150,000 in additional costs. We were budgeted for 10 million dollars so we are still on budget for the process. We do not want to dilute the quality of that project. We may have to phase in some of the landscaping ideas once the building is open.

Member Duval asked where the water tower would be located. Town Administrator Green stated that it will be at the end on Theil Road on the foundation where there used to be the Department of Environmental Protection Building. It is strategically placed so as not to be an eyesore. There are two types of water for Greylock Glen, drinking water, and fire suppression. For fire protection purposes, a certain amount of flow must be delivered over a certain amount of time. The water system design of the glen is no different than the design on East Orchard or Hoxsey Brook. The only difference is that the tank at the Glen is for fire protection, while the tanks in town are for drinking. The water system at the Glen is designed for the entire Glen no matter what is built.

Member Nowak stated that he thinks the community will be amazing with how beautiful this building will be.

Member Nowak asked who would review the proposal from Mass Audubon. Town Administrator Green stated that Donna Cesan will be in charge of that, but it will likely be made up of the same individuals who reviewed the camp ground proposals.

Reserve Fund Transfer Request, Powers Street Culvert Repair

The July 10th storm exacerbated the failure of the structure. Berkshire gas has been in the area recently, but this failure was not due to their work, it is just simply aging infrastructure. The solution to repair it is to install a new drainage pipe with stone and asphalt. The conveyance of water is not a large amount, which is one reason that this project was not included in the initial amount of work done with the 2 million in borrowing funds that was previously granted.

There are three ways that the requested amount will be paid. The first would have been from a Disaster Declaration, which we were hopeful for, but the State did not grant the disaster declaration

Member Blanchard made the motion to approve a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$20,000 for the Powers Street Culvert Repair. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak.

Member Duval stated that he is pleased that the DPW has been able to do this work in a few places to save the taxpayers money. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

Member Duval: None

Chairman Hoyt: Licensing renewals will be out by the end of the month. Please be on the lookout for correspondence from Bri Hantman regarding how businesses can pick up those materials.

Tri-Petroleum dba Mobile and Val's Variety both have a hearing coming up on December 5th for both serving alcohol to an underage person.

Member Nowak: none

Member Blanchard: none

Member Nowak: none

Member Blanchard: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Member Blanchard: None

Member Nowak: Wanted to thank the beautification committee for all of their hard work. They are doing a lot for our community. Additionally, there is about to be a lot going on at the Adams Theater. Please come in for one of the shows. There are a lot of events happening and the prices are quite reasonable.

Chairman Hoyt: Ramblefest is on Sunday and the Ramble is on Monday. Also, at our September 6th meeting, Eammon Coughlin presented about the Digital Equity Plan. Tuesday, October 24th at 6pm is the first public meeting at the Adams Visitor Center.

The Adams Events Committee is doing the Pumpkin Walk again this year. Friday, October 27th is the carving of the pumpkins and then the viewing will be Saturday the 28th and Sunday the 29th.

Member Duval: Asked Eammon Coughlin regarding the electrical work that is supposed to be coming over the mountain.

Town Administrator Green: Annual Public Tree Leaf Pickup, November 1 -November 30, 2023. The DPW goes around to pick up leaves from Town owned Trees on Town Owned property, such as tree belts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Hoyt stated that there is an executive session on the agenda. There will be a rollcall vote. The only business that will be taken up afterward will be adjournment.

Member Nowak made a motion to move into executive session. The motion was seconded by Member Blanchard.

Member Blanchard, yes. Member Nowak, yes. Member Duval, yes. Chairman Hoyt, yes.

The Board of Selectmen moved into Executive Session at 7:29pm.

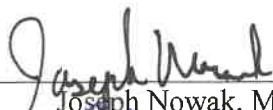
ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Duval. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

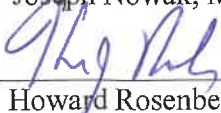
List of Materials Referenced:

- September 20th, Meeting Minutes
- BRTA Bus Stop Presentation Slide Show

Respectfully Submitted by Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary.


Joseph Nowak, Member


Richard Blanchard, Member


Howard Rosenberg, Vice Chairman


John Duval, Member


Christine Hoyt, Chairman