



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017 – 7:00 PM
ADAMS TOWN HALL, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** held a meeting at the Adams Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Vice Chairman, **Arthur Harrington** presided the meeting. Present were **Members John Duval, Joseph Nowak, and Richard Blanchard**. *Chairman Jeffrey Snoonian was absent.* Also in attendance were **Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco** and **Town Counsel, Ed St. John III.**

The Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF MINUTES

- January 18, 2017
- January 25, 2017

*Motion made by Member **Blanchard** to waive reading and approve the minutes for January 18, 2017 and January 25, 2017 as written*

*Second by Member **Nowak***

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Meczywor of Glendale Drive credited the *Department of Public Works* with doing an excellent job during the recent storms with managing the large amounts of blowing snow.

PUBLIC HEARING

Show Cause Hearing, Mak's Grill dba Rascal's, 7:20 p.m.

*Motion made by Member **Blanchard** to open the Show Cause Hearing at 7:20 p.m.*

*Second by Member **Duval***

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

There was no representation from Mak's Grill, dba Rascals in attendance at the Show Cause Hearing.

Notices sent to Mr. Thomas Rotolo on February 3, 2017 by Postal Mail, return receipt requested were read by Vice Chairman Harrington. No return receipt has been received, so discussion took place about rescheduling the Show Cause Hearing to March 1, 2017 with in-hand service notification.

*Motion made by Member **Duval** to close the public hearing*

*Second by Member **Nowak***

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

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17 MAR -9 PM 3:08
TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.



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Motion made by Member Nowak to reschedule the Show Cause Hearing regarding the "pocket" Liquor License for Rascals to March 1, 2017

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Facility Use Request – Bob Dion, Greylock Glen, March 5, 2017

Bob Dion submitted an application for use of the *Greylock Glen* on March 5, 2017 for a 5K Snowshoe Race for *Thunderfest* from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Insurance documents were provided.

Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the use of Greylock Glen for March 5, 2017 for the 5K Snowshoe Race

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request – CRNA, Greylock Glen, March 5, 2017

CRNA requested use of *Greylock Glen* for a 5K Cross-Country Ski Race for *Thunderfest* on from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on March 5, 2017. **CRNA** will provide cleanup and insurance documents were provided. It was noted that all proceeds from the race support a program for disabled veterans.

Motion made by Member Duval to approve the use of Greylock Glen for the 5K Cross-Country Ski Race on Marcy 5, 2017 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. as submitted

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request – Date Change, Visitors Center, October 15, 2017

Heather White from the *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention* requested a date change from the previously approved event at the *Visitors Center* 7:30 am to 1:00 pm on September 30, 2017 to October 15, 2017. Volunteers will clean up after the event and insurance documents are in order.

Motion made by Member Nowak to approve date change use of Visitors Center for October 15, 2017 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request – Visitors Center, June 3, 2017

Kathy Danis requested the use of the *Visitors Center* for a 5K Run to benefit the *Noah Brown Scholarship* on June 3, 2017. Insurance documents are in order. This event is being put on in memory of her grandson, *Noah Brown*, to benefit the scholarship fund. Children who enter will get a t-shirt. There will be coverage at the intersection and the *Forest Wardens* will assist with traffic.



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Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the use of the Visitors Center on June 3, 2017 for the 5K and 1K Runs to benefit the Noah Brown Scholarship on June 3 2017 from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request – Visitors Center, February 23, 2017

ProAdams and the **Adams Arts Advisory Board** requested use of the Visitors Center meeting room from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on February 23, 2017 for a meeting. Insurance is in order.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve use of Visitors Center on February 23, 2017 by ProAdams and the Adams Arts Advisory Board

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request – Greylock Glen, March 5, 2017

Bounti-Fare requested the use of *Greylock Glen* on March 5, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for food and beverages at the Snowshoe and Cross Country Ski event. Insurance paperwork is in order. Brief discussion took place about seating capacity, the need for tables to accommodate the event and limited Town equipment. It is the responsibility of **Bounti-Fare** to take care of tables for food and serving and trash barrels. Proper food permits are necessary.

Motion made by Member Nowak to approve use of Greylock Glen by Bounti-Fare to serve food and beverages on March 5, 2017 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

One Day Liquor License – Balderdash Cellars, March 4, 2017

Christian Hansen of *Balderdash Cellars* requested a One Day Wine License for *Thunderfest*, March 4, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Liquor liability insurance and all other documents are in order.

Motion made by Member Duval to approve the One Day Liquor License for Balderdash Cellars on March 4, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

One Day Liquor License – Bounti-Fare, March 5, 2017

David Nicholas of *Bounti-Fare* requested a One Day Wine & Malt License for March 5, 2017 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the *Greylock Glen*. All documents and liquor liability insurance are in order.



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Motion made by Member Duval to approve the Wine & Malt One Day License for Bounti-Fare from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

One Day Liquor License – Bounti-Fare, May 21, 2017

David Nicholas of Bounti-Fare requested a One Day Wine & Malt License for May 21, 2017 for the Steel Rail Half Marathon from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All documents and liquor liability insurance are in order.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the one day Wine & Malt License for Bounti-Fare on May 21, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Steel Rail Half Marathon

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Discussion on Collins Center Presentation

A brief overview of the Collins Center Study presentation was given. Discussion took place regarding the presentation including the school tours and building needs. The Town of Adams had appropriated funding to fix the roof of the boiler room at C.T. Plunkett School and signed a purchase order for the schematic drawing but turned the project over to the Superintendent, who held off on it pending the consolidation decision. C.T. Plunkett School had a major renovation in 1994. The school has three roofs with different materials, contractors, and warranty dates. The roof requires slate replacement, and has leaks that were outlined. It was noted that the ADA lift in the auditorium would require \$38,000 to fix. Cafeteria tiles need to be replaced but they are asbestos-free. There will be a forum held before the next televised meeting. One member expressed that each community should keep their elementary school. A suggestion was made at the presentation to explore the elementary schools breaking away from the district and setting up their own school boards. This would take about two years but other communities have set the precedence. The logistical setup of the school needs to be considered as one solution would create a later bus arrival, causing disruption.

7:52 p.m. Superintendent Putnam and School Committee Chairman Paul Butler arrived.

Superintendent Putnam gave information about an organization called the *Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS)*, which has expertise on regional school agreements and financing. He advised he had worked with MARS in the past, and changes to the regional agreement require a very specific process. Towns have a special vote to decide to dissolve the regional agreement then negotiate how to move forward. Retiree benefits are predicated on the regional agreement for payment and how would it be apportioned. The towns would have to reconsider how each town would pay for their schools. He gave an example of Berkshire Hills moving to a single campus and advised it is possible to create a plan to move forward. He pointed out there is an excellent facility at Hoosac Valley High School and both elementary schools need roofs and have individual issues. The Collins Center Study recommends a committee be formed to look at the possibilities of C.T. Plunkett, Cheshire Elementary, and a new building. A recommendation was made to apply to be accepted into the CORE program.



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For budgetary reasons the District is forced to make a choice about whether or not to close a school. He offered a vision of putting a new building on the *Hoosac Valley High School* property, which would require debt, but going forward with a new build is a good choice because there are few options to get more money from the state. If the District builds a new facility at HVHS most of it would be eligible for reimbursement and increases the possibility of more funding in the future.

Board Members noted that due to changes in state funding Towns have had to pick up the slack and there are going to be reimbursement and renovation costs despite the option chosen. Questions were presented about what is best for the students and what the educational benefits will be. An inquiry was made about how to keep families in this area with their children. A request was made for Superintendent Putnam to bring in the MARS representative to explain what the changes would entail.

Discussion ensued regarding the vision for the education of the children, and creating a more hands-on career program focus through the school system. An Early Childhood program could be designed with a Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade program as well as Arts, Theater, and Music programs to create a compelling educational offering for the future. The rural nature of the smaller communities and logistics of getting children to school was discussed as a reason for small communities all having elementary schools. Drawing families to the area with employment was touched upon as a key factor.

School Committee Chairman Paul Butler announced that the decision will be made on March 2, 2017 and public forums will be held. School tours will be held on February 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at C.T. Plunkett School and February 17, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at Hoosac Valley High School. Information will be given on February 21, 2017 at the Cheshire Board of Selectmen Meeting, February 22, 2017 at the Adams Board of Selectmen Meeting, on February 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the C.T. Plunkett School auditorium, and February 27, 2017 at the Cheshire Elementary School auditorium at 6:00 p.m. March 2, 2017 and March 9, 2017 will be School Committee budget meetings and March 13, 2017 the final vote will be held on the School budget. The final Collins Center Report has been received and will be up in color on the School website.

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

School Committee

Member Nowak attended the *School Committee* meeting where Superintendent Putnam was offered his current position pending contract agreements. Adams and Cheshire students who were members of Student Council brought forth their ideas.

Conservation Commission

Member Nowak attended the *Conservation Commission* meeting. *Specialty Minerals* created trenching to let water go through a cooling process before going into river which then created underlying flooding problems on the Ziemba agricultural land used to grow corn. *Specialty Minerals* agreed to rectify the situation which will benefit both parties.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Member Duval reported that he attended the *BRPC Executive Committee* meeting. He will be attending the *Metropolitan Planning Organization* meeting on February 28th.



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State Representative Cariddi Meeting

Vice Chairman Harrington attended a meeting held by State Representative Gailanne Cariddi on January 23rd which reviewed the five to six year process to go through to get a law created. Residents of Pinnacle Park expressed dissatisfaction about quality of air conditions from the Berkshire Contractors sand pit where no remedies have been taken to water down or re-sod the area. There may be zoning laws or Board of Health factors and it is not clear to what extent this was looked into by local enforcement. It needs to be addressed.

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail

Vice Chairman Harrington gave further information about the plan for a grand opening ceremony for the third phase of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension. Information has been sent out to MassDOT to coordinate it with the Berkshire Bike Path group.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report

Greylock Glen Outdoor Center

Thirteen bids were received for the Greylock Glen Outdoor Center project, which has funding in place from the Environmental Bond Bill.

Union Negotiations

Negotiations have begun with the *Clerical Union* and begin with the *Police Union* next week.

Town Annual Audit

Town Auditors are completing the annual audit.

Greylock Glen

A meeting was held with Michael Knapik of the Governor's Office regarding the Greylock Glen.

Union Grievance Update

A Union grievance submitted a few months ago has been withdrawn.

Update on Pedestrian Bridges

One pedestrian bridge has been removed, one has rehabilitation recommendations, findings and cost estimates. Drones did some of the work to take pictures. The cost for replacement versus prefabricated materials is to be considered as well as the removal of lead paint and the remediation cost. The Town may be able to get something nice and visually attractive.

Town Clerk Notice

A notice from the Town Clerk's office was read to announce that Town Elections will be held on May 1, 2017. Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's office and are due back on Monday, March 13, 2017. 2017 dog licenses are now available. For any election questions or other issues contact the Town Clerk at 743-8300 x176.



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Bag Share Project

The Town is working with the Old Stone Mill and the Bag Share Project to take recycled materials to put together shopping bags. Materials are old feedbags and the plastic handles are made from irrigation tubing, put together with a grommet machine. The challenge is to create 8400 bag, one for every resident in town, in anticipation of the bag ban going into effect on March 30, 2017. Town departments and groups in town are invited to compete with each other to make some. Contact Town Hall if interested and instructions and materials will be provided.

Susan B. Anthony Birthday

197 years ago today Susan B. Anthony was born here in Adams.

Member Nowak inquired how tax collections were doing and commended the Department of Public Works for their exemplary efforts during the storms. An inquiry was made about the status of the snow removal budget and DPW overtime, as well as whether the use of molasses or brine would be helpful with the budget.

The Tax Collector has sent out notices for back taxes and the rate of collections will improve when the Town takes all properties after the three year mark and collects money from banks and from escrow accounts. The Adams tax collection rate may not be stable until 2022. The Town was doing great on the snow removal and overtime budgets until last week's storms and it will be another couple weeks to evaluate the budget to see if a Reserve Fund Transfer will be necessary. The DPW has done a good job managing the salt over the last couple years, but there is no perfect solution. Roads were pretreated two years ago with brine and there is a better solution than that. The DPW is being strategic about how their staff deployment to save on overtime.

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III advised that regarding Liability Insurance Certificate of Balderdash Cellars, there are multiple insurers likely because their broker found the most effective coverage for the different insurance needs from multiple insurers and for any event it is important to review the binder to be sure there is appropriate coverage for the event applied for.

Town Counsel St. John III advised he prepared an outline for Mak's Grill license Show Cause hearing and responded to questions by staff about proper notice to be received by the licensee. He also received a question from the Tax Collector concerning a property owner's bankruptcy filing and researched whether there were any outstanding taxes regarding the Tax Collector inquiry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Susan B. Anthony Committee

Member Nowak announced today is the birthday of Susan B. Anthony. The Susan B. Anthony Committee led by Pam St. John is doing a good job and making robust plans for the 200th birthday of Susan B. Anthony along with the 100th anniversary of suffrage. Committee meetings have begun and they are looking for more members. If interested, contact Pam St. John or go to the Town Administrator's office to leave your name and contact information.



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North Adams Small Business Revolution Funds

Member Nowak requested anyone able to help North Adams to receive small business revolution funds to vote for them. There are five communities in the running, including North Adams, which is currently in second place. The last time to vote is tomorrow at 9:00 p.m. and you can click to vote from the article in iBerkshires. He encouraged all Adams residents to help their neighboring community.

Pedestrian Crossing Lights

Member Nowak noted the pedestrian lights at the drug store are very helpful to people crossing there.

Snow Removal

Vice Chairman Harrington advised everyone to clear their sidewalks. He reminded everyone not to snow blow, plow, or throw snow into the road. There was a six foot high pile of snow thrown in the road which was hazardous to drivers. He asked that people help out neighbors that may be disabled or elderly who may not be able to take care of their own sidewalks. Many people are walking in the roadway now because of un-cleared sidewalks and he reminded drivers to be extra cautious because of this.

Town Administrator Mazzucco asked citizens to shovel out fire hydrants by their property if possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous Vote

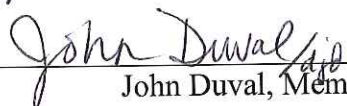
Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.


Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary


Joseph Nowak, Member

Richard Blanchard, Member


John Duval, Member

Arthur Harrington, Vice Chairman


Jeffrey Snoonian, Chairman