

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 12/20/17

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CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Duval at 7:00 p.m. Members Blanchard, Hoyt and Nowak were present as well as Interim Town Administrator Cesan and Town Counsel St. John III.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *December 6, 2017* Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Move by Member Hoyt to waive reading and approve the minutes of December 6, 2017 as submitted, second by Member Nowak. An abstention by Vice Chairman Blanchard was noted. Vote: In favor were Chairman Duval, Member Hoyt and Member Nowak. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Jeff Lefebvre* asked for a Windmill Bylaw. The Planning Board met and adopted a draft of the Marijuana Bylaw for Town meeting approval. There is no urgency for a Windmill Bylaw and most ridgelines are in public ownership. *Jeff Lefebvre* suggested the Town of Adams look into having a shared Town Administrator because the Town does not need a full Town Administrator. The Town of Adams has a Town Administrator form of government. The Personnel Sub-committee has met and is defining a process for the replacement of the Town Administrator. Charter changes would need to be made if this were to happen. *Jeff Lefebvre* wished everyone Happy Holidays and asked them to think about soldiers that cannot come home. Mr. Lefebvre was thanked for giving 25 years to coaching sports and youth programs, for volunteering and giving back to the community. *Glendon Diehl* of the *Berkshire Scenic Railroad* advised the season finished on Sunday and boarded 2,300 to 2,400 passengers counting the little kids. He advised the Berkshire Scenic Railroad Board will be proposing winter train rides for upcoming holidays and events to create interest in Adams. He noted that Berkshire Scenic Railroad is a nonprofit organization and is proposing to reimburse the Town of Adams for paper towels, toilet paper, and soap that passengers use as they would be paying for a portable toilet facility if they were not using the Visitors Center. Train passengers were guided to local downtown businesses and restaurants. Berkshire Scenic Railroad was thanked for the great job the volunteers do. The bids are in for the passenger platform and coordination will take place with the winter train regarding the construction. *Police Chief Tarsa* advised that Officers Dean and Wandrei conducted a recent drug discussion. Over 600 pounds of drop box prescription drugs have been collected. Syringes are no longer accepted and are no longer a liability or safety issue at the station. He noted when citizens are traveling they are recommended to take extra steps to secure their houses, leave lights on, and make arrangements with neighbors and the Post Office to and make it look like someone is home. He noted a gentleman has been going around town presenting himself as a member of different solar companies but there are no active permits for solicitations. Citizens are asked to call the Police Department if it happens again.

OLD BUSINESS:

Licensing Policy Edit Approval (Second Reading): At the last meeting the first reading was approved. The changes being made were reviewed by Member Hoyt. Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the amended Liquor Licensing Policy and Regulations as presented by Member Hoyt, second by Vice Chairman Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Common Victualer License Renewal: *Martin & Martin Enterprises, Inc., dba Subway*, 27B Park Street, Adams MA. Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the Common Victualer license for Martin & Martin Enterprises, Inc., dba Subway, second by Member Nowak. Vote: unanimous.

Common Victualer License Renewal: *Daily Grind*, 37 Park Street, Adams MA. Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the Common Victualer License for Daily Grind, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Common Victualer License Renewal: *Biggdaddy's Philly Steak House*, 85 Commercial Street, Adams, MA. Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the Common Victualer license for Biggdaddy's Philly Steak House, second by Vice Chairman Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition (NBCC) - *Glenda Matos-Carter* and *Amanda Chilson* representing NBCC were introduced to the Board. The mission of NBCC and emphasis of the programs were discussed. The *Northern Berkshire Neighbors* mission was outlined, the *Mass in Motion* grant cycle was reviewed and includes a community food collaborative and emergency meal sites. Active living is being addressed with *Complete Streets*, the bike lane, and sidewalks, including safe routes to school. There is a health worker teaching balance classes for older adults and it was noted that the Adams COA is a great partner. Community outreach training will be offered and there is a community award recognition ceremony every year. Citizens can be nominated for good deeds done every year. *National Night Out* events are being reinstated as a way for public safety to meet with the community to build trust. A civic engagement free training is available by application for all northern Berkshire residents on community organizing, leadership, conflict management, community mapping, and fund raising. Interested citizens should forward a letter of interest to Glenda Matos-Carter by January 12th. Volunteer opportunities are available in the area. *Martin Luther King Day of Service* will be held January 15th at 8:30 a.m. and citizens are encouraged to register soon. Ms. Matos-Carter, Ms. Chilson, and NBCC were thanked for their service over the years. Community support services already available to citizens were praised. It is unclear how the new tax bill passed by the government will affect NBCC and their programs. Federal grant fund amounts are available in the annual report booklet. It was noted that the Town of Adams needs a representative to have a voice, and Interim Town Administrator Cesan will help to identify a representative.

Facility Use Request, Visitors Center: *Northern Berkshire Beekeepers* submitted a request to use the Visitors Center. Motion made by Vice Chairman Blanchard to approve the use of the Visitors Center for January 27, 2018 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Discussion about Scheduling a Special Town Meeting: The need for a *Special Town Meeting* was discussed. The warrant needs to be posted fourteen days prior to the meeting and a mid-February date was proposed. A Special Town Meeting would also address small items and the Marijuana ByLaw. During the first or second meeting of January the Board will set the date for the Town Meeting.

Town Administrator's Report: Three bids were received for the Train Station Platform project. The bids are being reviewed by HDR and recommendations are forthcoming for awarding the bid. The project is anticipated to be completed prior to Memorial Day weekend for the Berkshire Scenic Rail full train schedule. The Route 8 project is at 25% design completion and has been submitted to MassDOT. A public hearing will be held in the spring. The Roundabout was featured in the New England division of the VHB calendar. Board Members inquired from Town Counsel St. John III the status of the Water Department's Commercial Street project issue. The insurance met with the Town and got a quote for reparation which was sent to the adjuster for evaluation and a response is forthcoming. Board Members inquired about the status of the replacement of the Town Hall roof. EDM Architects have done preliminary evaluations, and it is anticipated the Town will go out to bid in February.

Town Counsel Report: Town Counsel St. John III attended two hearings at WMASS Housing Court regarding the demolition order at 50 Commercial Street. The judge ordered the building to be demolished and the Town will be receiving the order within the next couple days. He advised he continued work on the lawsuit for MJD and Dellaghelfas and reviewed and responded to sewer maintenance questions and an inquiry about plowing and maintaining private streets.

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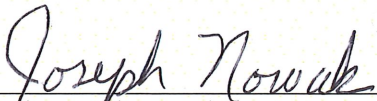
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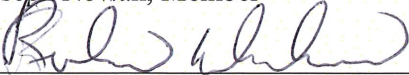
Sub-committee/Liaison Report: *Member Nowak* attended the Planning Board public hearing for the Marijuana Bylaw. He advised he attended the Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee meeting. Virginia Duval presented a plan to get people more interested in voting, which will help fill vacancies in Town Meeting Member positions. *Member Hoyt* attended the Planning Board meeting and thanked Interim Director Cesan and the Planning Board for putting together the bylaw. Police Chief Tarsa was thanked for attending the meetings and giving input. Member Hoyt advised she participated in the Personnel Sub-committee meeting to discuss the Town Administrator search and is researching how other communities conducted a similar search. She is reviewing the Town Charter and the process utilized from 2014. A template and an organizational chart were reviewed at that meeting. *Chairman Duval* advised the Board of Selectmen needs to decide when to hire the Town Administrator and recommended the selection be made prior to the election in May.

Announcements and Good of the Order: *Member Nowak* noted there was a social media announcement made on Facebook about heat not being in the gymnasium at Plunkett School and he advised there was a faulty motor which has been replaced, and there is indeed heat in the gymnasium. He noted that the children that came from Cheshire are happy and citizens need to work together as a community. He advised the children came down Park Street, saw the Christmas Village display at Town Hall and looked into the decorated shop windows. *Member Hoyt* advised there was a holiday concert by the Hoosac Valley High School Band. She noted the Youth Center has activities for kids who are out of school next week. She thanked Interim Town Administrator Cesan and the DPW staff for the decorations over the parking meters and reminded citizens that there is free metered parking through January 1st. Board Members wished citizens a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

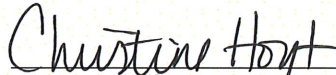
ADJOURNMENT: Move by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

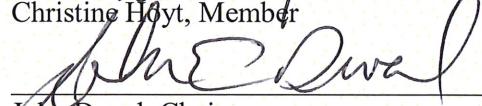
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



Joseph Nowak, Member


Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman



Christine Hoyt, Member


John Duval, Chairman