

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 03/21/2018

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Council on Aging Director Erica Girgenti announced that Fallon Health Care donated an orange 2017 Nissan Rogue to help aid transportation for seniors in Adams. She expressed gratitude and will be thanking them for this very generous donation. The Council on Aging is looking to expand to include Cheshire and Savoy. Once more information is available she will share the information with the Board. She advised she sits on a number of committees for Northern Berkshire County so she is looking to expand transportation in the community since there is a great need to go to Southern Vermont. She thanks Elder Services for connecting her with Fallon Health Care to receive this vehicle. She noted the eight passenger vans are difficult on dirt roads and driveways and some of the terrain in the community. The use of the vehicle will be for long distance medical needs to Baystate, Boston and Southern Vermont but can also be for social outings. She also received a check for \$3,000 for oil changes and maintenance. It was pointed out the Town DPW can do the work on this vehicle instead of an outside vendor. Board Members thanked her for dedication to improving situations for the elderly in the community. Town Counsel will be consulted regarding the legal process of accepting gifts.

OLD BUSINESS:

Amendment to Inter-municipal Agreement for Veterans Services: Steve Roy, Director of Veterans Services explained the proposed expansion of the agreement to include other communities and an expansion of hours. An inquiry about whether the Adams community will be adequately managed with the expansion of services was posed and Mr. Roy advised he did not think there will be any change at all. The office hours in each location were reviewed. Board Members noted that Mr. Roy had a great reputation among the veterans and has done valuable work to help them. Mr. Roy expressed confidence that with the additional three communities that the veterans will continue to be served and the quality of the service will not suffer. He noted that he has an assistant and a cell phone so he is reachable anywhere. A ninety day trial will take place to be sure it all works well. There are approximately eighty active cases in Adams, and over one hundred twenty total cases. There are eight active cases in Dalton, and it is not known how many in Cheshire. The expanded agreement includes Adams, North Adams, Williamstown, Dalton, Cheshire, Savoy, Lanesborough, and Florida. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the expanded agreement, second by Member Nowak. Vote: unanimous.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion made by Member Hoyt to add a Facility Use Request for Northern Berkshire Hurricane Youth Lacrosse to the agenda, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Facility Use Request – Memorial School, Northern Berkshire Hurricane Youth Lacrosse: Mike Mucci, Northern Berkshire Hurricane Youth Lacrosse, requested to use Memorial School Monday through Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from March 1st to June 30, 2018. It was noted that there have not been any rules created yet for the use of this space and requested appropriate shoes on the gymnasium floor to eliminate damage. A request was made for a plan on how to keep staff and students in the appropriate area of the building. Mr. Mucci advised there will be controlled access by coaches and he will meet with Interim Town Administrator Cesan prior to use. An inquiry was made about the status of the inspection of the bleachers. *Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the use of Memorial School Gymnasium by the Northern Berkshire Hurricane Youth Lacrosse from March 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018 on Monday through Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.*

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Request for Letter of Non-Opposition, Mission Massachusetts – Corey Ravelson, the General Manager of Mission Massachusetts updated the Board of the status of the business interest in locating to Adams. He noted that timing is a factor, and once the local ordinance was created, they identified a location and awaited the approval of the bylaw. The proposal is now being evaluated at the Cannabis Control Commission. He advised a location has been identified at 150 Howland Avenue and a lease should be signed soon. He noted there is great communication with the landlord. He explained he was at the meeting to provide the plan and seek a letter of support for non-opposition. The existing building that is in use currently is a 5,400 square foot building that was utilized by Ronnie's Cycle. Ronnie's Cycle will keep operating in the bigger building. There will be an increase in the amount of parking on site as well to assure proper parking allocation for the use. Mr. Ravelson was welcomed by Board Members and it was noted there are still many forthcoming details from the Cannabis Control Commission. Access by public transit was noted and it was identified to be a perfect location. A background about Mission Massachusetts was given regarding the business, the cultivation and retail locations in Worcester. A State license will allow for three retail medical marijuana locations and there may be another in Burlington. The business structure was explained and Mr. Ravelson noted he has had extensive communication with the Police Department in Adams. It was clarified that the initial intent was for the business to offer medical marijuana and the Letter of Support would be only for this purpose. Mission Massachusetts is in the process of looking at recreational marijuana for the future. Draft regulations are being reviewed for future interest in moving forward as a dual entity of medical and recreational marijuana. He explained that the cultivation location in Worcester is currently under construction and is a very expensive endeavor that needs to be done right. The time frame to open that facility is currently in flux due to a number of factors but is hoped for September 2018. The next step was noted as being a negotiated Host Agreement. Percentages were noted as being created in that process. Ron Ouimet, the owner of the potentially leased property addressed the Board and noted that Mission Massachusetts has been very professional to work with. He explained that it was a difficult decision to give up part of the business in Adams but also worthwhile to bring good business to the Town. One Board Member expressed concern that the Town should limit the number of operations allowed in Adams to avoid oversaturation. It was pointed out that all companies have to go through the State. Once the Letter of Non-Opposition is approved, it goes to the State Level for approval. The Recreational Marijuana process will be different. Police Chief Tarsa explained he had conversations with Mr. Ravelson and his Head of Security and confirmed that Mission Massachusetts is doing this methodically and within procedure. He advised there had been a good conversation with Mr. Ouimet and was assured there is more than sufficient parking but if more was needed it would be created. There are statutes and guidelines dictated by the State regarding what is needed for security and Mission Massachusetts will be above the minimum security requirements. It was noted that the Cannabis Control Commission is expected to come out with regulations shortly. Home delivery and smoking dens are not in this set of regulations but will be available for Medical Marijuana at the discretion of the facility. Hours will be agreed upon between the business and the Town. It was noted that home delivery will be addressed once the business is up and running but it will not be part of the startup plan. If there is a demand for service it will be addressed at that point. The process for Recreational Marijuana is forthcoming but Mission Massachusetts but would work with the Town before moving forward with it. ***Motion made by Member Nowak to approve a Letter of Non-Opposition for Mission Massachusetts for a Medical Marijuana Registered Dispensary to be located in the Town of Adams, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.***

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Administrator's Report: Despite severe winter weather, American Environmental did excellent work at 50 Commercial Street to demolish the building and work is being done with Town Counsel to place a lien on the property. An invitation for bids for the Visitors Center Parking Improvement Project is expected to be submitted next week and sealed bids will be due on April 26th. The Town will apply for Opportunity Zone status to establish zones for designated low income opportunities. Tracts were noted as being for the areas of the Greylock Glen, the Downtown, and the northern part of town.

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Town Counsel Report: *There was not Town Counsel report at this meeting.*

SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: *Member Nowak* advised he attended a meeting for Indivisible Pittsfield, regarding mothers looking for gun control. He noted this is a difficult situation and something has to change. A March will be held on the 24th and the hope is that politicians will listen and stop unnecessary violence. *Member Hoyt* advised she attended the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Superintendent Search Committee meeting and the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition meeting which discussed economic development and recreational opportunities. *Chairman Duval* noted there was an article in iBerkshires regarding the Route 8 construction project which will begin around Park Street and go to the bridge prior to Mullen Mayflower. The construction will begin in Spring 2020. There is a possibility that the land owners may allow the new portion of the Ashuwillticook Trail to go forward and Interim Town Administrator Cesan is working very hard to hopefully make it a reality. There was a visit from Lt. Governor Polito last week regarding grants received by the Town. The train platform will be built in the Spring which will be a completion of that project, and a ceremony will take place. Lt. Governor Polito is also aware of the Greylock Glen project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER: *Member Nowak* noted that he had been in contact with Jay Green and the Hoosac Valley Elementary School regarding letters written to State Officials and the Governor. The rest of the grades will be given a free train ride. 99% of the children had never been on a train. He advised he is hoping to invite Lt. Governor Polito to ride with the children and is working with Principal Michelle Colvin and Jay Green on this. *Member Hoyt* thanked those who returned their nomination papers and are on the ballot for May. She advised she is looking forward to the forums. Sunday there is an Easter Egg Hunt at the Youth Center.

ADJOURNMENT:


Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Hoyt, Vote: Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.


Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



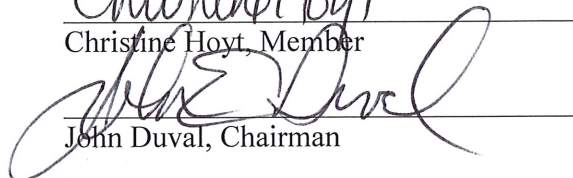
Joseph Nowak, Member



Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman



Christine Hoyt, Member



John Duval, Chairman