

**TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**ADAMS TOWN HALL BUILDING, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 07/18/2018**

**18 AUG -2 AM 8:32**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the **May 30, 2018, June 6, 2018, June 13, 2018 and June 20, 2018** Board of Selectmen Meetings were submitted for approval. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to waive reading of the minutes for May 30, 2018 and approve as submitted, second by Member Bush. Abstention by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion made by Member Hoyt to waive reading of the minutes for June 6, 2018, June 13, 2018 and June 20, 2018 and approve as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** *Barbara Bates and Deborah Nowicki* reported the Berkshire Scenic Rail locomotive idles for three hours every Saturday and Sunday and inquired about reducing emissions being expelled into the residential neighborhood. They also inquired about updating the locomotive for emission controls and have it retrofitted to keep the environment clean for residents. It was explained that the project went through MEPA and set up monitoring of ambient air quality before it arrived, and provided data on what was anticipated afterward. Atmospheric testing on the impact was done and there was no concern at that time. The document was offered to be shared with them. It was noted that three hours of idling in the summer is excessive but in the winter it may be needed to get warmed up. Berkshire Scenic Railway will be contacted to see if there is a more acceptable solution.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Ratification, Community Development Program Manager, Rebecca Ferguson:** *Chairman Duval* read the letter from Interim Town Administrator Cesan recommending the ratification of Rebecca Ferguson to the Program Manager position. Ms. Ferguson's extensive Project Manager and environmental experience were identified to be a good fit in the department. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to ratify Rebecca Ferguson to the Community Development Program Manager position, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: Unanimous.*

**Traffic Commission Request, "No Parking Zone" Extended from the intersection of Thompson and Friend Street:** *Member Hoyt* recused herself as she spearheaded this request in 2014. *Chief Tarsa* explained the request and noted that the language with the measurement was added so clear wording is included in the traffic regulations in order to have enforcement. It was noted that other items addressed at the Traffic Commission meeting were a parking issue with a pending solution with Mullen Mayflower that will be addressed by the Traffic Commission in the future. The Roundabout is lacking a Yield sign from Renfrew by Friend Street and it is on order. The sign by McAndrews King also on order, and Hoosac Street pedestrian signage was addressed. *Motion made by Member Bush to approve the Traffic Commission Request to include the wording "for a distance of 283'4" west on Thompson Street", second by Member Blanchard. Abstention by Member Hoyt. Voted in favor were Chairman Duval, Members Blanchard, Nowak and Bush. Motion carried.*

**Approval of 2018 State Primary Warrant:** *Chairman Duval* read the 2018 State Primary Warrant. Voting will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Highway Garage 92 North Summer St. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to accept the 2018 State Primary Warrant by for Tuesday September 4, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. as read, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*



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**Facility Use Request, Town Common – Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, 61 Main Street, Suite 246, North Adams, MA, July 29, 2018:** Brad Schueckler from Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity advised he is taking over the Pedal & Plod event and has good donations coming in. The event will be held on July 29, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the kickoff time is 8:30 a.m. for road shutdown needs. ***Motion made by Member Nowak to approve use of the Town Common by Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity for the Pedal and Plod from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.***

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Town Administrator Report:** The Town was notified that funds were granted for the Tier 3 Complete Streets partial funding of \$290,281 for the reconstruction of Croteau Street and sidewalks. The Town will be sending out contracts and has until September 30, 2019 to complete the project. The project design is expected to be finished by the fall and put out to bid by December or January. Bids were due for the Town Hall Roof Replacement project. The Town received one single bid which was deemed unacceptable. There was a lot of interest and suspicion was that the DCAM certification which is required for projects over \$150,000 was a deterrent. The Town will make the adjustment and reissue the bid as soon as possible. Concern was expressed about crosswalks. The DPW ordered the paint and should be refreshing them by next week with a focus on Park Street, Commercial Street, Route 8 North, Summer Street and other streets from there. It was noted that the DPW is short-handed and has a heavy workload and they were requested to have crosswalks painted in the spring and touched up in the fall. An explanation was given about sustained temperature and weather requirements for the paint to adhere properly. Highway lines are contracted out and a concern was expressed that when the DPW paints the crosswalks the road becomes an obstacle course to avoid the financial constraints of contracting it with another agency. A recommendation was made to outsource it to have police there for traffic control. It was noted that the crew paints late in evenings when traffic is at a minimum to address that issue. A request was made to have the Board hold a workshop in the Croteau Street area by the softball field to meet with residents to go over the Complete Street areas and resurfacing of Croteau, Murray, and Cook Streets and address concerns. The Police and Fire Chiefs and other parties may be invited to attend. A request was made to have crack sealant administered to Park Street. It was explained that the DPW Foreman advised this takes place in September and it is already planned.

**Town Counsel Report:** Discussion took place with opposing counsel and the court concerning a pending case. Review and research was done concerning an easement issue. A meeting took place with Town personnel and a report was prepared relative to the meeting. Discussions took place with an attorney for a private citizen concerning the use of public property and communications with staff concerning the same.

**SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:** *Member Hoyt* advised that the Regional Agreement Advisory Committee met this week to review the work done since November. Their next meeting is scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> to review the entire document for submission to the School District and School Committee. They will review it on August 27<sup>th</sup> with their legal counsel before being forwarded to the legal counsel of Adams and Cheshire. The changes to the document will be reviewed with the Board of Selectmen and there will be some public meeting sessions to potentially be included in a Special Town Meeting in the fall. *Member Nowak* advised he attended the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership meeting, and is awaiting the results of the Environmental Bond decision. He advised the outcome will be reported. *Chairman Duval* explained the Environmental Bill and its possible funding. He thanked Senator Hinds and Representative Barrett for their hard work to get the funding requested. He noted that it will be an investment that will continue to be worked on. Additional thanks were given to the other Board Members, George Haddad, and Interim Town Administrator Cesan for all of their efforts as well. He also announced that he has been elected to the Treasurer position of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission at their recent meeting.



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER:** *Member Hoyt* announced that this weekend is the MAGICon event which will have a concert, contests and educational programs at the Greylock Glen. Shuttles will be running from downtown to the Greylock Glen. Kickoff will be Saturday at noon and will feature Harry and the Potters. Sunday the event runs from noon until 5:00 p.m. and Eugene Michalenko will be teaching about the history. She thanked the Hoosac Valley Elementary School Parent Teacher Group for their collaborative art display in Town Hall. There was a light reception and display of the artwork from Teachers, Parents and Children. Member Hoyt advised she was saddened to learn of the passing of Al Nelson, the former Executive Director of the United Way, and gave his background. He was noted as being an incredible gentleman and she advised she was honored to be the recipient of a recent award. Condolences were expressed to his family and the Northern Berkshire United Way. *Member Nowak* echoed the condolences of Al Nelson. He advised that the Fiscal Year 2019 budget is out and the Governor needs to sign it. He gave information on more tax revenue, unrestricted government aid, school contributions, a special education circuit breaker and increased regional and district school transportation funds. He explained the municipal police training fund and noted that surplus tax revenue will go toward training police officers. He reported that he attended the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting and the ZBA is looking for two alternate members to fill the vacancies. He requested those interested to come forward for more information. *Chairman Duval* advised he attended Nashville in the Berkshires. He noted that the train station platform looks great and there will be a ceremony for its grand opening. He read a card received by the Board from the Council on Aging thanking the Board for providing funding for van service and thanking the van drivers.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**


**#7. To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements;**

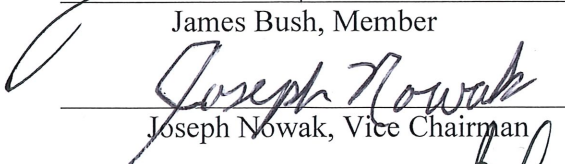
*At 7:45 p.m. a Motion was made by Member Bush to enter into Executive Session for the reason #7 as read aloud, second by Member Blanchard. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Nowak, and Members Hoyt, Blanchard and Bush. Motion carried.*


*At 8:08 p.m. a Motion was made by Member Hoyt to exit the Executive Session, second by Member Blanchard. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Nowak, and Members Hoyt, Blanchard and Bush. Motion carried.*

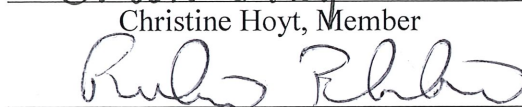
**ADJOURNMENT:** *Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Bush. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary

  
James Bush, Member

  
Joseph Nowak, Vice Chairman

  
Christine Hoyt, Member

  
Richard Blanchard, Member

  
John Duval, Chairman