

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 08/01/2018

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the **June 27, 2018, July 11, 2018, July 18, 2018, September 12, 2015, October 17, 2015, October 24, 2015, November 14, 2015** Board of Selectmen Meetings were submitted for approval. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to waive reading of the minutes for June 27, 2018, July 11, 2018, and July 18, 2018 and approve as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion made by Member Blanchard to waive reading of the minutes for September 12, 2015, October 17, 2015, October 24, 2015, November 14, 2015 and approve as submitted, second by Member Nowak. Abstention by Members Hoyt and Bush. Voted in favor were Chairman Duval and Members Nowak and Blanchard. Motion carried.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Haley Meczywor* announced that the Town-wide tag sale will be held on August 11, 2018, rain or shine, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and there are 63 participants. Maps are ready and can be picked up at Town Hall, the Library, the Council on Aging and Police Department, as well as a few businesses and on the Town website. *Officer Gregory Onorato* announced that National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Hoosac St by the Visitors Center. There will be food, games, and a DeeJay. Adams Police Department, Adams Ambulance, Adams Fire Department, the Forest Wardens, the Brien Center will be in attendance. Berkshire Scenic Railway will be offering free rides to Cook Street and back and there will be a raffle held. Officer Onorato was thanked for the work he has done to put the event together. *Richard Tavelli* of the Adams Arts Advisory Board announced the 2018 Music in the Berkshires Painted Piano Project formal event to be held on August 11th. He explained that local Artists decorated sixteen pianos that have been distributed throughout the county. Maps will be available in the Town Hall, and Adams has two pianos to be subsidized by this program. One piano will be at the Train Station, and is playable. He explained that Adams is a major part of the creative economy, and supporter of the arts. The sponsors were listed and brochures were shown to Board Members. Published articles were mentioned and he noted that Adams is highlighted for being the host of the program. The "Wave Piano" at the Firehouse Café was described. Thanks were expressed to the Town for allowing the artists use of the Memorial School for the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ratification of Reserve Police Officer, Alexander Morse: Chief Tarsa gave the Board Members Mr. Morse's background. Chairman Duval read the letter from Interim Town Administrator Cesan requesting ratification of the appointment of Alexander Morse to the position of Reserve Police Officer. *Motion made by Member Bush to ratify Alexander Morse to the position of Reserve Officer for the Adams Police Department, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.* Alexander Morse was then sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Appointment of Election Workers: *Town Clerk Meczywor* explained the need for the appointment of Election Workers as provided on the list, effective September 1st. The public was asked for input they may have regarding the list and none was received. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the list of Election Workers for appointment as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.* All election workers were thanked. An announcement was made that if anyone is interested in becoming an election worker to see the Town Clerk.

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Authorization of the Town Clerk to make emergency election worker appointments: *Motion made by Member Hoyt to allow the Town Clerk to make emergency election worker appointments, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.* August 15th is the deadline to register to vote in the State Primary, and the Town Clerk's office will be open until 8:00 p.m. that day. September 4th is the Primary Election and citizens were encouraged to vote. An explanation was given about how election workers are chosen. It was noted that the Town Clerk uses on average 44 people from the list for an election, and election workers receive a small stipend. Absentee ballots are available and have to be turned in by the day of the election. It was explained that Un-enrolled voters will be asked to choose a Republican, Democratic or Libertarian ballot.

Annual Town Census for 2018: The Town Census came in at 8,476, showing a decrease of 47 people from last year. The process of the census was briefly reviewed. Town Clerk Meczywor advised that there were 100 deaths last year and 60 births. The Town Clerk's office does follow up with people if they have not received their census back, and typically receive approximately 65% back. 2020 is the Federal Census. Anyone with questions about the census is asked to call the Town Clerk's office.

Request to Place a Sign on a Public Way – McKinley Statue Island, Agricultural Fair, Bowe Field event, August 2 – 6, 2018: Wayne Piaggi, representing the Agricultural Fair, gave the Board information regarding the request to place a sign by the McKinley Statue for the weekend to let people know about the event. Information about the Agricultural Fair may be found at the Library, on Facebook, or at www.adams-agricultural-fair.org. It was noted that the Storm Tracker Truck is not coming, but the Copsicle Truck will be there for a couple hours. Information was shared about the beautiful exhibits, and citizens were encouraged to attend to keep the Fair running. A request was made to send a note to the SteepleCats informing them about the procedure for putting up signs on a public way. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the placement of a 24"x18" temporary sign at the McKinley Statue Island from Thursday August 2, 2018 through Monday, August 6, 2018, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.*

Facility Use Request, Renfrew Field – Hoosac Valley Athletics, 125 Savoy Road, Cheshire, MA; September 14, 2018 – October 23, 2018: The application was reviewed, and it was noted that the Parks Commission had reviewed and approved it. An inquiry was made whether the Police Chief was contacted about the games that create large crowds, and it was explained that the athletics groups contact the Police regarding events outside of this process. The Chief is not asked to sign off on parks requests. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the use of Renfrew Field by Hoosac Valley Athletics, Girls Soccer from September 14, 2018 through Oct 23, 2018 from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m., for Football on September 7, 2018 and October 12, 2018 from 3:30 to 10:00 p.m. and Boys' Soccer on September 25, 2018 and October 10, 2018 from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m., second by Member Bush. Vote: Unanimous.*

Facility Use Request, Renfrew Field, Russell Field, Quality Street Field – Adams Cheshire Hurricane Youth Football & Cheerleading, 9 Quality Street, Adams MA; August 20, 2018 to November 16, 2018: Mark Harrington, Martin Bush and Jeremy Levesque were thanked for supporting the teams. It was pointed out that the addition of DPW signatures on the form assures that they are notified and part of the process. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the use of Renfrew, Russell and Quality Street Fields by the Adams Cheshire Hurricane Youth Football & Cheerleading from August 20, 2018 through November 16, 2018 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. for practices, games from 7:30 to 5:30 on Sundays at Renfrew Field, and Quality Street Field as needed by Adams Cheshire Hurricane Youth Football & Cheerleading, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.*

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Facility Use Request, Greylock Glen, BART Charter School, 1 Commercial Street, Adams, MA; October 31, 2018: The request was reviewed, and is for a cross country meet. *Motion made by Member Bush to approve the use of the Greylock Glen by BART Charter School from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on October 31, 2018, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.*

Facility Use Request, Park Street, Hijinx – Annmarie Belmonte, 26 Meadow Street, Adams MA; August 20, 2018: The original date was rained out and changed to August 20, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The street will be closed at 5:00 p.m. for setup. A request was made that next year the end time be earlier to end at 8:30 p.m. when it gets dark. Joe Martin represented the organizing committee and advised the event may be moved next year to another area to make it bigger. Chief Tarsa advised if the event starts at an earlier time it will be during a higher volume traffic time and cause a bigger problem. Next year the potential venue would be the Polanka Grounds on Mill Street Field. *Motion made by Member Bush to approve the use of Park Street for Hijinx from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and the street to be closed at 5:00 p.m. for setup on August 20, 2018, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Administrator Report: A pre-construction meeting for the Resurfacing of Streets and Reconstruction of Sidewalks Project and Related Work was held with J. H. Maxymillian, Inc., who was contracted for the project. Contract development will continue this week upon the receipt of bonds and a certificate of insurance. A formal "Notice to Proceed" is anticipated before August 15, 2018. The resurfacing work is expected to be completed prior to the end of November. Interviews were conducted for the Maintenance Technician/Operator I and Skilled Laborer open positions within the DPW. Eight candidates were interviewed and reference checks are being done. Decisions are expected to be made late this week or early next week, before the August 15, 2018 meeting. The Town has been approached by LC Square, LLC (LC²) about their intent to cultivate and process adult use cannabis at 173 Howland Avenue, which has been secured by the company. They have requested to come to the August 15, 2018 Board meeting to discuss their plans, and indicated an interest in moving forward quickly with a host community agreement. The existing building is approximately 40,000 square feet, but they anticipate renovating 10,000 square feet for the new business. The company and has already reached an agreement in North Adams and has reached out to Mission Massachusetts. They are looking to supply other organizations with cultivation and hope to redevelop the property. It was noted with the new service station and Mission Massachusetts, the Town is beginning to see new investment on the Route 8 Corridor to Curran Highway. This new type of business is heavily regulated by the Commonwealth. The host agreement possible benefits received by the Town were briefly discussed. It was explained that the Cannabis Control Commission issued draft guidance to municipalities receiving 3% of sales, and there isn't a relationship between an extra cost incurred and what is being asked from the company. A 3% tax is for retail sales, and handled by the Department of Revenue. A Host Community Agreement with Mission Massachusetts is anticipated to go before the Board soon, as a lease agreement has been entered into. A concern about saturation in the community of having too many marijuana establishments was expressed. The Cannabis Control Commission lists on their website a status of companies that have submitted applications to the state and where they are in the process. Mission Massachusetts is already in the state system because the state is giving priority to medical marijuana businesses. LC2 have principles that have experience in the field. The Chairman requested Board Members do research on cultivation businesses and asked the Interim Town Administrator to provide the Board with more information.

Town Counsel Report: *There was no report submitted.*

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SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: *Member Hoyt* advised that she attended the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority advisory meeting and represented the Town of Adams at that meeting. She noted it is important to keep that seat. Discussion took place about routes and services, and prior discussion was regarding services that could be cut if they were not level funded. She noted that despite being level funded some cuts took place anyway. There is a pilot program being run on evening services and finding areas with dense population for jobs with higher concentration, and a cut was made to a South County route with low ridership. She advised that the Town of Adams does not currently have dedicated representation and asked if this could be on the August 15th agenda to be addressed before the monthly meeting on the 3rd Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Board Members interested in serving in this capacity are requested to contact Chairman Duval. An inquiry was made from Member Hoyt as the ACRSD Liaison regarding the status of the chimney and cafeteria floor repairs at the C.T. Plunkett School. She advised there was a meeting in the beginning of June to review priorities for elementary school and she is waiting for more information from the school. A request was made at the time to move quickly but there has not been a reply. Interim Town Administrator Cesan and Member Hoyt will be meeting with the Superintendent next week. It was reported that work was done on the electrical system for air conditioning units on the 3rd floor and on drinking fountains. The cafeteria floor had previously been identified as an issue. Concern was expressed that August 10th is the final day of free meals for kids and the work has to be done right away in order to be completed before school starts. Consideration is being given to both the school and the Town's priorities for the building. It was explained that the chimney needs to be done because it represents a hazard. It was noted that the former Superintendent was addressing that issue and the question will be asked. It was explained to the Board that there may not be enough time to go through proper procurement before school starts depending on size of the project. Alternative dates, vacation times or the end of the school year may need to be considered due to procurement constraints. *Member Bush* advised he attended the Council on Aging meeting and they discussed picnics. He also reported that he attended the Traffic Commission meeting where a parking issue on Phillips Hill was resolved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER: *Member Hoyt* thanked the organizers of MAGICon for their work to create the event at the Greylock Glen and attendees were mostly from outside of Adams. She announced that the Adams Ale House Grand Re-Opening will be held on August 7th, at 5:30 p.m. and people can attend both that and the National Night Out, which will be held at 5:00 p.m. *Member Nowak* announced that the Environmental Bond Bill is before the Governor with a line item for funds for the Greylock Glen. He announced that the Town received the Community Block Grant in the amount of \$550,000 for the Memorial School and thanked Interim Town Administrator Cesan for all her hard work. He advised that the expertise and work done by Interim Town Administrator Cesan for grant writing has made a big difference for the community. *Member Nowak* advised that DPW Seasonal employees spend a lot of time on flood control chutes and he would like to contact the Army Corps of Engineers about whether this is required yearly. He explained the employees work extensively weed-whacking vegetation and the employees have so much to do it takes away from other projects in the community. It was suggested that the Seasonal staff could eliminate woody vegetation but there has to be a better solution that is environmentally sensitive. *Interim Town Administrator Cesan* explained the Environmental Bond Bill and the Economic Development Bond have line items for projects but there is still a lot of work to do because Adams is in competition with other agencies for the funds. She noted that it is important to keep in dialogue with legislators to keep it moving forward. *Member Bush* announced he attended the Senior Center luncheon where he fielded questions and concerns. There will be a Memorial School Sub-Committee meeting to be held soon to go over the grant with the Interim Town Administrator and the information will be reported back to the Board. It was explained that brush can still be brought to the Transfer Station, and the best way to get answers right away is to contact Town Hall. Brush has to be put through a chipper by hand, and is manual labor.

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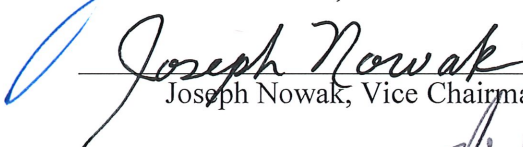
Interim Town Administrator Cesan advised that she is working on signage for the Transfer Station to outline what materials can go in each bin, and to provide something people can take home with them to better communicate what can and cannot be dropped off. The new fiscal year showed a slow opening at the Transfer Station due to staff restrictions. Citizens requested the Transfer Station be open one evening a week and that will be discussed in the near future. The Ad Hoc Committee on Solid Waste meeting has not yet been scheduled due to a member illness. It was noted that approximately 400 stickers were sold so far. The cost of the annual fee for stickers was addressed and will improve the level of service the Town is offering. It was noted that the weeds are growing past the panels on the solar field at the old landfill. A hired contractor came across poisonous weeds and which caused a delay with weed removal. *Member Nowak* advised the state will be contacted about where it is growing as it is very dangerous and difficult to eradicate.

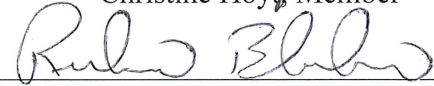
ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Bush. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.*

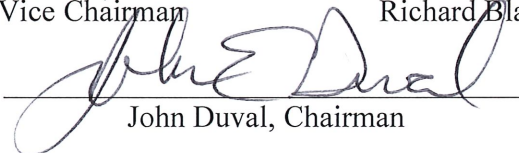
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary


James Bush, Member


Christine Hoyt, Member


Joseph Nowak, Vice Chairman


Richard Blanchard, Member


John Duval, Chairman