

# TOWN OF ADAMS

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017 – 7:00 PM  
ADAMS TOWN HALL, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

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TOWN CLERK  
ADAMS MASS

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

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

### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### *Snow Removal*

**Peter Coussoule** advised that the proper ty on 5 – 9 School Street has plowed snow onto the sidewalk about three feet wide and four feet deep creating a safety hazard between his property and the vacant property next door. Since the Police Station is busy he requested the Town plow the street up to the curb line so people can park. He noted that the DPW has provided more aggressive snow removal which crushed the lattice work next to the building.

**Town Administrator Mazzucco** and **Chairman Snoonian** will see what can be done.

#### *Pinnacle Park Sand Issue*

**Linda Kupiec** and other residents of **Pinnacle Park** advised the Board about sand blowing issues that Pinnacle Park is experiencing from Duke's Gravel Pit. They advised new trees were removed two weeks ago creating an open space and a wind tunnel, and a piece of excavation equipment had also exploded at the bottom of the hill causing a potential hazard for children playing in the area at the new berm. A woman reportedly was hit by pieces that came off a tree and residents have to wear masks when mowing lawns. One resident reported a woman was threatened by the owner of the Gravel Pit and the police were notified. Health concerns were expressed regarding silica in the air and smoke detectors in homes set off by dust.

**Chairman Snoonian** and **Town Administrator Mazzucco** noted that Health and Building inspectors have been there and filed violations last week and there is a legal timeframe to respond. Mass DEP and the Town Attorney are involved. Zoning research was done over the winter. A community meeting can be set up with the Health and Building Inspectors to keep people up to date. Linda Kupiec was requested to send pictures to the Town Administrator and she will be the *Pinnacle Park* contact.

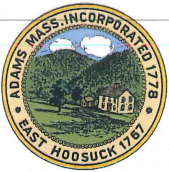
### OLD BUSINESS

#### *Facility Use Request – Reid Field, Adams Lassie League*

This facility use request was tabled on March 1, 2017 due to an expired insurance certificate with the application. An additional facility use request was submitted for the same field and times from the ACS Softball League.

**Member Duval** requested to hold and combine agenda items for the Facility Use Request for Reid Field by Adams Lassie League, Discussion on Softball Leagues, and Facility Use Request for Russell and Reid Field by the ACS Softball League together as one discussion.





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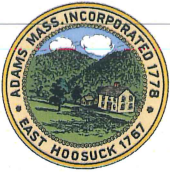
**Board Members** and members of both the *Adams Lassie League* and the *ACS Softball League* provided information and discussed the complexity of the requests to use the fields by the different groups. It was noted that an attempt had been made for both groups to work together by the Leagues and it was considered by the Board not to issue the use of the field to either league to give them a month to work things out with a compromise for the betterment of the kids. One Board Member pointed out it is not in the purview of the Board of Selectmen to provide mediation for the leagues. One representative from each league was invited to speak to the state of the situation and it was advised they would have to wait a few weeks before a decision is made so it can be resolved.

**Louis Moser** of the *ACS Softball League* advised a scheduled February meeting that had the intent of improving communications and organization of the Lassie League was cancelled. Board members represented over 25% of the *Lassie League* and until Christmas were operating as the *Lassie League*. 75% of parents indicated interest in having opportunity to be part of management. He advised he had received a *Cease and Desist* letter from Mr. Witek that said they were no longer part of the Lassie League. Since then, he advised he discovered the *Lassie League* does not have an official 501(c)3 status and he talked with a legal representative to discover this is a problem with the league and in the best interest to start a new league for the children since they are collecting funds. 84 girls signed up and 86% of them played for the *Lassie League* last year and *Adams Cheshire Savoy* (ACS). He showed a packet of information to the Board Members. He expressed concern that the Lassie League would not allow an elected board and parents are not allowed to run for a position they are passionate about. He noted that the parents wanted to see a change in the organizational charter and 75% of parents in the Lassie League signed the petition and wanted this.

**Corey Bishop** of the *Adams Lassie League* also passed out a packet to the Board, including updated insurance. He advised the February meeting he was out of town and asked to cancel the meeting. He expressed concern that the Boards and Commissions that govern the town that made a 4/1 vote to deny field use permits to the other group would be challenged. He advised the Adams Lassie League controls 65% of the league based on last year's numbers and registration is not yet complete. He advised that at the last *Parks Commission* meeting the *ACS Softball League* discussed that Town Counsel had given them guidance, which he questioned as he thought the Town had no recommendation either way. He clarified that the *Adams Lassie League* is a self-appointed and self-perpetuating board and been run this way for many years because there is little interest in taking positions. He identified Board Members for the Adams Lassie League and there was a 2016 ballot for Board of Directors. He advised that the Adams Lassie League just finished the winter league. They have a committed schedule to House, Travel and Tournament and without the House League there will be no feeders for Travel or Tournament. He gave his opinion that the other group has been soliciting and giving false hopes to parents and players that they are going to have a field to play at. He noted that the *Adams Lassie League* worked hard in last few months to partner with North Adams which, based on dwindling populations, and have agreed to play with the *Adams Lassie League*. He expressed a desire to mend the league 100% and a couple of disgruntled parents should not hold back children from the well-established league. He advised that the *Parks Commission* would not issue permission to the ACS Softball League because the current Adams Lassie League is the incumbent league.

Additional audience members were allowed to give input including explanation of the plan for field usage and the larger vision of the *Adams Lassie League* including tournaments, a national qualifier and districts under *Babe Ruth* charter, which includes a number of towns for 40 years.





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**James Fassell** of the *Parks Commission* advised whoever got the most votes got to run the league, and now wants to know who will run it. He noted that he agreed with what the splintered group wants to do and there is room for both groups.

**Dr. Martin Bush** pointed out that the only one getting hurt are the kids. There are two softball fields and he suggested that if both leagues have adequate registration numbers to split up the fields.

**Board Members** advised Town Counsel is also a private lawyer and can give advice to anyone. It was pointed out that the Parks Commission is an advisory board so everything they vote on has to be voted on by the Board of Selectmen. Additional clarification and information was provided regarding taxes, income, donations, dues, fundraisers and fees by both Leagues' treasurers, as well as the requirements for tax identification numbers and non-profit groups. Both leagues were requested to play together and to work out a concrete plan for coming together for next year. The Board will gather further information from Town Counsel and suggesting holding this approval decision until April 5, 2017.

*Motion made by Member Nowak to table the Facility Use Request for the Adams Lassie League until April 5, 2017*

*Second by Member Duval*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

*Motion by Member Duval to table the Facility Use Request for the ACS Softball League and Softball League discussion until April 5, 2017*

*Second by Member Blanchard*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion Passed*

### NEW BUSINESS

#### *Town Election Warrant*

**Chairman Snoonian** announced the Town Election warrant and all positions on it. Elections will be held on Monday, May 1, 2017 at Highway Garage at 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clarification was given regarding the Board of Selectmen position available. A special election could be held for \$2,000 and a couple days of DPW time, and a successful candidate would be in the position for one year. Currently there will only be one position on the ballot. Discussion about having a special election will be an agenda item for an upcoming meeting. Board Members encouraged citizens interested to get involved. A brief review was made of the current candidates, and how to do a write-in candidacy.

*Motion made by Member Duval to approve the Town Election warrant*

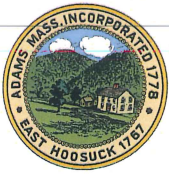
*Second by Member Blanchard*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

#### *Facility Use Request – Adams Visitors Center, Jillian St. John*

**The Berkshire Leadership Program** requested use of the Adams Visitors Center on April 12, 2017 from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. and Council on Aging Director Erica Girgenti will be speaking.



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*Motion made by Member Nowak to approve use of the Visitors Center by the Berkshire Leadership Program on April 12, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.*

*Second by Member Duval*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### *Facility Use Request – Adams Visitors Center, BFAIR*

**Chairman Snoonian** read the Facility Use Request submitted by **BFAIR**, a non-profit support group for people with disabilities. Jen Civello, the BFAIR representative, gave a brief overview of the event, which will have food and will take place only if the sun shines. A \$150 cleanup fee was acceptable if needed for cleanup after the event.

*Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the use of the Visitors Center by BFAIR on June 24 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*Second by Member Blanchard*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed.*

### *Facility Use Request – Town Hall Lawn, Denise Swistak*

**Chairman Snoonian** reviewed the application by **Denise Swistak** to use the **Town Hall Lawn** for a **Donate Life Flag Ceremony** supporting organ donations, **April 4, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

*Motion made by Member Nowak to allow use of Town Hall Lawn by Denise Swistak on April 4, 2017 for the full month of April from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*Second by Member Blanchard*

*Unanimous Vote*

*Motion passed*

## SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

### *School Committee*

**Member Nowak** attended the School committee meeting. The school closing decision was discussed and some people thought it was fixed and wanted a revote. The budget for the schools was reviewed but not yet solidified.

### *Berkshire Regional Planning Commission*

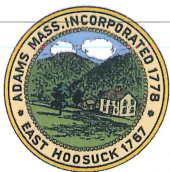
**Member Duval** advised there will be a BRPC meeting on March 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### *Town Administrator's Report*

The Town budget is now available online. Joint budget meetings between the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen will be held next week at 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday at the Adams Visitors Center.





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### *Town Counsel Report*

*Town Counsel St. John III was absent.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

#### *Reappointment of Finance Committee Members*

**Chairman Snoonian** outlined a letter from Moderator Ed Driscoll regarding the reappointment of Finance Committee Members.

#### *Fire Hydrant Snow Removal*

**Member Duval** expressed concern about fire hydrants buried from the last storm. He asked citizens with hydrants within 500 feet of their home and their neighborhood to know where the hydrants are and to take responsibility to clean it out.

#### *Budget Meetings*

**Chairman Snoonian** and **Member Nowak** reminded citizens about the budget meetings next week encouraged citizen attendance to get more information on how to read the budget.

#### *Girls' Basketball Game*

**Member Nowak** reported that on Saturday the *Girls' Basketball Team* will be playing Braintree for Division III championship in Springfield. He encouraged Adams residents to go to Springfield to cheer them on.

### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn*

*Second by Member Duval*

*Unanimous Vote*

*Motion passed*

*The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary

  
Joseph Nowak, Member

  
Richard Blanchard, Member

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John Duval, Member

  
Jeffrey Snoonian, Chairman