



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED-POSTED
15 FEB 20 PM 3:18

WEDNESDAY, February 4, 2015 - 7:00 PM

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

TOWN HALL, MEETING ROOM, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

On the Above date the Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Arthur Harrington presided. Present were Members John Duval, Joseph Nowak, Jeffrey Snoonian, and Vice Chairman Richard Blanchard. Also in attendance were Town Counsel, Edmund St. John III and Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF MINUTES

- January 21, 2015
- January 28, 2015

Motion made by Member Snoonian to waive the reading of the January 21, 2015 minutes and to accept the minutes as written

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Motion made by Vice Chairman Blanchard to waive the reading of the minutes and to approve the January 28, 2015 minutes as written

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

CITIZEN'S CONFERENCE

Dana Labbee Fundraiser

Jeff Lefebvre thanked everyone for their support for the Dana Labbee Fundraiser, which had a good turnout and raised \$1,400.

Memorial School Evaluation

Jeff Lefebvre asked for the final guideline on the two evaluations done on the Memorial School. He said he felt the Town should not be using the school as a daycare as the first evaluation deemed it was not acceptable for school purposes.

Chairman Harrington advised the Town would be using the second evaluation, which was done by engineers to assess for the purpose of the school reuse, and not the one done by school which was meant for school purposes, as this is no longer the use of the building.



TOWN OF ADAMS

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no Public Hearing at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

RFP for Revaluation Service

Chairman Harrington gave an overview of the revaluation process and request by the Town Assessor for a professional organization to do the total revaluation of the community as required every 10 years. Cost and scope of services are large factors.

An RFP was developed to cover the scope of services, and the Board had agreed to go forward with it in a previous meeting. The deadline for RFPs is March, and will be a 3 year process where 1200 parcels will be done each year to complete a total revaluation by 2017. There are approximately 10 agencies certified by the State able to do the work and the RFP will be sent out to these agencies.

Tourist Sign Effectiveness

Member Nowak brought up the ineffectiveness of tourist signs when coming into town because the font is too small to read while driving. He inquired what the standards are for sign lettering and asked if the Town could see if the request was submitted incorrectly or if the manufacturer was in error so it can be adjusted appropriately.

Town Administrator Mazzucco will investigate with Community Development Director Cesan and get cost estimates.

NEW BUSINESS

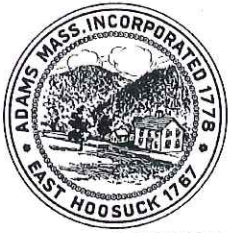
There was no New Business discussed at this meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORT

Mount Greylock Advisory Council

Member Nowak attended the *Mount Greylock Advisory Council* meeting, which discussed the reconstruction of the Tower and Bascom Lodge. He advised they also talked about the Thunderfest Event on the Thunderbolt, which is scheduled for February 28, 2015. There is no alternate date and there will be festivities whether the race runs or not. Less people are expected to enter the race due to its intense physical requirements.

The *ProAdams* website shows a number of activities including marshmallow roasting and the Chowderfest.



TOWN OF ADAMS

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Parking Meters

Most of the parking meters are up on Park Street, but there are a few that will not be up and running until spring, when the poles can be moved.

Parking Permits

Parking Permits for Kearns Lane and Renfrew Field are moving forward for the winter overnight parking. It is anticipated that they will be brought before the Board within a week or two.

Community Preservation Coalition

The Community Preservation Coalition will come out to give the Select Board and the community a presentation. The schedule is pretty full until summer, so this will be scheduled in June or thereafter.

Building Commissioner Position

The Building Commissioner position will be posted soon, and finishing touches are being made to the job description.

Memorial School

Vendors have been contacted to get bleachers at the Memorial School inspected and certified within next week or two.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

There were no items presented from the Public Works Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thunderbolt Race and Thunderfest

Chief Tarsa attended a meeting on safety for the Thunderfest. It will be held in a "rondeau" European format of two trips up by skiers, beginning with registrations at the gazebo at 8:30 a.m. and the race will begin at 10:00 a.m. Race time is expected to be slightly over 2 hours for the fastest skier, and approximately 50 or more skiers are expected. At 2:00 p.m. it will shut down for a final sweep and break down. Permits are in process for this event and the Thunderfest portion at the Visitor's Center runs 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Praise Received

Chief Tarsa read a letter received from the Board of Health acknowledging Officer Charon for his support to the elderly. He was thanked for his care and commitment to the Town, and has shown the elderly should be treated with both respect and dignity. The entire police department was also commended for frequently going above and beyond the call of duty.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Extreme Temperatures

The senior citizens are a cherished population and the most vulnerable to extreme temperatures as frequently budgets do not allow for their homes to be sufficiently temperature regulated. Groups and organizations can assist the senior population by reaching out to the *Council on Aging* or the *Police Department* for assistance with heating, and meals on wheels if needed. Chief Tarsa also gave examples of systems currently in place, such as the "Are You OK" calling system and asked those in the community to pay attention to things like mail piling up and the car still in the yard, which may indicate a person is in need of a wellbeing check.

Department of Public Works

Chief Tarsa acknowledged the DPW for the work they are doing with the resources available. He noted they cannot be in all places at once, and are doing a fantastic job.

People were observed standing at the end of their driveways to keep DPW from plowing snow into their driveways. By doing this the person is putting themselves, oncoming traffic, and the plow truck operator in harm's way, and there is a by-law that covers impeding snow removal. If a person is observed doing this, notify the police so they can first have a talk with them to avoid injuries or other dire consequences. It can be considered disorderly conduct and is arrestable.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There were no items presented from the Community Development Department

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

There were no other items presented from other departments

TOWN COUNSEL REPORT

Town Counsel St. John III reports he reviewed and provided comment regarding the following:

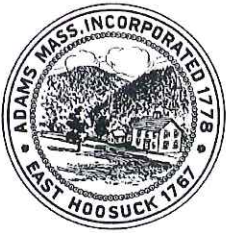
- geocaching within the town
- the process of amending the charter
- Columbia Street Memorial Park AUL agreement.

Member Nowak noted that geocaching has been very popular and going on at the Visitor Center for several years with permission from Bill Wilson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration

Member Nowak announced there will be a birthday celebration for Susan B. Anthony on Sunday, February 15, 2015 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the *Adams Free Library*. Jean Garrett, author and historical performer will be performing a skit called "Reminiscing with Susan". Birthday cake and refreshments will follow.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

North Adams Regional Hospital

Member Nowak reported that there will be a rally held for NARH on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. There will be a speaker addressing the reasons the hospital should be restored to full service. The rally will be 30 to 45 minutes long, due to the cold weather.

APPROVALS

One Day Liquor License Request

BART Charter School submitted an application for a One Day Wine & Malt License for April 11, 2015 for their annual fundraiser. All paperwork was completed, and the location will be at 1 Commercial Place in Adams. The caterer is Mezze, Inc., which is Tips certified and no police are needed at this event.

Leah Thompson from BART advised the Board that this fundraiser is in its 8th year and supports the academic programming. BART hopes to raise \$20,000. In the beginning of the event Julia Bowen will give a speech regarding responsible alcohol consumption.

Motion made by Member Snoonian to approve the One Day Wine & Malt License for April 11, 2015 for BART for their annual fundraiser

Second by Vice Chairman Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented at this meeting

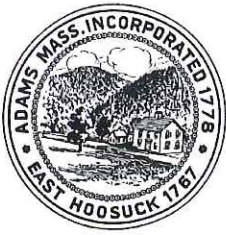
AGENDA ITEMS

Town Administrator Mazzucco suggested for the next Workshop Meeting the following items:

- Geocaching on Town Property
- Municipal Aggregation
- DPW Director will speak about salt issues and ACRSD and High School plowing
- Intermunicipal Agreement discussion between the Fire District and the Town, including out of district fees
- Updates on Memorial School

Member Duval suggested discussion from the Town Administrator about the changes in this year's Budget process

Chairman Harrington will not be able to attend the February 25, 2015 Workshop, and Vice Chairman Blanchard will run the meeting. He reminded Board Members to notify the office or the Vice Chairman if unable to attend that meeting because there must be a quorum. Items can be rescheduled when the full board is present if absences are known in advance.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Clear out Fire Hydrants

Member Nowak advised Fire Chief Goyette is encouraging people to clear snow away from fire hydrants.

Chairman Harrington advised if clearing hydrants to be cautious because they are very close to the road. He suggested wearing an orange vest or something bright to give visibility, and recommended not doing it when heavy snow is falling.

DPW Ride Along

Vice Chairman Blanchard did a ride along with the DPW and it was a great opportunity to see what they do and what they have to deal with. He expressed thanks to both Tim Cota and Larry Robert, and to the full DPW for doing such a great job keeping the roads as clean and safe as Mother Nature allows.

Chairman Harrington advises the last few weeks the weather conditions have made it difficult to keep the ice and snow clear, and applauds the Town DPW for clearing out major business districts and other areas, including taking down the snow banks so cars can see out at intersections.

Clear Sidewalks

Member Snoonian advised the public to keep sidewalks clear whether the building is inhabited or not, and mentioned that he has seen people fall because of it.

Chairman Harrington noted that as temperatures change snow melts and refreezes making it very slippery. He asks those who are able to help out others who are not around or able to clear their areas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session at this meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Vice Chairman Blanchard

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary.

Joseph Nowak
Joseph Nowak, Member

Jeffrey Snoonian
Jeffrey Snoonian, Member

John Duval
John Duval, Member

Richard Blanchard
Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman

Arthur Harrington
Arthur Harrington, Chairman