



# TOWN OF ADAMS

## SELECT BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, June 10, 2015 – 7:00 PM  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** and held a meeting at the **Adams Town Hall** at 7:00 p.m.

**Chairman Richard Blanchard** presided the meeting. Present were **Vice Chairman Jeffrey Snoonian**, **Members Joseph Nowak, Arthur Harrington, John Duval**, and **Town Administrator, Tony Mazzucco**.

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

### OFFICIAL BUSINESS

#### APPOINTMENTS

##### *Annual Appointments*

**Chairman Blanchard** requested Board Members go over the yearly appointment list for discussion next week. The only changes made from last year were the insertion of new department heads.

**Member Harrington** advised that the *Board of Survey* is incorrect and state or local codes define who can be on that board.

The *Conservation Commission* requested to reduce the board membership from 7 to 5 but it is not on the Town Meeting warrant. The current Chair would like a 7 member board, but was concerned about having a quorum so requested to reduce to a 5 member board. A couple of people were interested in what board vacancies are still available. The vacancies can be posted on the Town website and on social media.

Originally Town Counsel thought the Select Board could make the decision to reduce the Conservation Commission size, but it was discovered that 30 years ago Town Meeting set the Commission at 7. It would therefore take a Special Town Meeting to reduce it to 5. If the Conservation Commission would like to stay the same size, a letter would be sufficient to drop the process.

#### ANNUAL SELECT BOARD GOALS

##### *A Place of Leadership*

**Member Snoonian** said he would like to work on transitioning Adams' role as the biggest town from being reactionary, especially with General Electric and the North Adams Regional Hospital closing, to being in a place of leadership in the region. He identified that Adams will need Berkshire Regional Planning to forecast 10 years out in order to get ahead instead of being reactionary. He suggested either getting a true population study, or the opinion of business leaders to determine where the Town is going and what Adams will look like 5 years from now in all aspects in addition to economically.

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The Strategic Plan is being updated this summer and early autumn. As the Town defines the term "leading community" it will become the theme for the strategic plan for 5 to 10 years, so Adams can begin to position itself as a leader in the community.

#### *Better Communication with the Public*

**Member Harrington** set the goal of having better communication with the public about what the Town is doing, since social media seldom shows the good things. He suggested looking at ways to facilitate communication, such as getting a page on Channel 22 for the Town so it can be changed with Town updates. The wheels are in motion for the Agricultural Fair and Artisan Fair but there is a need to get information out earlier as a community and government. There needs to be more people on committees and he suggested having a venue at a set day or time to give public information about projects and to develop a way to facilitate communication to the citizens. He gave an example to the Board that at one point the kids didn't have anything to do so a group formed the Youth Center, which is still in existence.

**Member Nowak** agreed and said it was a good first step forward by the Town to have the budget out in the open for the public, with ample time to come to the meetings. He expressed discouragement that people don't seem to be interested, but said the Town shouldn't stop doing it and the information is available for people to know what is happening.

The postcard sent out about the Town Meeting Workshop was also commended.

#### *More Informed Budget Season*

**Member Duval** requested the Budget Sub-Committee work with the Town Administrator over the next several months to identify efficiencies and savings, and then report their suggestions to the full Board to be better informed when going into the next budget season.

#### *Better Communication Between Communities*

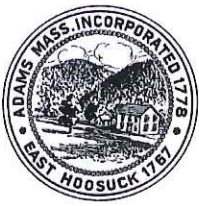
**Chairman Blanchard** set the goal of having better communication between communities. He noted that last year Adams and North Adams began doing things together and now Adams is working with Cheshire. He said he would like it to expand beyond that to other communities like Lanesborough and Williamstown, so the communities could share ideas. He gave the Hampden County Selectmen's Association as an example of working together as a community.

#### *Completion of Projects*

**Member Nowak** identified that a lot of projects are taking place but some are coming to fruition and some are stalled. He said he would like to see the finalization of some of the projects and see the direction they are going. He expressed frustration that the Town is putting itself out on a limb. People in the community envision these projects to be up and running but they are stalled for some reason, and the Town needs to find ways to have them completed.

The RFP for the Greylock Glen campground will be out in July, and the Roundabout has already been started. The Bike Trail extension may start in the fall and is hinging on the easements.





## TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

### FACILITY USE REQUEST

*Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to suspend the rules for voting purposes*

*Second by Member Harrington*

*Roll Call Vote by Chairman Blanchard, Vice Chairman Snoonian, Members Nowak, Duval and Harrington*

*Motion passed*

The Agricultural Fair submitted a *Facility Use Request* for Bowe Field to be used for the WILCO Event on June 26 – 29, 2015.

The event is outside the confines of the field, on Bowe Field Playground, which is outside of fairgrounds itself. The Agricultural Fair has a lease on the field.

**Member Harrington** advised he had attended a meeting between Agricultural Fair Members, the Building Commissioner, the Board of Health, and the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief and Board of Health had issues over emergency travel lanes, food being served, and bathroom availability. There will be a dozen RVs and no tents, which will be a certain distance apart to fulfill emergency vehicle access, and there will be no open fires. The Agricultural Fair staff will be there all night, and the Fire Chief may have people go through there overnight. There are several sets of rules that will be enforced.

Any time the Agricultural Fair considers something other than the actual Agricultural Fair they need to come in so the Town can make sure all these other factors are taken care of. The Playground is listed and traditionally that is the only part the Town controls, but there have been other events there like the Pow-Wow, which have special requirements. The Demolition Derby now has new restrictions, and all parties need to be aware so events can be done legally, safely and properly.

*Motion made by Member Harrington to approve the Facilities Request for Bowe Field to be used for the WILCO event on June 26, 27, 28, and 29*

*Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian*

*Voted in Favor were Chairman Blanchard, Vice Chairman Snoonian, Members Duval and Harrington*

*Abstention by Member Nowak*

*Motion passed*

### *Economic Development Commission*

**Town Administrator Mazzucco** advised that the next meeting he will bring information on creating an Economic Development Commission. Prior to that, he requested the Board let him know if they have any questions.

If the Meals and Lodging Tax does not pass it may handicap the plan but the Town will still move forward.



## TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

The Town is now in the position to get people in place to fill the Commission, and they will be appointed by the Town Administrator. Information will be put forward to get letters of interest from those who wish to be on the Commission.

### ***Arts Advisory Board***

**Town Administrator Mazzucco** advised he was approached by several residents to form an *Arts Advisory Board* to promote artistic events in the community. It would not create more bureaucracy, and a lot can be gained from it.

North Adams recently formed an *Arts Advisory Board* but the Adams Board would be an entity to get more art out there.

### ***Application to place a Sign on a Public Way***

An *Application to Place a Sign on a Public Way* was received by the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District.

**Member Harrington** advised he doesn't believe it is a sign on a public way, since a public way is a sidewalk or a public street.

**Chairman Blanchard** noted that sign issues need to be addressed to clarify who approves what sign and if it really need to go to the Select Board for approval.

Signs are a Zoning issue, and the Planning Board must start the process.

***Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the application for the Adams Bulky Waste Sign on the Town Hall lawn***

***Second by Member Nowak***

***Unanimous vote***

***Motion passed***

### ***Announcements***

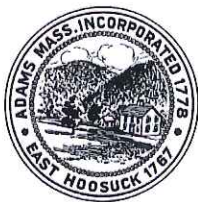
#### ***Loss of Noah Brown***

Board Members expressed deep sorrow for the tragic death of *Noah Brown*, an 8 year old child in the community. Prayers were requested for the family members and also the driver that hit the young boy who will be scarred for the rest of his life. The schools provided counseling for the kids to support them. Families and friends of both families will need a lot of help to recover from this sad event.

#### ***Town Meeting Workshop***

There will be a *Town Meeting Workshop* held on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Visitors Center for veteran and new Town Meeting Members and the public to see how Town Meeting works. The information will be put out over Channel 22, Social Media, and sent in the mail to the public.





## TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

Member Harrington advised the *Board of Health* were concerned about Warrant Articles 32 and 33 and knew nothing about them. He suggested they look over the Finance Committee book. He said he has no problem with reducing plastic contamination and Styrofoam, but was concerned about the way it was done without letting merchants and the public know and saddling the Board of Health with complex enforcement and mitigation. Williamstown amended the petition on the floor of Town Meeting so there were no fines imposed. The Board of Health was given copies of the Finance Committee report, and they have a huge stake in it due to the significantly increased workload required of them if it passes.

This petition is generic, and was submitted by a non-resident of Adams that seeded it all over Berkshire County. He got the required 10 signatures from residents of Adams in order to have it on the Warrant.

### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made to adjourn by Member Nowak*

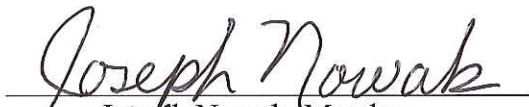
*Second by Member Harrington*

*Unanimous Vote*

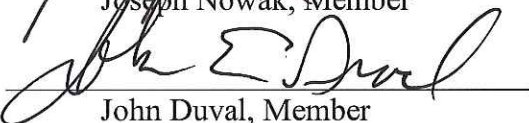
*Motion passed*

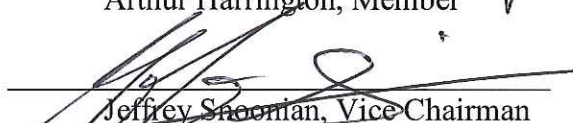
*Select Board Workshop Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary.

  
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Joseph Nowak, Member

  
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Arthur Harrington, Member

  
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John Duval, Member

  
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Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman

  
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Richard Blanchard, Chairman