



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, August 5, 2015 – 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** and held a regular meeting at the **Adams Town Hall**. **Chairman Blanchard** presided the meeting. Present were **Vice Chairman Snoonian**, Members **Joseph Nowak**, **John Duval**, and **Arthur Harrington**. Also in attendance were **Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco** and **Town Counsel, Ed St. John III**.

The Select Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES

- July 15, 2015
- July 21, 2015

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to waive the reading and approve the minutes for July 15, 2015 and July 21, 2015 as presented

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizen Assistance

Bill Beals addressed the Select Board to inquire if there was a way the video cameras on the Car Wash building could capture license plates of people telling him to go away when he is collecting cans.

Chief Richard Tarsa responded to Bill Beals to advise him there would be extra patrols to support him and that he was already looking into the issue to address it.

Agricultural Fair

Jeff Lefebvre noted that the Agricultural Fair was well attended and commended the Agricultural Fair Committee for doing an outstanding job.

Adams Cheshire School District

Jeff Lefebvre advised the Proposition 2 ½ Vote in Cheshire was in progress. He said he took the opportunity to get information from the *Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)*, and he is willing to share the information with anyone interested.

Parks Commission

Jeff Lefebvre commended the Select Board response regarding the Park Commission comment that was made that was very unprofessional. He advised he has never seen any problem on the parks and fields, and the kids there are very respectful.

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TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS
CLERK



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NEW BUSINESS

AUL Approval for National Grid

Town Counsel St. John III explained the AUL Approval paperwork between National Grid and the Town as it pertains to the use of Memorial Park. The Electric Company Substation that was there seeped some hazardous waste into the ground, and the AUL paperwork outlines acceptable activities for use of the Park, such as walking through and sitting. Unacceptable activities were also outlined given the condition of the soil below, such as gardening. This was subject of a Town Meeting vote and is the paperwork drawn up subsequently. The Board of Selectmen is asked to sign it on behalf of the Town. The sketch of the property outlines the area in question.

As remedial action, some plastic material was put down, and Community Development Director Donna Cesan would need to be asked to find out what else was done.

Members expressed a desire to see a long-term plan from National Grid to handle this issue instead of curtailing park activities.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the AUL Document for National Grid

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Zoning Board Appointments

Chairman Blanchard advised Peter Gutmann would be stepping up from Alternate to a Full position on the *Zoning Board*.

Motion made by Vice Chairman to approve Peter Gutmann's appointment to the Zoning Board

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Traffic Commission

Chairman Blanchard advised the appointment to the *Traffic Commission* would not be voted on due to a clerical issue, but would be brought up again at a subsequent meeting.

Adams Arts Advisory Board

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised he wished to set up an *Arts Advisory Board*, with language similar to the *Economic Development Commission* that was recently approved. He advised he is looking to create a better economy and avenues for public art down the road. The vote this evening would create a public structure for the Board.

Gail Sellers advised that the Arts Advisory Board would be open to people who do not live in Adams and is in collaboration with other area communities to bring an art focus to Adams, with a mission statement which would be broad and encompassing. The Adams Arts Advisory Board currently displays items at the Adams Farmers & Artisans Market. They hope to get a listing of all artists living in Adams for a meet-and-greet social event. She advised she has had the privilege to meet other new artists in the area like the person that purchased the Old Stone Mill and is entertaining art concepts that hope to be introduced. She also noted that the person that purchased the McBride Funeral Home is also hoping to open up an art center.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The new owner of the *Krutiak Building* at 13 ½ Grove Street advised that they gave a talk on alternative real estate spaces that artists would be interested in which was very successful.

Francie Anne Riley advised she had purchased *Simmons Building* hoping to get a gallery open and bringing more art into Adams.

The *Adams Arts Advisory Board* is not a closed group, and is hoping for support to have creative people come together. Those interested are encouraged to stop by the tent at the *Adams Farmers & Artisans Market*, which is a cooperative tent where they can display their work and speak to patrons and visitors of the Market. There will not be a set number of members, but instead a Steering Committee.

Board Members commended the *Adams Arts Advisory Board* group for all of their efforts.

***Motion made by Member Harrington to ratify the Arts Advisory Board structure as presented
Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian
Unanimous vote
Motion passed***

Application to Place Signs on a Public Way

Sonia Desanti from the *Youth Center* applied to place signs on Park Street to advertise the *Great Chair Auction*, where people donate chairs throughout the community to raise funds for the Youth Center. Last year netted close to \$14,000. The intent this year is to keep the auction local to Adams by holding the Great Chair Auction Artists Walk, which represents chairs at local businesses for one month. This year the auction is also online. The application is for two vinyl signs to be placed on the Park Street light posts prior to Sept 16th and remain through October 18th, to be taken down after the event.

There will be 60 chairs auctioned from the Bounti Fare. The online location is www.32auctions.com/greatchairauction. Anyone who is interested in sponsoring should also get in touch with the Youth Center.

The DPW could assist with putting them up as long as they are not changing on a weekly basis.

***Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the placement of two signs on the Park Street light poles
from Sept 16 to Oct 18
Second by Member Duval
Unanimous vote
Motion passed***

Facility Use Request for Renfrew and Russell Fields

The *Adams Cheshire Football and Cheerleading Teams* submitted a facility use request for Renfrew, Russell, and Quality Street Fields from September 1, 2015 to November 25, 2015.

***Motion made by Member Nowak to approve use of Renfrew, Russell, and Quality Street Fields for the
September 1, 2015 to November 25, 2015 season
Second by Member Duval
Unanimous vote
Motion passed***



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Facility Use Request of Renfrew Field

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition requested use of the Renfrew Field for *National Night Out* on August 4, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Members noted that they had attended and there was a good crowd. The demonstration by Kumar was fascinating. It was noted that the event happened prior to the Board being able to approve it, and though it was a great event everyone must have permits and approvals in ahead of time. Because the field was already booked by another group and this event planned and advertised prior to approval, the other group felt they needed to change their plans to accommodate this event. Both groups are trying to help the youth in the community and this could have been avoided with prior planning. Next year, hopefully this issue can be avoided.

Chairman Blanchard advised he had several conversations with parties about getting this in order in the future and thanked Greg Charon and Dana Labbee Summer Basketball for accommodating this event by giving up the space.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the facility use request by NBCC for the National Night Event on August 4, 2015

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request of the Greylock Glen

BART Charter School submitted a facility use request of the Greylock Glen for Cross Country Meets on September 16, 2015 and October 14, 2015. There are approximately 150 participants expected. The competitors will be the Academy of Charlemont, 4 Rivers, Dublin, and White Oaks. Last year there were 52 boys and 32 girls running in the event, plus parents also in attendance.

Town Administrator Mazzucco explained the different processes between Facility Use Requests for other Town properties and the requests for the Greylock Glen.

Julia Bowen and **Miles Wheat** of *BART Charter School* answered questions by the Select Board.

Motion made by Member Harrington to approve the Facility Use Request of the Greylock Glen by BART Charter School as presented

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Common Victualer Application

Chaput News and Variety, Inc. submitted an application for a *Common Victualer License*.

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised the Town is getting licensing up to date as in the past some businesses have not been licensed. Common Victualer licensing has been established historically under State Law. There is only one more unlicensed business left, and the licensing is nearly 100% caught up at this point. The Common Victualer Fee for the year is \$10.00. The Town is looking at fee structures in the near future.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the Common Victualer License for Chaput News & Variety, Inc.

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

School Committee

Member Nowak attended the School Committee meeting and the focus was on the vote for the Proposition 2 ½ override in Cheshire and what the next step would be if it didn't pass.

The Proposition 2 ½ Override passed.

Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization

Member Duval advised the *Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization* outlines funding from federal and state governments and identifies projects that the funds will be used on over the next several years.

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension to Lime Street

The *Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension* to Lime Street is still working on the *Right of Way* finalizations. The funding for this is \$3.3 Million, which ends September 30th.

The last easement is in the process of meeting State requirements. The State wants to advertise in September.

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension to Hodges Cross Road

The *Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension* from Lime Street to Hodges Cross Road in North Adams is not yet at 25% completed in design. \$1 Million was allocated for an expected 2019 construction. Alternate routes are being worked on.

Roundabout

The *Roundabout* is 10% complete, and \$1.9 Million was allocated for this project.

Members noted that this project is going well despite potential to be a challenge. There has not been a lane shut down yet, and the company doing the work was commended for doing a good job.

Mount Greylock Scenic Byway

The *Mount Greylock Scenic Byway* improvement at the summit is close to being worked on if not already started, and is a \$1 Million project.

Atlantis, a local company, is doing the work.

Route 116 Savoy

Route 116 in Savoy from Cheshire line to the Plainfield line is 90% complete.

It was noted that the Cheshire portion of Route 116 has not been repaved and is in terrible condition.

An approved 2016 to 2019 County Transportation Plan covers all of the projects that were submitted and Member Duval will provide the information for further discussion at another meeting.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Member Duval advised he will be attending a *Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee* meeting tomorrow and will report on that next meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Joint Workshop on August 25, 2015

There will be a joint workshop of the Select Board with the Finance Committee at BART Charter School on August 25th at 6:30 p.m. and the topic will be School Finance. Julia Bowen, Kristen Gordon, and Jim Brosnan will give presentations.

Next Select Board Meeting

Next week's Select Board Workshop will be held at the *Visitors Center*, and discussion regarding signage will be covered. A tour of the building will also take place.

Energy Use

A data collection of energy usage and a cost baseline has begun to address questions. The state has great program, which is part of *Green Communities* which will help the Town to try to lessen energy costs and identify where costs can be reduced. There has been over \$100,000 in savings from the solar field at landfill. There is now a locked-in rate for natural gas and energy for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will save between \$4,000 and \$5,000. The Plant has been averaging \$.11 per kWh and will now be under \$.9. The Town is looking at purchasing more solar credits, but is not ready to enter into a 20-year agreement. Right now the focus is on chipping down energy costs.

Town Landfill

The *Town Landfill* will be a topic discussed on a future workshop to look at the DPW fleet and the *Recycling Center*. Since there are only a few months left before budget season, the Town is looking at cost savings, changing how to operate, and possible user fees. This workshop is expected to take place sometime in the fall.

Proposition 2 ½ Override in Cheshire

With the passage of the *Proposition 2 ½ Override* in Cheshire the community has said "Yes" to education, economic development and the arts. Communities that pivot from a tough position to a successful position embrace these three components. The Town of Adams is moving aggressively in the right direction.

TOWN COUNSEL REPORT

Town Counsel St. John III advised since his last report he has continued work on easements for the *Rail Trail Project*. He reported he continued legal assistance concerning a potential litigation issue, prepared documents related to a Housing Court Board of Health matter and researched and responded to questions concerning a cemetery deed and police reports. He reported he also reviewed and responded to questions regarding a Town Policy and Waiver, responded to a question regarding the Farmers Market, reviewed a Bankruptcy Court Claim Form for the Treasurer/Collector, reviewed the Activity and Use Limitation documents related to the Electric Company property in Memorial Park, and researched an issue regarding Common Victualer licenses.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Adams Farmers & Artisans Market

Member Harrington advised he has enjoyed working at the Adams Farmers & Artisans Market. He advised there are now plenty of vegetables and that it is a great place to meet people, get good food and see very nice creative artisan work. There is no admission charge, and it is a great seasonal event for the Town. The Market runs on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Garage

Member Duval inquired about the Garage next to the Retention Center. He advised Park Street looks great and the community looks good but there were 2 fuel tanks removed, and inquired what the plan was for the building.

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised the Town is going for more remediation money to get the remaining tanks removed and remediation done, which will open up options for tearing down the building. Once remediation is done developers would be more interested in the property. The Garage that is already half down at *Hoosac Valley Coal & Grain* will also be coming down in the next few weeks.

Agricultural Fair

Member Nowak advised the Agricultural Fair went very well this year, and was well attended. There were a number of people in from out of town, and possibly out of state. It is a unique opportunity for children to interact with animals. He commended all members of the Agricultural Fair Committee who have been aging but still keep the Fair going.

Blight

Member Nowak suggested the community look at the blight situation as many neighborhoods are going into decay. When people come through town and see blighted homes it is not advantageous for the Town.

Mausert Building

Member Nowak noted there is a *Stop Work* order on the property and he would like the property owner to come forward and let the Select Board know what his plans for the building are. A schedule of work to be done was submitted in December 2014. The property owner received \$125,000 for the façade, which is a key building on the street and nothing seems to be moving forward on the schedule. He asked that the property owner advise the Board if he has the capability of finishing the project.

Clorox and Baby Wipes

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised that anyone that uses *Clorox Wipes* or *Baby Wipes* that flushes them down the toilet should discontinue doing so. Flushing them causes significant issues for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and costs thousands of dollars to fix equipment. They do not biodegrade or break down.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjournment by Select Board

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to adjourn

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

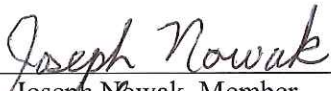
Motion passed



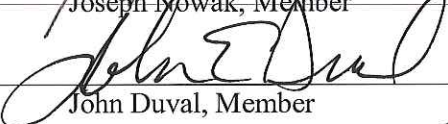
TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

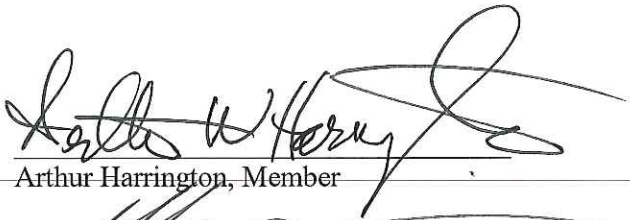
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary.




Joseph Nowak, Member



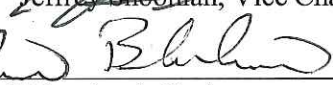
John Duval, Member



Arthur Harrington, Member



Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman



Richard Blanchard, Chairman