



# TOWN OF ADAMS

## SELECT BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, August 12, 2015 – 7:00 PM  
ADAMS VISITORS CENTER, 3 HOOSAC STREET, ADAMS MA

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** held a workshop meeting at the **Adams Visitors Center** at 7:00 p.m. **Chairman Richard Blanchard** presided the meeting. Present were **Vice Chairman Jeffrey Snoonian**, **Members Joseph Nowak, Arthur Harrington**, and **Town Administrator, Tony Mazzucco**. Member *John Duval* was absent. Also present was **Police Chief Richard Tarsa**.

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

### OFFICIAL BUSINESS

#### Tour of Council on Aging and Visitors Center Building

**Town Administrator Mazzucco** took the Select Board on a tour of the highlights of the *Council on Aging* area and the interior and exterior of the *Visitors Center Building*.

It was pointed out that there is not complete daytime staffing coverage for the Visitors Center, and the Seniors overflow into the hallway, where the entrances of the Visitors Center are.

#### *Thunderbolt Museum*

The projector in the *Thunderbolt Museum* was pointed out, and the cost to repair it will be a few hundred dollars. Banners are replaced by the Town every few years and will be another upcoming expense to consider.

#### *Building Interior*

The floor needs to be stripped and waxed, and the carpet upstairs and in the offices is in rough shape creating trip hazards and will need facility funding to replace it. The ceiling in the upstairs has been damaged by leaking from the HVAC, which is the last piece to be repaired. Panels will need to be taken down and replaced. An approximate amount of \$16,000 will be needed to finish the building repairs. The building is aging a little and becoming a little costly. The phone system is experiencing issues and will require money to replace it in the future. There is a small conference room on the second floor as well. An electrician will be brought in to address the lights that remain on overnight in an effort to save money.

#### *Office Rentals*

The old Tourism Office and one other office on the second floor could be rented out for a few hundred dollars a month to help with the costs. The Veterans Office was considered to move to the building but is firmly established in the basement of Town Hall and would be a big move.

#### *Building Exterior*

Frost heaves were a major issue last winter, and the entrances to the building had to be scraped down to keep the building accessible. The building will need to be power washed and the wood on the overhang is stained and will need to be addressed. Security is an issue on the exterior of the building.

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### Discussion on Visitors Center Signage and Security

**Chief Tarsa** addressed the Select Board to show the area at the back corner of the building where there has been a security issue. There is a picnic table that keeps getting moved around, and can potentially block the emergency exit from the upstairs offices if moved in front of the door. There is an outlet available where kids plug in cell phones to charge them. A bicycle rack could be installed and the table could be bolted down or removed as some remedies. There have been subjects urinating and defecating behind the building in the past. The biggest problem is kids being there during late night hours. The police can be seen coming from every angle at that corner of the building, and without signs indicating no trespassing hours it is difficult to effectively enforce removal of kids from the area.

### *Video Camera*

A video camera could be installed, but would be difficult to secure from vandalism and would be at a significant cost to the Town. It is not ideal to keep reinvesting in repair and replacement costs. Security cameras at the location they would be in would provide low quality, low resolution and would spend hundreds of dollars on the facility for poor results.

### *Signage*

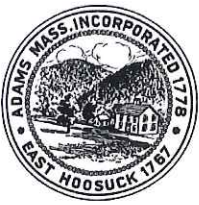
Generic signs have been ordered indicating No Trespassing from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on Town Property, which could essentially give hours that the Police Department can enforce moving the teens away from the trouble areas. The Gazebo area is already posted. Additional *No Smoking* signs were discussed for addition to the Municipal Properties as well.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Select Board needed to vote on the placement of the signs on the property, and whether they are actually needed. One Member expressed that he felt if the kids are removed from this public space they will go into more secluded areas and do more illegal things than vandalizing a public property. 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. was noted as being a reasonable time period for no visitors at the Visitors Center, and would not preclude early morning Bike Trail participants from using the Trail.

When Police go to court, they are asked if there is a sign that designates trespassing or notes the times people are allowed on the property. With no signs it creates an enforcement challenge, and signs would give the Police the ability to enforce removing troublesome youths from Adams and that come from other communities to Adams.

Further discussion took place regarding creating a good map of Adams to hand out at the Visitors Center, keeping the Visitors Center shrubs, trees and grass better maintained, and creating recycle bins in addition to trash cans at the Visitors Center and on Park Street. Allowing a public access to Wifi was also discussed, and Town Administrator Mazzucco is looking into the cost and feasibility of having a public Wifi option on Park Street and the Visitors Center as a minimum.





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### Discussion on Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Dialogue with Lanesborough

**Town Administrator Mazzucco** advised he had sent letters to invite strategic groups to have a community dialogue for possible collaboration. He advised he met with the Superintendent and Chairman of the School Board, and will meet again with them prior to August 27<sup>th</sup>, the date of the meeting.

This is an opportunity that is possible because once Williamstown is committed to a new building the communities are locked into the debt service. The purpose of the meeting is to just have discussion on the possibilities available, whether it would work, and whether Lanesborough is interested. It costs nothing to talk and consider possibilities.

Members discussed Social Media feedback and the necessity of consolidation due to changing demographics. A similar discussion is currently ongoing between the communities of Lee and Lenox. It is important to look at all factors, like facilities and campus size.

### Announcements

#### *Secretary of Transportation Visit*

**Member Harrington** advised earlier in the day there was a small gathering with the Secretary of Transportation who was assessing the Bike Trail. Consensus of the Board was given to Member Harrington to draft letters of thanks to the new Secretary of Transportation for coming to the area and checking out the Trail, and to the President of the Berkshire Bike Path Council for her nice presentation addressing the concerns.

Towns have to come up with 25% of the costs on transportation projects and had to redesign it due to community opposition in the area north of Lime Street. Towns are strapped for funding. DCR maintains the existing Bike Path, but the new Rail Trail additions are the responsibility of the Town. It will be repaved in 2017, and has not been paved in 16 years.

Community Development has been working nonstop on getting the easements completed. Once easements are completed and recorded, it then goes out to bid and is a cumbersome process that takes an enormous amount of staff time.

This project is the first co-use of the Rail and Trail together, and is a collaboration of Mass DOT and the Railroad to make it come together.

#### *Greylock Glen Progress*

**Member Nowak** read a letter he had drafted to Secretary Beaton regarding the lack of progress in getting a visit to the Greylock Glen regarding the Town's economic development project.



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### *Adams Farmers & Artisans Market*

**Member Harrington** advised due to staff vacation he will be managing the Farmers and Artisans Market alone, and encouraged Board Members to assist with setup and breakdown if possible on Sunday.

### *Dog Kennel*

The repairs and maintenance to the Dog Kennel are almost complete. The building has been power-washed and the glass-block window has been chipped and primed. On the side of the building some mold and rot was located on the bottom side because it stays wet. The top part was dry enough to primer. Paint used has primer in it but the paint on the blocks does not. Suggestions were encouraged for a paint color for the door.

### *Parks Donations*

The Parks Commission would like to put donation boxes at the parks; specifically at Renfrew or Russell Street that indicates all proceeds go to the maintenance of the Parks.

### Adjournment

*Motion made to adjourn by Vice Chairman Snoonian*


*Second by Member Nowak*

*Unanimous vote*

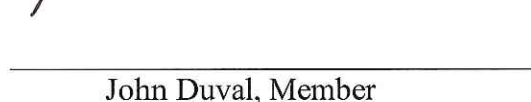
*Motion passed*

**Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary.

  
Joseph Nowak, Member

  
Arthur Harrington, Member

  
John Duval, Member

  
Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman

  
Richard Blanchard, Chairman