

TOWN OF ADAMS

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

15 NOV -2 AM 9:45

WEDNESDAY, September 2, 2015 – 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220SS.

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES

- August 19, 2015
- August 25, 2015
- August 26, 2015
- August 28, 2015

Motion made by Member Harrington to waive the reading and approve the minutes for August 19th, August 25th, August 26th, and August 28th as presented

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Abandoned Properties

Barbara Meczywor of *Precinct 1* advised the Board of seemingly abandoned houses on Maple and Orchard Streets and advised someone should mow the lawns as it is not good for the town appearance. The houses are in the area of 60 Maple Street and not too far into Orchard Street.

The Town will look at the properties and see if there is anything that can be done. Citizens were asked to report blight to the Town Administrator's office should they have a concern so it can be addressed. The *Board of Health* or *Zoning Board* may have the authority over overgrowth of lawns, depending on the severity of the issue.

Landfill Possibilities and Meeting Discussion

Barbara Meczywor advised she and other citizens would like to be able to discuss the possibilities of changes at the Landfill at a public meeting. She asked for more discussion at Regular Meetings and more information to the public. She advised she can't believe a five-member board is in sync with each other and noted that some things are talked about and there is a little discussion before the vote. She said the public expects more discussion and less agreement with each other from board members.

Last Wednesday the Select Board had their first of a long investigative process about the Landfill, to see if changes would be in the Town's best interest. Further discussion will happen as more information is available, and the process will take approximately a year and a half.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OLD BUSINESS

Letter to Secretary of Transportation

Member Harrington advised he has not completed the letter to *Secretary Pollack*, the *Secretary of Transportation*, as indicated in a previous meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Play Holiday Music in Downtown

Dr. Martin K. Bush sent a letter to the Select Board requesting permission to play low level holiday music from *Thanksgiving Day* through *New Year's Day*, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Motion made by Member Nowak motion to allow Dr. Bush to play Christmas Music from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request – Russell Field

The Adams Fire and Police Departments submitted a request to use *Russell Field* for the annual Softball Game on September 12, 2015. All insurance and schedule arrangements are in order.

Motion made by Member Harrington to approve Russell Field Use for Adams Fire and Police Departments for a softball game on September 12, 2015

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Zoning Board Alternate Position

Francie Anne Riley submitted an email request to fill the position of Alternate on the *Zoning Board*. There are two positions currently available.

Motion made by Member Harrington to approve Francie Anne Riley as Alternate to the Zoning Board

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Council on Aging

Member Nowak went to the *Council on Aging* meeting and said they are doing an excellent job maintaining the programs and expanding on them. He praised Erica Girgenti and the staff who help the elderly in the community.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Greylock Glen

Member Nowak advised he received a communication from *Secretary Beaton* with dates to choose from to meet at the *Greylock Glen*. He inquired from the rest of the Board Members which dates would work best for most or all members. The dates are October 19th, 20th, 21st or 22nd. He expressed a desire to put together a program on the selected date. Getting a date quickly may not be possible because Director Cesan and the Town Administrator schedules may be a factor. Secretary Beaton's schedule will set the time of the visit.

Consensus was reached to try for October 22nd as a first choice, October 19th as second choice, and October 20th as third choice.

Berkshire Regional Planning Executive Committee Meeting

Member Duval will be attending the *BRPC* executive meeting tomorrow afternoon and will report on that next meeting.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

Vice Chairman Snoonian advised the *BRTA* meetings have been postponed until October.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Select Board Workshop

Next week's Select Board Workshop will be held at the DPW Garage. Discussion will include Chapter 90 Funds. There will be a tour of the garage and salt shed, and the transportation plan as requested by Member Duval.

Strategic Planning Session

The Strategic Planning process starts September 12th at 9:00 a.m. at *Hoosac Valley Regional School District*. There will be a total of four or more sessions, and it will be facilitated by the *Collins Center*.

Grant Funds Awarded

The Town was awarded \$12,500 grant from the *Department of Energy* to look into engineering processes at the *Wastewater Treatment Plant* to reduce energy.

Discussions with Cheshire

Town Administrator Mazzucco and **Chairman Blanchard** spoke with their counterparts in Cheshire to discuss how to approach next year's budget process with the School District. They hope to have more joint meetings early on. They will talk with the Superintendent of the School Board to get their input. *Town Administrator Mazzucco*, *Town Administrator Mark Webber* from Cheshire, a member each from the Adams and Cheshire Select Boards and a few members of both Finance Committees will hopefully come together to help keep information from getting lost in translation.

Rail Trail Easements

Community Development has completed the easements for the next phase of the Rail Trail and the State should be able to advertise this week. The Board approved the easements for the Rail Trail last Friday. There will be a small expenditure, estimated around \$9,500 from Chapter 90 Funds. All easements were received except one, which will be received through eminent domain.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Greylock Glen

Community Development is completing a *Mass Works* grant application for \$4.5M and will be the last leg of the infrastructure for the *Greylock Glen*. The Town will be looking for support from the delegation once that application goes out next week. Primarily the infrastructure includes the Water Tower needed to make sure there is water pressure in the system, the grading of the parking lot and road improvements. An explanation was given about the *Mass Works Grant Program* and how it works. The Town expects to hear back about the grant hopefully before October 31st.

Town's Facebook Page

The *Town of Adams Facebook Page* will be launching within the next week.

Adams Visitors Center Building HVAC System

The HVAC System for the Council on Aging is 99% operational utilizing the money appropriated for it last year. There is one rooftop unit unrelated to the project, and the Town is waiting on a software issue.

Dog Pound

Thanks were given to **Member Harrington** and **Chairman Blanchard** for repairs and painting done at the Dog Pound. *Kumar* stopped by and approved of the work.

Repairs at the Police Department

The final work was approved for the generator and building repairs at the Police Department, which is being covered by insurance.

TOWN COUNSEL REPORT

Town Counsel St. John III advised he assisted with completion of the work on the easements for the *Rail Trail Project*, he researched and responded to a conflict of interest question and a zoning question, He drafted documents to initiate a Zoning enforcement complaint, drafted an order for a signature by the Housing Court Judge concerning a Board of Health matter, and reviewed and filed a tax claim on behalf of the Tax Collector with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Massachusetts Municipal Association

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised that *MMA* is having *Fall Legislative Breakfast* meetings in October. Board Members were encouraged to attend.

Member Harrington advised he has found them to be very informational, informal and generic to any community where Towns can share ideas.

Adams Farmers & Artisans Market and World Music by Nana

Member Harrington reminded citizens of the *Adams Farmers & Artisans Market* on Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and announced that *World Music by Nana* is playing for 4 weeks from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through the generosity of a local citizen. The *GET CUFFED* program will be at the Market on September 27th, as well.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lanesborough School Collaboration

Town Administrator Mazzucco met with officials from *Mt. Greylock School* and *Lanesborough* on Friday. The Town is looking for information on how to go forward with the public outreach process and how those forums would take place. He advised he would like to see if Lanesborough would have a referendum on whether or not they are interested. There may be several more community dialogues to address concerns of the community and answer questions over the next several months because the capital agreement will have to be settled before the proposed school building project happens in December. They will be voting on a school building project in early spring.

Club Alcohol Licenses

Member Duval advised he spoke to a citizen who attended an *American Legion* convention with other members across the state who indicated they were not paying the \$200 for the updated officers' application. He inquired why Adams is starting to require this, and no other clubs throughout the state have the same requirements.

Town Administrator Mazzucco explained that Adams was advised by *ABCC* this is how it has to be done and if there is a concern about fairness issues, Town Counsel can follow up with *ABCC* on why Adams is required to do it. The fee is not received by the Town, but is required by the *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*. The Town has received more than one communication from the *ABCC* about this requirement.

Member Harrington advised there were other departments in the *ABCC* that weren't aware that this update of officers' requirement was being done. All clubs that have changed officers must update them when a change in officers or the board of directors is made. Because of lapsed updates, all clubs are now required to resubmit an application with the change of officers and board of directors.

Vice Chairman Snoonian noted he was well aware of clubs in the local areas that are not being required to do the same updates that Adams has been requested to do and looking into it would be in order.

Adams may be paying penalty for doing it right. Higher level conversations can be initiated by the Town Administrator and Town Counsel with the *ABCC* to see if the Adams clubs are being required to do something that others are not. The Town must follow regulations, but it should be the same for everyone throughout the Commonwealth. The \$200 fee is new to clubs. The Administrative Assistant will research other communities regarding same process to determine whether all towns have to do it or not, and if not why Adams has been contacted.

Adams Visitors Center Upkeep

Member Nowak noted that a few workshops ago he made a statement that the *Visitors Center* shrubbery was unkempt and unsightly, but it was not meant to chide or demean any volunteer. He advised it is a Town building and should be up to town employees to keep it up. He recalled he had taken care of the arborvitaes to keep a good view of Mount Greylock and did not expect volunteers to do the work. He pointed out that what people see first is what they think of the community and it is important to keep entrances looking good.

New Business on Summer Street

Member Nowak stopped by to welcome a new business called *From Me to You* on Summer Street and was pleased to hear she was doing great.



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Charles Street Bridge

Member Duval advised Charles Street Bridge is complete off of Lime Street a large pickup truck can go over it but plow trucks will need to be determined. The repairs were paid for by federal grants.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjournment by Select Board

Motion made by Nowak to adjourn

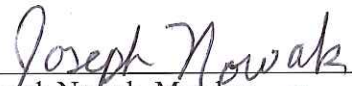
Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

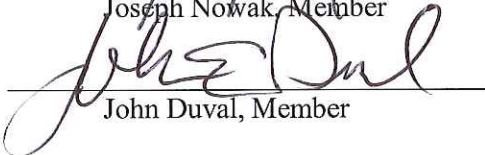
Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

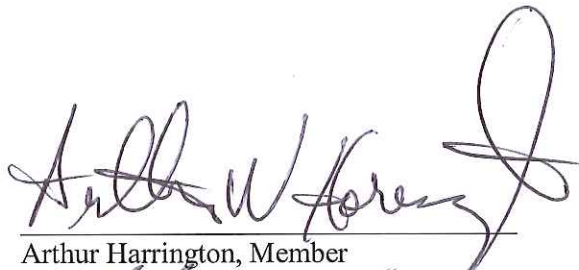
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary.




Joseph Nowak, Member



John Duval, Member



Arthur Harrington, Member



Jeffrey Shoomian, Vice Chairman

Richard Blanchard, Chairman