



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSHOP MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, December 16, 2015 – 7:00 PM
MAHOGANY ROOM, 1st 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 and John Duval**. Also in attendance was **Town Administrator, Tony Mazzucco**, and **Town Counsel, Ed St. John III**.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF MINUTES

- *Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2015*
- *Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2015*

Motion made by Member Snoonian to waive reading the November 18, 2015 and December 2, 2015 minutes and to approve them as written

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donations for Homeless Veterans

Jeff Lefebvre updated that he is receiving many donations for the homeless veterans drive and thanked the Board for letting him put a collection box in Town Hall. He wished everyone a safe Merry Christmas and asked everyone to remember the soldiers that could not make it home and are fighting for us.

Blight

Jeff Lefebvre inquired how much it is costing the Town to clean up properties.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is keeping track of it, but there is not much funding for it. The manpower dedicated to it is most of the cost. One more property came in this week.

Adams Arts Advisory Board Update

Francie Anne Riley of the Adams Arts Advisory Board gave the December report and an overview of what the Adams Arts Advisory Board is about. She invited anyone interested to contact them at artsinadams@gmail.com and to check out the facebook *Arts Advisory Board* page. Monthly evening meeting begin in January on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month in Town Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. There are several projects in the works, including pop-up window displays and there may be an Agricultural Fair window. New subcommittees are starting up and new things are coming in the spring.

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TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
CLERK



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NEW BUSINESS

Application to Place Sign on Public Way

Henry Jaeschke and **Charles Wandrei** applied to place an agricultural tourist-oriented directional sign for Jaeschke's Orchard, similar to Cricket Creek and Lakeview. Mr. Jaeschke indicated on a larger map where the sign would be placed.

Board Members expressed concern about the location of the sign because it would be blocked by the Renfrew Field sign or have interference from the Roundabout construction. Mr. Jaeschke was asked to determine a location that would be close to the road to be put up after the Roundabout is completed. He will return with an exact location for where the sign will go and come before the Board again. A suggestion was made to table the topic until the exact location of the sign is decided and the Roundabout is completed because of potential changes on the Roundabout. A sign for the Greylock Glen was also discussed to be part of the sign.

Motion made by Member Harrington to table the request by Jaeschke's Orchard to place sign on a public way until an exact location is proposed and until the Roundabout is completed

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Appointment to Traffic Commission

Historically the DPW has been appointed to the Traffic Commission. The current Interim DPW Director does not live in Adams, and a question was put forth to Town Counsel about whether there is a residency requirement for this position.

Town Counsel advised there is no residency clause, and a member must just be a representative of the DPW. The Commission requires two residents of the Town of Adams being on the Board.

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Cemetery Meeting

Member Nowak attended and money set aside for the Plunketts was discussed. There is an endowment belonging to the founder of Miss Hall's School in Lenox.

School Committee

Member Nowak advised David Hinkell, Business Manager is retiring, and a woman from Cheshire will be taking his place. Mr. Hinkell will stay on to look at maintenance. A discussion on how the school can be more fiscally solvent may take place.

Parks Commission

Member Nowak attended the Parks Commission meeting and Hoosac Valley High School and BART School each gave \$400 to the Parks Commission to accommodate their use of the fields. A fee structure was discussed, and Parks Commission also wants to take control of Memorial Gym.



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Mohawk Trail Woodland Park Commission

Member Nowak attended the MTWPC meeting and a draft business plan was the topic of discussion. BRPC, Federal and State Government representatives will come to each community to discuss a partnership. A business plan draft was given from Member Nowak to the Board Members for their review.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report

Council on Aging Holiday Party

The Council on Aging held their 60+ Community Holiday Party on Monday, which was well attended with over 100 guests. Interim COA Director Barb Proper and Outreach Coordinator Nicole Leighton were praised for their work on the event.

Berkshire Scenic Rail

Berkshire Scenic Rail received approval to run a Christmas themed train for this weekend only from 6 Renfrew Street and will be up and running in January or February 2016. For reservations visit www.hoosacvalleytrainride.com their Facebook page, or call (413) 637-2210. Parking is across the street at Renfrew Field parking lot.

Town Hall Closings

Town Hall will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as January 26, 2016 for staff professional development.

Real Estate Bills Due

The first half of the real estate bills are due tomorrow and the Treasurer's Office will be open until 6:00 p.m. to assist anyone needing to get in to pay them after normal Town Hall hours.

District Local Technical Assistance

The Town of Adams did not submit any *District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)* requests beyond one for the Berkshire County Education Task Force (BCETF), as there was nothing the Town would need to submit for this year.

DLTA provides free technical assistance to communities on eligible projects, mostly for communities that do not have staff support. Eligible areas are developing and updating components for Economic Development and Municipal Master Plans, and implementation of strategies and policies and practices. The Community Development department is overtaxed, and Adams may benefit with help on the Strategic Plan or projects like the Greylock Glen. An RFP needs to go out for Greylock Glen development so grant money is not lost. A review of possible eligible projects was suggested.

Audit

Town Auditors are here working on their annual audit, which is standard practice.



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Building Commissioner Transition

The Building Commissioner is stepping down at the end of this month and a plan is being worked out for how to handle the inspection function. A plan for an alternative model will be presented at the January 6, 2016 Board meeting. January and February are a slow time for permits.

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III reported he provided assistance with preparation for Mt. Club hearing with ABCC, including compilation of records for Board's review. Advised board of Health concerning a potential Sanitary Code violation, and researched and provided response to a question concerning the composition of the Traffic Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dispatch Regionalization Meeting

Member Harrington thanked those that came to the meeting regarding dispatch regionalization, and noted that there were a lot of good points raised. Different solutions are being considered and some information that was brought up was factual, opinion and hearsay. Regional dispatch is inevitable, and will happen at one point or another. The Town must find a way to accommodate needs without burdening taxpayers and the Board and the community need to find ways to civilly and respectfully have public discussions to come to solutions that are for the best of the community. Medical, Fire and Police represented themselves well at the meeting. If dispatch regionalization doesn't happen, other people will have to be laid off, but this is one cut that will not affect the safety of the community.

Member Nowak advised his vote will be based on facts, and is investigating all data thoroughly.

Holidays

Board Members wished those in the community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Festive Community

Member Nowak noted that the community looks very nice, thanks to the *Friends of Library* and the *Adams Arts Advisory Board* and he hopes in the future that instead of window dressing we will have businesses in the Downtown. He suggested that everyone tell their family that they love them.

Berkshire Scenic Railway

Member Nowak expressed he was happy to see the train running again and encouraged families with children to ride the train.

Board Meetings

Chairman Blanchard advised that unless there was something pressing, this would be the last meeting of the year.



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ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Member Duval

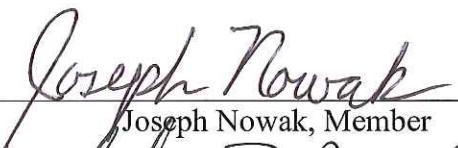
Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous Vote

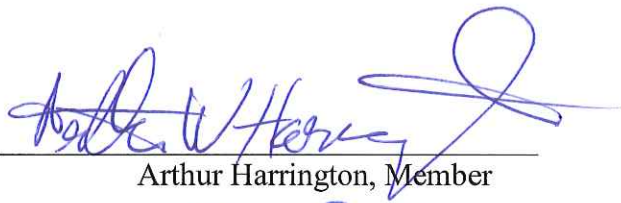
Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

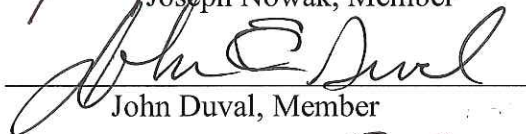
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



Joseph Nowak, Member



Arthur Harrington, Member



John Duval, Member



Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman



Richard Blanchard, Chairman