



# TOWN OF ADAMS

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, March 16, 2016 – 7:00 PM  
ADAMS TOWN HALL, 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 and John Duval. Also in attendance was Town Administrator, Tony Mazzucco. Town Counsel, Ed St. John III was absent.

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

*The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

### READING OF MINUTES

#### ▪ March 2, 2016

*Motion made by Member Snoonian to waive reading the minutes from March 2, 2016 and to approve them as written*

*Second by Member Harrington*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### *Maple Grove Civic Club*

Jeff Lefebvre announced that the Maple Grove Civic Club will be meeting at the Polish National Alliance (PNA) at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

#### *Basketball Championship*

Jeff Lefebvre congratulated the Girls' Basketball Team for an outstanding job in the Championship, and expressed pride for the Boys' Basketball Team for an excellent job as well. He wished the Girls' Basketball Team luck for their next game.

#### *Roundabout Project*

Jeff Lefebvre inquired if the telephone pole was able to be moved from the center of the Roundabout.

Abutters were contacted and did not want to move it. If an agreement can be made the pole may be moved, otherwise it will have to stay where it is.

#### *Adams Arts Advisory Board*

Francie Anne Riley of the Adams Arts Advisory Board (AAAB) noted an excellent art reception last night at Town Hall, which had a great turnout. The AAAB is looking forward to another show later in the year. The current display will be up until March 30<sup>th</sup>. The AAAB is busy working on the Berkshire Mountain Fairy Festival, scheduled for on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for the event and donations of fabric, trim, bells, fake flowers and other accessories can be dropped off at Izzy's Diner.

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### *Wording in Minutes*

**Gail Sellers** advised in reading Selectmen meeting minutes she was offended by some of the wording. She advised the Town needs to be sensitive in phrasing what is said.

**Chairman Blanchard** advised the wording was taken out of context of the concept of what was being said.

### *Statue of K9 Kumar*

**Police Chief Tarsa**, Officer Cunningham and Officer Crane displayed to the Board the hand painted statue of K9 Officer Kumar in a large display case where donations may be made. The statue was hand carved by Berkshire Carousel, and the case designed and built by McCann students as a result of a series of fundraisers, and an auction held at Bounti-Fare. He expressed heartfelt thanks to all who were influential in this project and advised it would be displayed in Town Hall lobby.

**Chief Tarsa** also congratulated the *Adams Outdoorsmen for Youth*, who is very active in community efforts with local youth. They have generously supported many different venues over their forty years and most recently Kumar and the K9 Program have benefitted from a \$750 donation. Chief Tarsa expressed appreciation for their past and present community efforts. He noted the outreach with the K9 Program and Officer Crane's work with Kumar as his handler has created excellent dividends.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### *Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Presentation*

**Tom Matuszko of BRPC** gave the Board a presentation on the status of the *Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership* and updated the Board that an advisory committee has been established and crafted a proposal. He reviewed the purpose of the project and noted that the project is centered around forested land and to use resources for economic benefit to the region.

The Partnership structure was reviewed and the framework of how it would work was discussed, including the opt-in discretion for both Towns and land owners. The U.S. Forest Service would be invited to share their expertise. A prototype plant of polymer wood based products is also being researched. The program would work with private property owners on plans and land stewardship activities, as well as managing invasive species management as well. Tourism and grant funding for outdoor activities and sustainable infrastructure development for trails and maintenance was reviewed. The original emphasis was on conservation but it has changed to focus on economic benefits. There may be grants available to municipalities to offset some costs that may arise from tourists needing rescue from forest land.

The Proposed business plan was reviewed. The Partnership would ask for funds from the Federal Government in the amount of \$20 Million, and \$5 Million from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. An innovative aspect would put money in a trust fund to indefinitely create a sustainable program. Long-term decision making of funds and priorities would be done locally by an established partnership board which would have representation from municipalities and other boards to determine how funding gets used. A concern was highlighted about the Federal Government taking over land, but was no longer on the proposal.





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The next step would be to have it created through state legislation, and once approved it would then be put forward to create federal legislation. There is a two part process requiring the Town to opt-in. A draft letter template was provided to the Board to utilize if they wished to take the next step. There need to be funds in order to have a program, and the project may need to be phased out to see what items can be put forward if money comes in allotments. If the Town opts in there is no obligation for landowners, no eminent domain or regulation imposed on property owners as the program is voluntary. The Partnership would manage the Board, of which BRPC would be a member, and there would be an administrative non-profit agent with staff providing oversight of funds and programmatic elements. The board would make the decisions and the administrative agent would issue contracts and manage staff. The full plan is on the <http://berkshireplanning.org/projects/working-forest-conservation-program> link. Adams has 35% protected land ownership currently.

**Member Nowak** advised he enjoyed participating with the *Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership* and noted the diversity of members representing different communities included a mix of private land owners, farmers, trusts, and past politicians. He thanked Tom Matuszko for his patience with the process.

**Chairman Blanchard** advised he would read through the draft and the Board will discuss whether they want to go forward with a letter of support to the legislators at a future workshop.

### *Facility Use Requests*

#### *Adams Visitors Center, The Adams Farmers Market, June 12th – October 16, 2016*

**Kelly Field, Glen Field and Ashley Priester** submitted a request to use the *Adams Visitors Center* parking lot for the *Adams Farmers Market* Sundays from June 12<sup>th</sup> to October 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Kelly Field, Glen Field, and Ashley Priester were thanked for keeping the Farmers Market going.

*Motion made by Member Snoonian to approve the use of the Visitors Center by the Adams Farmers Market on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from June 12, 2016 to October 16, 2016 pending receipt of certificate of insurance*

*Second by Member Harrington*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

#### *Adams Visitors Center, BFAIR Walk-a-Thon, June 25, 2016*

**Jennifer Civello** of *Berkshire Family and Individual Resources, Inc.* (BFAIR) submitted a facility use request for the *Adams Visitors Center* on June 25, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the "Walk for Independence Walk-a-Thon".

*Motion made by Member Snoonian to approve the use of the Visitors Center by the BFAIR on June 25, 2016 for the Walk-a-Thon Sat June 25, 2016 from 8: a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*Second by Member Duval*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*



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### *Town Hall Lawn, Flag Raising for Donate Life*

**Denise Swistak** submitted a facility use request to raise the *Donate Life* flag at an event on the Town Hall lawn on April 2, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Unknown number of attendees expected.

*Motion made by Member Snoonian to approve the use of the Town Hall Lawn by Denise Swistak on April 2, 2016 for Donate Life Month for Organ and Tissue Donors for the Flag Raising Ceremony*  
*Second by Member Duval*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### *Proclamation – National Donate Life Month*

**Chairman Blanchard** read a proclamation of the month of April being *Donate Life Month* in Adams.

*Motion made by Member Harrington to approve the proclamation of April being designated National Donate Life Month*

*Second by Member Duval*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### *Adams Agricultural Commission Appointments*

**Kelly Field** and **Glen Field** wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Board requesting to be appointed to the *Agricultural Commission*.

*Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the appointments of Glen Field and Kelly Field to the Agricultural Commission*

*Second by Member Duval*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### *Community Development Specialist Appointment*

**Chairman Blanchard** read letter from the Town Administrator advising pending ratification he has appointed **Jean Rice** to the *Community Development Specialist* position. Town Administrator Mazzucco explained to the Board what work is done by the position.

*Motion made by Member Duval to ratify Jean Rice to the Community Development Specialist Position*

*Second by Member Nowak*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### *DPW Maintenance Technician/Operator I Appointment*

**Town Administrator Mazzucco** advised the Board that pending ratification he has appointed **Bryan Cota** to the position of *DPW Maintenance Technician/Operator I* after a pool of approximately fifteen candidates. He noted the importance of getting younger employees in the DPW, as expected in the next few years as the older members retire there will be a loss of institutional knowledge.





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*Motion made by Member Snoonian to ratify Bryan Cota to the DPW Maintenance Technician/  
Operator I position  
Second by Member Harrington  
Unanimous vote  
Motion passed*

### ***Building Commissioner Appointment***

**Town Administrator Mazzucco** advised the Board of his appointment of **Don Torrico** to the *Building Commissioner* position, pending ratification. Mr. Torrico has been working on a per diem basis and is interested in the full-time position. He comes highly recommended to Adams with over fifteen years of experience, and has most recently been an inspector in Lee.

*Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to ratify Don Torrico to the Building Commissioner  
position  
Second by Member Harrington  
Unanimous vote  
Motion passed*

### ***Book House Installation***

**Erin Breen** of the *Berkshire United Way* requested approval of the installation of two Book Houses in Adams at 30 Columbia Street and the Town Common. General Dynamics and Adams Community Bank are lined up to be caretakers of them. The purpose of the book houses is to provide resources for children in the age range of 0 to 9 years old. She advised she had been working with the Building Commissioner to make sure that the Book Houses are ADA Compliant when they are installed. The job of the caretaker would be to arrange for repairs if the house is vandalized, to keep it filled with appropriate books, and to make sure it is kept clean and neat.

*Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the location of the Berkshire United Way book  
houses at 30 Columbia Street and the Town Common as indicated on proposed maps  
Second by Member Harrington  
Unanimous vote  
Motion passed*

### ***Discussion on Adoption of M.G.L c.138 §33B***

**Chairman Blanchard** gave overview of the law that the State passed in 2010 and that the Town has to opt-in and adopt the law prior to authorizing license holders to utilize the extended serving hours. Town Counsel St. John III had indicated in prior communication that the Town had to go to Town Meeting to adopt the law.

**Nate Girard**, co-owner of *Adams Ale House* and the applicant for extended hours advised he had spoken with the ABCC to get information. He noted that business has slowed down on Sundays and he would like to add a Sunday brunch since he has received at least a hundred calls requesting it. Between Easter, Mothers' Day and Memorial Day if approval cannot be gotten they may lose out on significant business.



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Board Members and the Town Administrator discussed possibly having a Special Town Meeting to support the business that had applied to utilize the extended hours. Regular Town Meeting will be scheduled around June 15th or later and may hamper the business from making money. Looking into the viability of getting special permits to approve specific dates was also considered. A suggestion was made to grant the approval of the extended hours request pending Town Meeting approval to reduce the length of time of the process. Another Board member advised against doing this so it does not circumvent the Town Meeting Members. Town Counsel opinion was requested. It was noted that the alcohol licenses are archaic. Members noted they fully support businesses and if able to provide a special license they will do so.

**Town Administrator Mazzucco** advised that having a Special Town Meeting would cost a few hundred dollars and he would check with the Town Clerk on posting requirements to have one. He advised he would provide the Board the information sometime next week.

*Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to place the adoption of M.G.L c.138 §33B onto the next Town Meeting warrant*

*Second by Member Harrington*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### ***Local Licensing Authority – Retail Alcoholic Beverages Change of Hours Request***

Board Members discussed the strategy for going forward and a suggestion was made to table the request to get more information, with the understanding that if the Board was able to approve a special license the topic will be put on the next agenda.

*Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to table the Change of Hours request until the next regular meeting*

*Second by Member Harrington*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### **SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS**

#### ***Adams-Cheshire Regional Schools***

**Members Nowak, Duval and Harrington** attended the school budget meetings. It was noted that the schools had to make some hard cuts because the State was not supportive with Chapter 70 funds for communities in need.

#### ***Parks Commission***

**Member Nowak** advised that Bruce Shepley, on behalf of the *Board of Health*, asked the Parks Commission to put signs regarding ticks in the fields, which was approved.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**





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### Town Administrator's Report

#### **Meetings**

An *Ad Hoc Committee on Solid Waste* meeting will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> to work on the approval process to possibly take solid waste. This does not obligate the town but will gather further information. An *Economic Development Committee* Meeting will also be held at Town Hall on April 4th.

#### **Statistics and Performance**

The Town Administrator has been working with different departments to look at implementing performance metrics. The *Adams Free Library* monthly statistics and performance statistics were given to the Board and discussed. Other departments will be providing statistics as well in the future. Board Members noted they liked this matrix, and would be interested in seeing activity on different days and hours, as well as goals and measurement additions.

#### **Taxes**

Excise Taxes are due on March 28<sup>th</sup> and the second half Real Estate Bills are due May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Treasurer's Office will have extended hours on the week they are due.

#### **Elections**

Nomination papers were due Monday, and there will be a race for a position on the *Board of Selectmen* this year. There are open positions on the *Cemetery Commission* and the *School Committee*. Other open positions will be updated and listed on the Town website.

#### **Downtown News**

The *Jones Block* and *Carlow Building* were sold to Bishop West. *Coffee Liberation Front* has opened on Park Street with hours on Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Members noted they were pleased that the *Jones Block* was purchased and expressed best wishes to the *Coffee Liberation Front* with hope that the business will flourish.

#### **Town Budget**

Budget meetings with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will be held next week, 6:00 p.m. at the Visitors Center on March 21-24, 2016.

### Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III was absent and a written report delivered by Ed St. John IV advised that he had since his last report researched issues concerning the demolition of a structure; provided replies to a *Board of Health* inquiry; researched issues concerning budget items and researched issues concerning the acceptance of *M.G.L c.138 §33B* and provided replies to the Town Administrator. Town Counsel St. John III will be returning in April.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

#### **Solar Limits**

Member Nowak expressed concern about the *Berkshire Eagle* article that said Adams would be affected by a solar limit. He noted it is impeding green energy in the state and shows how powerful utility companies are.



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### **Hoosac Valley Basketball**

**Member Nowak** expressed disappointment to see the Boys' game was lost by one point and announced that the Girls' Team is going to the State Championship game against a tough school. He wished the Girls' Team well and pointed out that both teams have a lot to be proud of.

### **Elections**

**Member Nowak** was glad that someone is running for selectmen because it is healthy to have choices.

### **Public Comment**

**Member Duval** gave credit to Gail Sellers for coming to board with her concerns.

### **Sidewalk Painting**

**Member Duval** and **Vice Chairman Snoonian** asked to have the DPW make it a priority to have crosswalks painted earlier in the season because people are out walking and the bike lanes are already fading away. Citizens were reminded to drive slowly and be aware of people in crosswalks.

### **Sign on Mt. Greylock Summit**

**Chairman Blanchard** read to the Board an email he received requesting a sign on *Mount Greylock* summit to identify it being in Adams. The *Department of Conservation and Recreation* (DCR) is developing a sign that conforms to state standards recognizing *Mount Greylock* being in a historic district in Adams.

### **Thunderfest**

**Vice Chairman Snoonian** thanked the organizers of *Thunderfest* for all their hard work.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made to adjourn by Member Nowak**

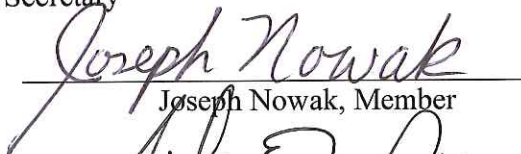
**Second by Member Duval**

**Unanimous Vote**

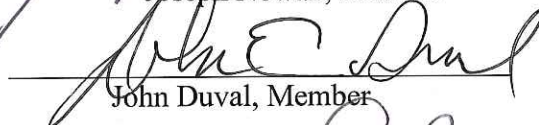
**Motion passed**

*The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary

  
Joseph Nowak, Member

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Arthur Harrington, Member

  
John Duval, Member

  
Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman

  
Richard Blanchard, Chairman