

## Adams Town Meeting members approve funds for train station purchase; library renovation

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ADAMS -- Members at a special town meeting on Monday approved funds to create a train station on Hoosac Street and for renovations to the Adams Free Library.

Town meeting members were offered eight proposals on the special town meeting warrant, many of which were land easements for various town projects. Three were major proposals -- renovation of the Adams Free Library, authorization to build a train station, and a new solar bylaw.

Town meeting members approved an expenditure of \$165,000 from the town's free cash account to purchase and renovate a former car wash on Hoosac Street. The .51-acre lot will become a train platform known as the Adams Station.

After much debate, the measure -- which required a two-thirds majority to pass -- was approved 88-13. A second warrant, authorizing the town to actually execute the purchase of the property, was passed by an 86-16 margin.

The station, already well into the design phase, would function as the southern hub of the Berkshire Scenic Railway's Hoosac Valley Service between Adams and North Adams. The town set out to secure grant funding for the project in 2013 and eventually won about \$386,000 in federal Parklands Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant, with the condition that town meeting members approve a matching \$165,000.

"This project is symbolic," Butler said, of renewed energy and investment in Adams' downtown.

Voters also approved, without any discussion or debate, a \$970,000 appropriation for the Adams Free Library renovation project, which could begin as early as this year. The project addresses much-needed fixes to a leaky roof, masonry repairs to an aging facade, and a number of American Disabilities Act compliance issues.

Town meeting members also approved a new set of solar bylaws -- by a margin of 91-10 -- written by the town Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The warrant also included a proposal -- approved by voters -- to allow the installation of new electrical gear at the Mauser Block, located on Park Street. The voters also approved a number of easements for the state's roundabout project at the intersection of Route 8 and Friend Street, as well as an easement for the construction of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail extension.