

Jennifer Tabakin
Town Manager

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Great Barrington, MA 01230

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TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER SELECTBOARD'S MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2017

7:00 PM – REGULAR SESSION

TOWN HALL, 334 MAIN STREET

ORDER OF AGENDA

7:00 PM - OPEN MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. General Comments by the Board.

B. Update on the GB Affordable Housing Trust Funding.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. Department Updates.

B. Project Updates
- Housatonic School RFP

4. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. Nicole Blum/Jonathan Carr/Carr's Ciderhouse for One Day Farmer Winery Liquor License for September 17, 2017 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at Berkshire Fermentation Festival at Great Barrington Fair Grounds, 659 Main Street. (Discussion/Vote)

B. Christine Heaton/Big Elm Brewing for one Day Beer and Wine Liquor License for September 17, 2017 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at Berkshire Fermentation Festival at Great Barrington Fair Grounds, 659 Main Street. (Discussion/Vote)

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SB - Appointment of Election Officers. (Discussion/Vote)

B. SB - Approve Town Meeting/Election Calendar 2018. (Discussion/Vote)

C. SB - Appointment of member to the Agricultural Commission. (Discussion/Vote)

D. SB - Recommendation to the Town Manager of member appointment to the Historical

Commission. (Discussion/Vote)

E. Denise Allard/Colonial Power Group, Inc. - Update on Town's Municipal Aggregation.

F. Ed Abrahams/Tim Newman – GB Fiber: Options and Next Steps. (Discussion/Vote)

6. **CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**


7. **SELECTBOARD'S TIME:**

8. **MEDIA TIME:**

9. MGL.c. 30A, sec. 21 (a) (3) to discuss legal strategy pertaining to wipes
Roll Call Vote
Reconvene into Open Session
SB – to Vote - to appoint the firm of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP
- to draft Retainer Agreement

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

NEXT SELECTBOARD'S MEETING: Monday, September 11, 2017, 7:00 P.M.


Jennifer Tabakin, Town Manager

Pursuant to MGL. c. 30A sec. 20 (f), after notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any such recordings. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the chair. The listings of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

APPLICATION BY A FARMER WINERY FOR LICENSE TO SELL AT A
FARMER'S MARKET
(CH.138, §15F)

YEAR 20

17

1. Licensee Information:

Name of Applicant:	Carr's Ciderhouse	ABCC License Number: (If Existing Licensee)	65				
Mailing Address:	295 River Drive	Business Name (d/b/a if different):					
Manager of Record:	Nicole Blum	City/Town:	hadley	State:	MA	Zip:	01035
		Phone Number of Premises:	413.336.7363				
Other Phone:	413.387-7739	Email:	nicole@carrsciderhouse.com	Website:	www.carrsciderhouse.com		
Contact Person concerning this application (attorney if applicable):							
Name:	Nicole Blum	City/Town:	Hadley	State:	MA	Zip:	01035
Address:	295 River Drive	Email:	nicole@carrsciderhouse.com				
Contact Number:	413.336.7363	Fax Number:					

2. Event Information:

A. Farmer's Market licenses are only permitted at events that the Department of Agriculture has certified as Agricultural Events.

Please attach document from Department of Agricultural Resources certifying that this is an agricultural event.

Date(s) of Event: September 17, 2017

B. Contact person for applicant during event:

Name: Nicole Blum

Phone number of contact: 413.336.7363

C. Description of the premises within the Farmer's Market:

Address of Premises for the Sale of Wine: Great Barrington Fair Grounds,

City/Town: Great Barrington State: MA Zip: 01230 Phone Number of Premises:

Describe Area to be Licensed:

We will have a 10x10 tent area where we will be sampling and selling

RECEIVED
TOWN MANAGER

AUG 14 2017

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

**APPLICATION FOR LICENSE BY A FARMER WINERY TO SELL AT A
FARMER'S MARKET
(CH.138, §15F)**

3. Existing License(s) to Manufacture, Export and Sell at Retail:

List the license(s) you hold which authorize the manufacture, exportation and retail sale of wine to consumers: (Attach a copy of each license)

Name	License Type	License Address
Carr's Ciderhouse Farm Winery License	Farm Winery License	295 River Drive, Hadley, MA 01035

4. Are you providing, without charge, samples of wine to prospective customers? Yes No

Section 15F specifically requires that "all samples of wine shall be served by an agent, representative or solicitor of the licensee."

A. If yes, please provide names and addresses of all agents, representatives and solicitors:

Name	Address	ABCC License Number
Nicole Blum	295 River Drive, hadley, MA 01035	65
Jonathan Carr	same	same

B. Proof of Age for Sale to Consumers:

Please identify all methods by which you will obtain proof of age before providing samples or making any sales of wine to consumers :

We are both TIPS certified and will follow that training for verifying age before providing samples - valid ID

5. Transportation and Delivery:

Please identify in detail all persons or businesses that are licensed under M.G.L. c. 138, 522 that will be making any delivery of wine on your behalf to the Farmer's Market in Massachusetts.

Both of us, Nicole Blum and Jonathan Carr, are licensed tom transport our alcoholic products

If additional space is needed, please use last page.

**APPLICATION FOR LICENSE BY A FARMER WINERY TO SELL AT A
FARMER'S MARKET
(CH.138, §15F)**

6. Safety and Tax Registration:

Has the Farmer's Market registered with the Food and Drug Administration? Yes No Registration Date:

7. Disclosure of License Disciplinary Action:

Have any of the your licenses to sell alcoholic beverages ever been suspended, revoked or cancelled? Yes No

If yes, list said interest below:

Date	License	Reason why license was Suspended, Revoked or Cancelled

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 62C, Sec. 49A, I certify under the penalties of perjury that, I have filed all state tax returns and paid all state taxes required under law. I further understand that each representation in this application is material to the determination of the application and state under penalty of perjury that all statements and representations therein are true.

Note: The DTA may require additional information.

Signature

Title

Date

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

MATTHEW A. BEATON
Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX
Commissioner

August 8, 2017

Nicole Blum
Carr's Ciderhouse
295 River Dr.
Hadley, MA 01035

Re: Certification of Agricultural Event Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, Section 15F

Dear Ms. Blum:

Please be advised that your application for certification of the Berkshire Fermentation Festival, on Sunday September 17th 2017 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm as an agricultural event pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, Section 15F has been approved.

Please remember that, upon certification of an agricultural event by MDAR, the farm-winery must submit a copy of the approved application to the local licensing authority along with the application for obtaining a special license from the city or town in which the event will be held. Upon issuance of a special license, the winery should confirm that a copy of the special license was sent by the local licensing authority to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) at least seven (7) days prior to the event.

Sincerely,

John Lebeaux, Commissioner

RECEIVED
TOWN MANAGER

AUG 14 2017

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



Application for Certification of an Agricultural Event for the Sale of Wine
Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138, Section 15F

*To be completed by the licensed farm-winery and returned to:
By Mail: Agricultural Event Certification Program, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
By Email: Rebecca.Davidson@State.ma.us with the subject line "Agricultural Event Certification"
(A separate application must be completed for each event)

In order for your application to be considered complete, you must include the following documents. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

- Signed and dated application with farm-winery license number
- List of vendors with brief descriptions of products for current year/season
- Event operational guidelines or rules for current year/season
- Resume of event manager or description of experience
- Plan depicting the premises and specific location where the license will be exercised. See Template 1.
- Approval letter from event management including the name of the licensed farm-winery and the day(s), month and year of event. See Template 2.

1. Applicant Information			
Name of Licensed Farm-Winery	Carr's Ciderhouse		
Farm-Winery License Number	65	State of Issue	MA
Contact Person	NICOLE BLUM		
Address	295 RIVER DRIVE		
City	HADLEY	State	MA Zip 01035
Phone Number	413-336-7363	Email	nicole@carrsciderhouse.com
Correspondence preference	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Mail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	
Note: Approval/denial letters will be sent regular mail.			
Do you intend to sell, sample, or both? Check all that apply.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sell		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample	

2. Event Information			
Name of Agricultural Event	Berkshire Fermentation Festival		
Type of Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Fair (as defined by MDAR policy)	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmers Market (as defined by MDAR policy)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Agricultural Event
If you selected "Other Agricultural Event", how does this event promote local agriculture? Celebrates fermentation thru agriculture. Event features local food producers that make value added products via fermentation.			
Event Address	775 Main Street 659 Main Street		
City	Great Barrington	State	MA Zip 01230
Event Phone Number	413-329-8389	Event Website	www.berkshireferments.com

3. Event Description			
What are the date(s) and time(s) of the event?			
Start date	09 / 17 / 2017	End date	09 / 17 / 2017 Time 10:00am- 4:00pm
	Month Day Year		Month Day Year
If this is a weekly event, on what day of the week does the event occur?			
If the event is an agricultural fair, does the event include competitive agriculture?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Is the event sponsored or run by an agricultural/horticultural society, grange, agricultural commission or association whose primary purpose is the promotion of agriculture and its allied industries?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	If yes, identify:		

4. Event Management			
Name of Event Manager	Maddie Eiling		
Email Address	berkshireferments@gmail.com	Phone Number	443.339.237.7171 <small>ED 7/14/17</small>
Is this person the on-site manager?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
If no, identify on-site manager (include contact information):			
If there are multiple managers, list them and include contact information:			
Attach on-site manager(s) resume(s) <u>or</u> list any credentials or training of the on-site manager(s): <i>Relevant credentials include, but are not limited to, experience as a market manager, attendance at any market manager workshops, and experience with other agricultural events.</i>			

5. General

Attach or provide in the space below a plan depicting the premises and the specific location where the license will be exercised. See template for necessary elements to include.

<u>Nicole Blum</u> Signature of Applicant	<u>6/28/16</u> Date
<u>NICOLE BLUM</u> Name (please print)	<u>owner</u> Title (please print)
<u>65</u> Farm-Winery License Number	<u>MA</u> State

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

APPROVAL

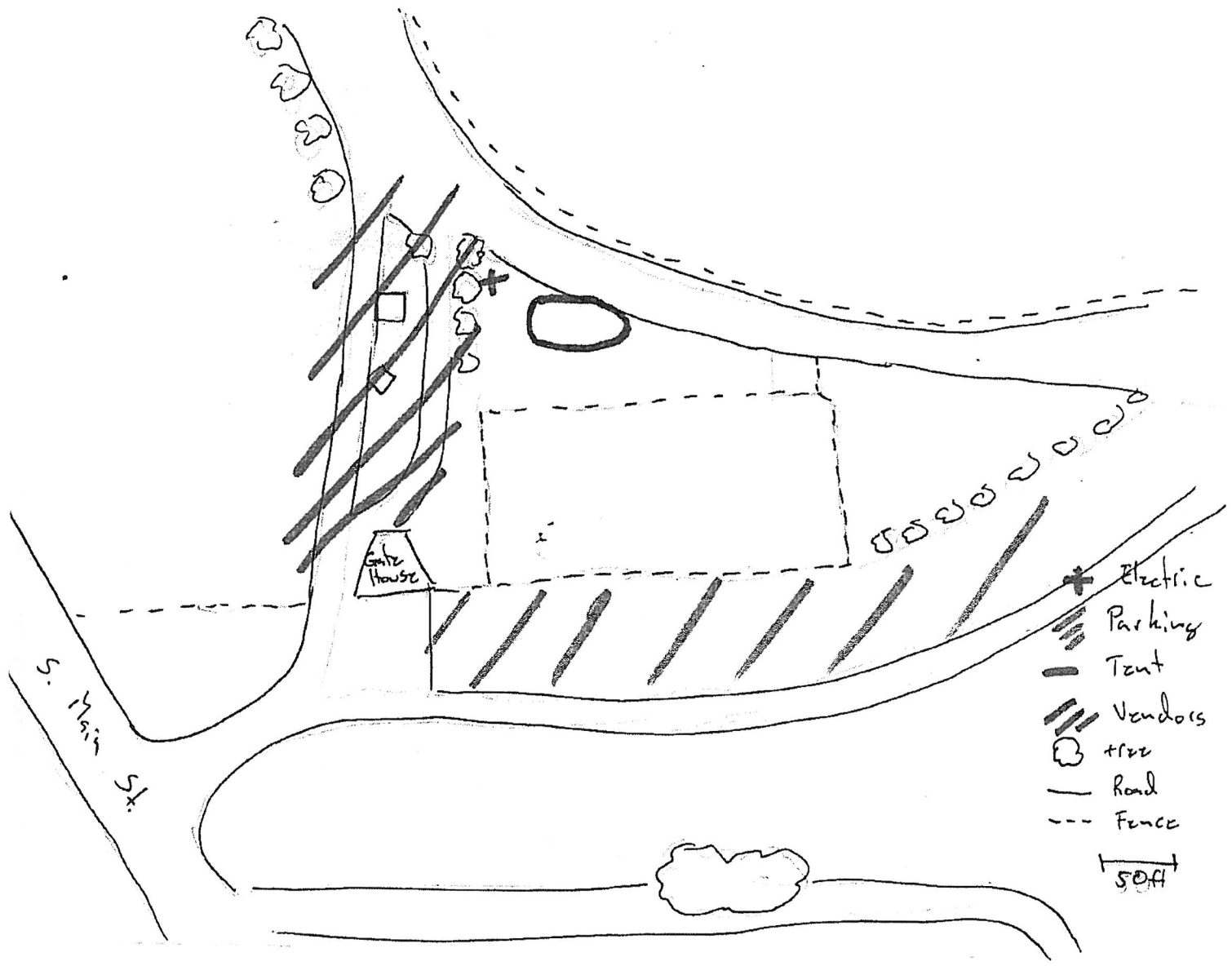
The event listed above is an approved agricultural event by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources under M.G.L. C13A, Sec. 15F.

<u>[Signature]</u> Signature	<u>8/8/17</u> Date
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DENIAL

The event listed above is not approved as an agricultural event by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources for the following reason(s):

_____ Signature	_____ Date
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- + Electric
- /// Parking
- Tent
- /// Vendors
- ☁ tree
- Road
- - - Fence
- 50ft

Michelle Kaplan

(Cell) 339 237 7171

MLkj21@gmail.com

535 South Main Street Apt 3
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Work History

Home Vegetable Garden Installation

Great Barrington 2013-Current

Transforming backyards into flourishing organic vegetable gardens.

Annette Grant

grant.annette@gmail.com

413-329-8182

Kerstin Voss

kerstinvoss@msn.com

413-429-7229

Bruce Bernstein

413-717-2599

Berkshire Mountain Bakery

2013

Amelia Conklin

413-717-5722

ameliakw@gmail.com

Railroad Street Youth Project

Youth Operational Board Coordinator

Empowering young people by supporting the creation of youth-generated activities that promote self-worth, responsibility and intergenerational respect and communication.

Event organizer, International Day of Peace , Open mics, Documentary showings and discussions, vegetable gardening June 2013-Jan 2014 Luiza yob@rsyp.org

Hosta Hill

Education/ Outreach Coordinator

2015-Current

Maddie Elling

Berkshire Mountain Bakery

2013-Current

Josh Risen

jrisen@berkshirermountainbakery.com

Selling breads at farmer's markets

Berkshire Ferments

2014- Current

Berkshireferments@gmail.com

Cofounder, General Manager

Role includes organizing vendors, sponsors, musicians, and presenters, making sure tasks are completed before deadlines approach, mapping out the grounds, volunteer crew, outreach coordinating, answering general questions ,

permitting with town, follow up, securing venue, etc.

References

Ananda Timpane

Executive Director of Railroad Street Youth Project

ananda@rsyp.org

Marthe Bourdon

Berkshire Mountain Bakery and Bourdon's Boutique

413-358-3212

Kerstin Voss

Garden Client

413-274 -9931

Education

Canton High School 2004-2008
02021

Canton, Mass

Travel- 2009 - 2012

(See Below)

Other Relevant Information:

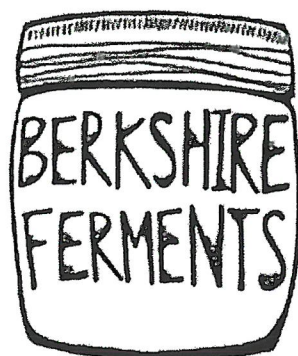
After graduating high school in 2008, I left my hometown and began a 4 year adventure traveling around the country work trading on different organic farms

and living on sustainable intentional communities. My first stop was at Sirius Community where I became passionate about organic gardening, vegetarian cooking, meditation, and alternative ways of living. Then I spent a few months traveling around Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland and 5 months on the west coast, traveling from San Francisco up to Seattle doing work trades at various farms in exchange for room and board. Then I spent a growing season doing an internship at a homestead in Pennsylvania. While at the homestead, part of my responsibilities along with gardening and farm work was to cook for groups of 15 to 30 people over multiple days during courses. The cook team was in charge of planning the menu, purchasing the food, cooking from scratch and serving vegetarian food. While being there I developed strong interests for event organizing, living in community, cooperation, experimenting with fermentation, facilitating meetings, cooking, herbal medicine, wild foraging, etc.

I have been living in Great Barrington, MA for about 5 years now and have been involved in various community projects and event organizing such as monthly barter markets, educational documentary film showings at the local libraries, teaching fermentation workshops and organizing annual Berkshire Fermentation Festivals and potlucks. In 2015, was the first ever Berkshire Fermentation Festival and it was a huge success with about 800 people who attended. I learned a lot about what it takes to put a big festival on and am continuing to learn all the different pieces.

- Berkshire Mountain Gourmet Vinegar
- Taproots Threads
- Aubry
- Brooklyn Brew Shop & Farm Steady
- Jaju Pierogi
- ✓ Sweet Birch Herbals and Full Moon Ghee
- The Hudson Standard
- The Chef's Shop
- ✓ Jacuterie
- ✓ Hosta Hill
- Big Elm Brewing
- ~ Real Pickles
- Rolling Rock Salt
- Rhapsody Foods
- ✓ Adamah Farm
- Berkshares
- ✓ Wildwood Culture
- ✓ Good Fight Herb Co
- Sauerkraut Seth
- H.R. Fine Handmade Chocolates
- ✓ Graham Farmhouse Winery
- Ogusky Ceramics
- ✓ Sky View Farm
- CulturesGroup
- Berkshire Mountain Bakery
- ✓ Grace Hill Farm
- ✓ Carr's Ciderhouse
- Storey Publishing
- ✓ Hawthorne Valley & Poor Devil Pepper Company
- ✓ Abode Farm CSA
- Blue Egg Nourishment
- ~ FinAllie Ferments
- Cauldron Fermented Foods
- ✓ Cricket Creek Farm

~15/
34



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL BERKSHIRE FERMENTATION FESTIVAL!

4/12/17

Dear Carr's Ciderhouse,

Berkshire Ferments is proud to invite you to the 3rd Annual Berkshire Fermentation Festival which will be held on Sunday, September 17th from 10-4pm at the Great Barrington Fairgrounds.

Last year, we had a great turn out with over 1,000 people coming through the gate. This years festival will be even bigger and better. It's shaping up to be a jam packed day with 40+ vendors, many interesting presentations on cultured foods and beverages, live music, a science corner, book signings, and more. We hope you can join us!

Please respond to berkshireferments@gmail.com to save your space.

Thanks and we hope to see you there!

Michelle Kaplan, organizer

Maddie Elling, assistant organizer

413-329-8389

www.berkshireferments.com

BERKSHIRE FERMENTS
RULES AND REGULATIONS 2016 SEASON
PLEASE RETAIN THESE RULES FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

PREFACE

Berkshire Ferments is here to help our community reclaim our important and ancient food traditions through educating and celebrating the world of fermented foods. We want to bring together Berkshire foodies, fermentation enthusiasts, bacteria farmers, & fans of lactic acid!

Now in our 2nd year, Berkshire Ferments operates not only to promote knowledge and practice of fermentation, but also to promote locally grown, locally produced products, and socially responsible food production. It is the belief of Berkshire Ferments that increased consumption of both fermented and locally produced goods strengthens not only our gut, but local farms, small businesses, and in turn improves the local economy, helps to develop community, and brings quality products and enjoyment to local consumers.

These rules are intended to provide clarification to both Berkshire Ferments staff and participants in all Berkshire Ferments events.

Section I: General Event Regulations

A. Participants

All potential participating vendors or presenters must submit an application annually to Berkshire Ferments in order to be considered for participation. Criteria for acceptance of applications may include:

- * Adherence to application and payment deadlines
- * Participation in previous year(s)
- * Willing volunteerism in the market in previous year(s)
- * Attendance record of previous year(s)
- * Volume of space available at the market site
- * Variety of products made available
- * Number and severity of warnings on record from the previous year
- * Berkshire Ferments need for the product(s) offered

1. If a participating vendor or presenter is unable to attend any given event, he/she must call the Committee Chair before the event begins. There will be no reimbursement for absences with less than 14 days notice.

2. Vendors should set up, display, and package their products in a way that protects their products from the elements.

3. Vendors are responsible for providing all necessary equipment including table, tent, signage, **tent weights**, etc. All event participants must ensure that their physical set up is safe and hazard-free for all market participants. Awnings, tents, banners, etc. **must be adequately secured.**

3. Vendors should arrive at the event 30-60 minutes before opening and must be ready to sell five minutes before opening. In the case of a late arrival, the Committee Chair has the discretion to change that vendor's location or to refuse that vendor permission to set up.

4. No vendor vehicles will be permitted in the market after twenty minutes before market opening. All vehicles must be removed from the market area by five minutes before market opening. All vendors must drive in a reasonable and prudent manner with public safety first in mind while at market. All vendors must take care not to damage the building structures or physical grounds. Any such damage must be reported immediately to the Committee Chair.

5. The sale of goods is discouraged before the market officially opens and after it closes.

6. All necessary licenses, certificates, sales tax documents, coupon acceptance notices, etc. must be appropriately displayed where required.

7. Each vendor must keep the area in and around his/her space clean at all times. Each vendor must leave his/her assigned space in broom clean condition. No foodstuff, rubbish, or personal belongings of any sort shall remain on the ground, in nearby trash barrels, in dumpsters, or anywhere else in the vicinity, after the market is officially closed. All refuse must be taken home with the vendor.

8. Vendors are **required to remain at the market for the entire market day** until the official closing time, even if sold out.

9. Early closing due to severe weather conditions shall be at the discretion of the Committee Chair/ Steering Committee representative.

10. Full payment must be sent at time of application. Vendor will be excluded if payment is not received by July 1st.

B. MANAGEMENT

2. Ideally, or when required, the market shall hold a brief meeting once a month

3. The Steering Committee shall be comprised of three individuals. The Steering Committee is responsible for the management and leadership of Berkshire Ferments. All terms shall be for two years. In order to ensure continuity and overlap, two members shall be elected in even-numbered years and one members in odd-numbered years. There shall be no limit to the number of terms an individual may serve. Steering committee members shall be individuals. The first meeting of the year shall be held by the end of March each year, at which time the group shall determine the division of responsibilities. Steering Committee members are expected to attend all steering committee meetings; absences should be minimal.

4. The responsibilities of the Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Committee Chair, shall include but are not limited to the following:

- *developing a budget for each years Festival and other events
- *choosing and supervising a committee chair
- *distributing and receiving applications for prospective vendors and presenters, both new and old
- *accepting and rejecting applicants for festival and maintaining a waiting list of applicants
- *assigning spaces at market
- *developing and carrying out a publicity campaign
- *developing and carrying out a community relations program
- *taking, keeping and distributing typewritten notes from all meetings
- *supervising and supporting the committee chair during operation of Festival
- *describing and assigning volunteer work expected to be done by the Berkshire Ferments membership

5. Responsibilities of Committee Chair, in addition to general steering committee responsibilities, include

- *Overseeing the calendar and making sure all necessary deadlines are upheld
- *Monitoring steering committee, or other individuals, to make sure delegated responsibilities are accomplished
- *Acting as outreach coordinator and the face of Berkshire Ferments through maintaining social media and responding to all email inquiries
- *Being the lead organizer on any event day.

5. Notice of Steering Committee meetings may be made in person or by telephone, fax, or e-mail, with a weeks notice. Every effort shall be made to set future meeting dates at each meeting of the Steering Committee. Emergency meetings may be called with one day's notice; however vacancies may not be filled, nor members removed from the Committee at emergency meetings

6. Any member of the Steering Committee may resign at any time. If requested to do so by a majority of the remaining members, any member who resigns may continue to serve on the Steering Committee after resigning until the Steering Committee is able to replace that person.

7. Any member of the Steering Committee may be removed with cause by the unanimous vote of the other two members. Although it is hopeful that any such removal would never occur, cause could include: repeat failure to attend meetings; failure to act in a timely manner on their assigned responsibilities for market: breach of confidentiality; conflict of interest; or the inability to work with others in an amicable fashion.

8. Should there be a vacancy on the Steering Committee, a market meeting shall be called to elect an individual to fill the term of the vacancy. If the vacancy occurs while the market is not in session, the remaining members shall appoint an individual who is a member of the market to fill the empty position until the market opens. A meeting to elect someone to fill the vacancy shall be held when market opens, or at a pre-season all market meeting; the Steering Committee shall make a nomination; other nominations may be made by paid-in-full full season or half season vendors.

9. While the Steering Committee is responsible in a general way for the financial health of the Berkshire Ferments it shall not be held responsible for the fiscal state of the market either as a group or as an individual. No individual member nor the entire group shall be liable in any lawsuit, accident, etc. that may occur around Berkshire Ferments or its associated activities. All members of the Steering Committee shall be listed on the market's liability insurance policy, along with the committee chair and the owner of the property the festival or any other event is located on.

10. Prospective vendors and presenters applications shall be reviewed and voted on by the Steering Committee. A majority vote is required to bring a new vendor or presenter into the festival. The Steering Committee may take exceptions to the rules governing vendors on a case by case basis. These exceptions to the rules governing vendors may only be made in order to fill the overall needs of the market, for example, to provide a product which is otherwise unavailable and for which customers have reasonably and frequently requested. These exceptions shall not be made lightly and shall require a vote of 4 out of 5 members when there is a full Steering Committee; otherwise it shall require a unanimous decision.

11. The Steering Committee shall attempt to reach all decisions by consensus; however a vote may be called for by any member of the Steering Committee at any time during discussion. If a vote is called, a majority of members present must agree to take a vote.

12. The Committee Chair is the official manager at any Berkshire Ferments sanctioned events, having authority to enforce Berkshire Ferments rules and acting as a representative of the Berkshire Ferments. If a problem or dispute arises, the Committee Chair, with the aid of the Steering Committee, will settle disputes. In the interest of promptness, the decision made, whether by the Committee Chair alone or, if possible, with any steering committee's assistance, shall be final at that time, but subject to later appeal. Any vendor or vendors involved in a dispute shall have the right to ask for a follow-up meeting, discussion, and reconsideration by a quorum of the steering committee, whose decision shall then be final. That appeal process must be started within one week of the market; the meeting and discussion must take place within one week of that time. It may be held in person, by phone, or by e-mail at the discretion of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall have final authority over all disputes.

C. INSURANCE

1. The Berkshire Ferments shall carry liability insurance which protects all Berkshire Ferments sanctioned events. However, it does NOT protect the individual vendor. The owner of the property rented for Berkshire Ferments events will be listed as an "additionally insured." All Steering Committee members and the Committee Chair shall also be listed as additionally insured.

2. All vendors must carry their own General Liability Coverage Policy. A certificate of insurance must be submitted with the annual application form.

3. Any accident or injury must be reported immediately to the Committee Chair.

E. PRODUCTS

1. The seller of processed foods is responsible for complying with all requirements and licenses set by the town or city, state of Massachusetts, and the Federal Government (USDA, FDA, and potentially others).

2. Prepared food vendors offering processed foods or other products made of locally grown food or other plant products shall be given preference over other prepared food vendors.

3. All products must have appropriate signage, including price.

F. PUBLIC REGULATIONS

1. Products may be sold by the bunch, piece, container, or by weight.
2. Vendors planning to use a scale should have it sealed by an official state or city Sealer of Weights and Measures. Household scales are not permitted.
3. No solicitors or collection drives are permitted in the market area without the prior written approval of the Steering Committee.
4. Prices will be fair market value, negotiated by the vendor and the customer. No warranty of any sort, express or implied, may be made by the Steering Committee, Committee Chair, city or town on behalf of the vendors or the market.
5. Each vendor is responsible for his/her own compliance with any applicable local, state or federal laws.
6. Participating vendors are prohibited from engaging in any behavior not appropriate for a public setting including, but not limited to, use of obscene or abusive language and or physical violence.

G. RULES AND ENFORCEMENT

1. These rules are intended to be in the best interest of the Berkshire Ferments, its vendors, and customers. The Steering Committee may, at any time, modify or add to these rules, to better serve these interests.
2. The Committee Chair is responsible for enforcing all rules.
3. The prescribed penalties for violations of the above rules are as follows:
 - a. First offense – The violator shall receive a written warning.
 - b. Second incidence of same offense – The violator shall receive a second written warning accompanied by a fine of \$50.00 to be paid to the Berkshire Ferments prior to the vendor's next attendance at any event.
 - c. Third incidence of same offense – The violator shall be prohibited from participating in the Berkshire Ferments for the next scheduled event.
4. Any offense or combination of offenses shall, at the discretion of the Steering Committee, subject the violator to denial of future participation in the Berkshire Ferments events.

F. Penalties

- (1) If a violation of market rules has been determined, a written notice of penalty will be issued promptly via certified mail or hand delivery, to the violating vendor by the Steering Committee or Committee Chair. An appeal form will be issued along with the penalty notice.
- (2) The prescribed penalties for violation of rules is exclusion from Berkshire Ferments events

G. Appeals

1. A vendor may file an appeal of a determination with the Berkshire Ferments Steering Committee by completing the Appeals Form that accompanies the penalty letter. An appeal must be filed within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the penalty letter.

3. The Steering Committee will take no less than two (2) and no more than four (4) weeks from receipt of the appeal to render their decision. Said decision is final.
4. During the appeal process, the violator is required to adhere to the original penalty (ies).

J. SALE OF PROCESSED FOODS

2. Preference shall be given to individuals/businesses using locally grown foods in the production of their processed foods.
3. It is the responsibility of the vendor to comply with all local, state, and federal health laws regulating the production, licensing and labeling of processed foods.
4. Any permits or licenses required for the sale of a processed food must be submitted to Berkshire Ferments along with the vendor's application prior to the sale of the processed food(s) at the Berkshire Ferments.
5. The Committee Chair has the right to require that a participating vendor remove a processed food from the selling display if the appropriate permit, license, or labeling is not apparent.

H. SEVERANCE

If any provision of the Rules and Regulations of Berkshire Ferments 2016, is at any time deemed to be void or unenforceable by a court or competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall not thereby be affected.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please email us at: BerkshireFerments@gmail.com

Or feel free to call any member of the Berkshire Ferments Steering Committee
Michelle Kaplan (Committee Chair) 339-237-7171
Maddie Elling 413-329-8389
Abe Hunrichs 413-429-6266

JB = 8/28/17



Fee: \$25.00 (per day)

paid on #2044

APPLICATION FOR ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE

TO THE LICENSING AUTHORITY:

The undersigned hereby applies for a License in accordance with the provisions relating thereto:

Applicant's Name: Christine Heaton

Organization Name: Big Elm Brewing

Applicant's Address: ~~200~~ 65 Silver St Sheffield

Telephone Number: 413 229 2348 413 441 7351

Type of License: ONE DAY BEER & WINE ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOLIC
(Circle one)

Event: Berkshire Fermentation Festival

Date: 9/17/17 Start Time: 10 AM End Time: 4pm

Event Address: Great Barrington Fair Grounds
659 Main St GB

Is the Event on Town property? YES NO

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPLICATION:

- OK 1. TIPS or ServSafe Alcohol certification for anyone serving alcohol.
- OK 2. Certificate of Insurance showing proof of Liquor Liability coverage.
(If the event is on Town property, the certificate must name the Town of Great Barrington as additional insured.)
- OK 3. If the event is not on applicant's property, a letter of permission from the owner is required.

Liability: The below individual agrees to take responsibility for the above-noted event and further agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and defend the Town of Great Barrington, its officers, employees and agents, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, penalties, forfeitures, suits, and the costs and expenses incident thereto, which may occur in connection with this event.

[Signature]
Signature of Applicant

8/10/17
Date

FOR TOWN USE:

Approved _____

Denied _____

Postponed _____

Marie Y. Ryan, CMC
Town Clerk
Justice of The Peace



Town Hall, 334 Main St.
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(413) 528-1619 ext. 3
Fax: (413) 528-2290

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS**

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

TO: Selectboard
FROM: Marie Y Ryan, Town Clerk
DATE: August 1, 2018
RE: **Election Officers**

According to M.G.L. Chapter 54, section 12, the Selectmen shall annually, appoint the election officers for each voting place within the town. I respectfully request that the following people be appointed for the current fiscal year:

Judith Arienti	Donald Howe	John Passetto
Marlene Atwood	Carolyn Ivory	Virginia Passetto
Maureen Avery	Paul Ivory	Susan Pettee
Madonna Bachman	Harry Jennings	Kathleen Plungis
Barbara Bailly	Deborah Kain	Frances Premerlani
Debbie Ball	Laura Keefner	Larry Premerlani
Irene Bara	Marjorie Keefner West	Dudley Race
Marion Barry	Cathleen Kinne	Donald Rembisz
Marilyn Bisiewicz	Kathleen Kotleski	Patricia Salvi
Elizabeth Budz	Ethel Kramer	Linda Santos
Barbara Chamberland	Patricia Kujawski	Sheila Shepardson
Christine Coons	Matt Kuziemko	Michelle Shimmon
Richard Coons	Lois Larkin	Terry Smith
Judith Corbett	Linda Lavoie	Margaret Soule
Jessica Dezieck	Fran Locke	Marilyn Stevens
Patricia Dymek	Michelle Loubert	Carol Strommer
Frederick Dymek	Barbara Louison	Steve Strommer
William Fields	Donna MacDowell	Christine Tarnawa
Patrick Fennell	Rosemary McAlister	John Tossavainen
Denise Flynn	Linda McMeekin	Marcia Trombley
Paul Gibbons	Carol Meade	Howard Trombley
Michele Gilligan	Theresa Moore	Christine Ward
Jane Green	Bruce Morelli, Sr	Michael Wise
Jean Holcomb	Andrew C. Moro	
Patricia Hoskeer	Lynn Nettleton	

Town Meeting/Election Calendar 2018

Town Meeting on May 7th and Election on May 15th

Selectboard Set date for Town Meeting and Election	??
Selectboard advertise for Citizen Petition time period	Monday, January 8, 2018
Selectboard Open Citizen Petition Time	Monday, January 22, 2018
Selectboard Close Citizen petition Time	Wednesday, January 31, 2018
Nomination Papers Available in Clerk's Office	Thursday, February 1, 2018
Last Date to obtain nomination papers	Friday, March 23, 2018
Last Date to submit nomination papers	Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Planning Board to have completed all Public Hearings by this date	Friday, March 16, 2018
Last Date to Object or Withdraw Nomination	Thursday, April 12, 2018
Selectboard approve Final Warrant	Monday, March 26, 2018
Last Date to register to vote	Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Last Day to send warrant to printers	Friday, April 13, 2018
Last date to mail out Warrant Postcards	Monday, April 23, 2018
Last Date to post Warrant	Monday, April 30, 2018
Mini-Town Meeting @ Senior Center 6 PM	Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Town Meeting @ Monument Mountain 6 PM	Monday, May 7, 2018
Town Election 8:00 AM- 8:00 PM	Tuesday, May 15, 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

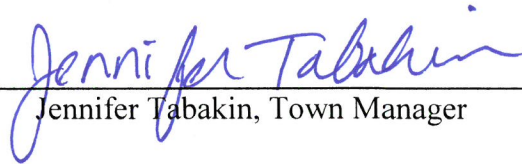
TITLE: Appointment of Agricultural Commission member.

BACKGROUND: The Town has a vacancy on the Agricultural Commission. The Town has advertised for residents to serve as members on the Agricultural Commission. Devan Arnold was an active member on the Commission, however due to his intensive school program; he missed the deadline for reapplying. He is still very much interested in serving on the Agricultural Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable; members serve without compensation.

RECOMMENDATION: The Selectboard appoint Devan Arnold to the Agricultural Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

PREPARED AND REVIEWED BY: _____


Jennifer Tabakin, Town Manager

DATE: 8/25/2017

Helen Kuziemko

From: Vivian Orłowski <ecomotiva@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 2:07 PM
To: Helen Kuziemko
Cc: Devan Arnold (darnold@prescott.edu); Amy Pulver; Jennifer Tabakin; Marie Ryan
Subject: Re: Appointment to the Agricultural Committee

Helen, Thank you for this update. Devan has been a well informed and active member of the Agricultural Commission and all members of the Ag Comm hold him in high regard. I enthusiastically recommend his appointment to the Agricultural Commission and hope that he can attend the Selectboard meeting on August 14 or August 24. Thank you, Vivian
P.S. Due to a health problem, I will not be able to attend the Selectboard meeting, but would be glad to send a note of recommendation. Please let me know to whom it should be sent.

Vivian Orłowski, Chair
Agricultural Commission
Town of Great Barrington
334 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
EcoMotiva@gmail.com
413-528-6355 (direct line)

On Wed, Aug 9, 2017 at 1:58 PM, Helen Kuziemko <hkuziemko@townofgb.org> wrote:
Hello Devan and Vivian,

Devan's term on the Agricultural Commission expired June 30, 2017. Unfortunately Devan got back to us past the deadline for re-appointments. Hence now this becomes a new appointment. He is still interested, per attached. We could place this on the Selectboard's agenda for this coming Monday, August 14th. 7:00 pm. Devan, please let me know if you are able to attend the Board's meeting this Monday or if not, then the next Selectboard's meeting is August 24th. Please let me know what will work for you. Any questions, please call us. Thank you.

Helen V. Kuziemko
Administrative Assistant
Selectboard/Town Manager
Town of Great Barrington
334 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
[413.528.1619](tel:413.528.1619) x2
[413.528.2290](tel:413.528.2290) fax

Search

1761	HOW DO I ... ? (FAQ)	TOWN GOVERNMENT	BUSINESS	THINGS TO DO
ABOUT THE TOWN	Agricultural Commission			
ONLINE PAYMENTS	Printer-Friendly Version			
PERMITS & LICENSES	Contact:	<u>Vivian Orłowski</u> Chair		
AGENDAS & MINUTES	Address:	334 Main Street Great Barrington, MA 01230		
PUBLIC HEARINGS	Fax:	413-528-2290		
DOCUMENT ARCHIVE	Meeting Agendas	Meeting Minutes		
RECYCLING & TRASH	Additional Links:			
JOB & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	Great Barrington Farming Bylaws	Amendments to Chapter 40A Section 3	Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions	
SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS, AGENDAS, MINUTES	Keep Berkshires Farming Community Forum October 22, 2012	Pollinator Friendly Community Resolution		
REPORT AN ISSUE	NAME	TITLE	TERM EXPIRES	
TOWN-RELATED MEDIA PAGES	Vivian Orłowski	Chair	2019	
HOME	Meryl Joseph		2018	
	Hilda Banks Shapiro	Alternate	2018	
	Laurily Epstein		2019	
	VACANCY		2020	
	Michael Maguire		2018	



Town Hall • 334 Main Street • Great Barrington, MA 01230
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

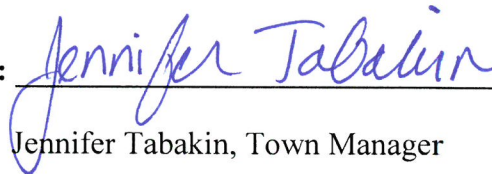
TITLE: Appointment of a member to the Historical Commission.

BACKGROUND: The Town has a vacancy on the Historical Commission. Bill Nappo has served in the position, but did not respond by deadline for reappointments. The term is for three years. MGL Ch. 40 Sec. 8D states that towns having Town Manager form of government, the appointment shall be made by the Town Manager, subject to the approval of the Selectboard. As Town Manager, I appoint Bill Nappo for a three (3) year term until 2020 to the Historical Commission and request your approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION: The Selectboard concurs with the Town Manager's appointment of Bill Nappo for a three year term on the Historical Commission.

PREPARED AND REVIEWED BY:



Jennifer Tabakin, Town Manager

DATE: 8/25/2017

Amy Pulver

From: Bill Nappo <grayhousepartners@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 2:19 PM
To: Amy Pulver
Cc: Paul Ivory
Subject: Re: Historical Commission

Amy- Yes, I would

like to be re-appointed to the ~~Great Barrington historic~~ *HISTORICAL* Commission.

Bill

Bill Nappo
Grayhouse Partners inc
413-429-6299
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 31, 2017, at 2:18 PM, Amy Pulver <apulver@Townofgb.org> wrote:


Hello Bill,

I need to have something from you in writing that you are no longer interested in being a member of the Historical Commission. We hadn't heard that you wanted to be reappointed, so if you could just let us know either way we can move on.

Many thanks,
Amy

Amy Pulver
Administrative Assistant
Selectboard / Town Manager's Office
Town of Great Barrington
413.528.1619
413.528.2290 fax
www.townofgb.org

Search

1761	HOW DO I ... ? (FAQ)	TOWN GOVERNMENT	BUSINESS	THINGS TO DO																								
ABOUT THE TOWN	<h2 style="color: #008000;">Historical Commission</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Printer-Friendly Version</p>																											
ONLINE PAYMENTS	<p>Contact: Paul Ivory Chairman</p>		 <p style="text-align: center;">L to R: Don Howe, David Rutstien, Marilyn Bisiewicz, Paul Ivory, Malcom Fick, Bill Nappo, Gary Leveille</p>																									
PERMITS & LICENSES	<p>Address: 334 Main Street Great Barrington, MA 01230</p>																											
AGENDAS & MINUTES																												
PUBLIC HEARINGS			<p>Meeting Agendas Meeting Minutes</p>																									
DOCUMENT ARCHIVE	<p>Additional Links:</p> <hr/>																											
RECYCLING & TRASH	<p>Massachusetts Historical Commission</p>		<p>Historic Commission Application for CPA grants Historic Marker Program</p>																									
JOBS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Great Barrington Inventory of Historic Resources</p>		<p>Historical Commission Grant Recipient</p>																									
SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS, AGENDAS, MINUTES	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">MEMBER</th> <th style="text-align: left;">TITLE</th> <th style="text-align: left;">TERM EXPIRES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Paul Ivory</td> <td>Chairman</td> <td>2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donald Howe</td> <td></td> <td>2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VACANCY</td> <td></td> <td>2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marilyn Bisiewicz</td> <td></td> <td>2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Rutstein</td> <td></td> <td>2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Leveille</td> <td></td> <td>2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malcolm Fick</td> <td></td> <td>2018</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				MEMBER	TITLE	TERM EXPIRES	Paul Ivory	Chairman	2020	Donald Howe		2019	VACANCY		2020	Marilyn Bisiewicz		2018	David Rutstein		2019	Gary Leveille		2018	Malcolm Fick		2018
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Town of Great Barrington Municipal Aggregation Procurement and Outreach

- Supply Bidding
 - CPG Meeting with Town regarding program options
 - RFP developed and distributed by CPG
 - CPG provides Town with indicative pricing
 - Bids received and reviewed with the Town
 - Town chooses supplier, or rejects bids
- Public Information/Customer Notification
 - Statutory customer notification letters sent by CPG to all Basic Service accounts
 - CPG provided press release issued upon Town approval
 - Informational meetings
 - Local cable programs, if any
 - Social Media content, if applicable, provided by CPG
- Implementation
 - CPG manages opt-out process and all public requests for information and questions
- Ongoing Service
 - CPG manages future opt-outs and opt-ins
 - CPG files required reports
 - CPG manages ongoing requests for information
 - CPG conducts regular meeting with Town as required/
requested

**From: Ed Abrahams
Tim Newman**

August 17, 2017

**To: Great Barrington Select Board
Jennifer Tabakin**

Re: GREAT BARRINGTON BUSINESS DISTRICT - FIBER BROADBAND OPTIONS

Within 2 to 3 years the small Southern Berkshire towns surrounding Great Barrington will have fiber-optic internet cable passing virtually every driveway. Home owners will be able to connect to the internet at speeds up to 1Gb per second. The ability to conduct bandwidth intensive businesses from rural locations in south county will soon become a reality. This will very likely invigorate the real estate market and encourage some number of entrepreneurs to relocate to the Berkshires for our quality of life, good schools, *and* the ability to connect to internet at world class speeds.

For Great Barrington, this sets up a good news/bad news situation: good in the sense that an influx of homeowners in the outlying towns will create more retail customers in town; bad in that it will render Great Barrington's cable internet connectivity second best. This could adversely affect demand for office space in the business district and detract from the reputation of Great Barrington as a vibrant business friendly town and commercial hub.

Why Fiber is Important for the Great Barrington Business District

Spectrum (formerly Time Warner) serves Great Barrington with cable internet at connection speeds that are satisfactory for most residential customers and many businesses. However, this service level is not adequate for businesses with bandwidth intensive applications. For that, fiber-optic connection speeds are needed. With the phenomenal growth of internet based business activity, Great Barrington would be wise to insure that the infrastructure is in place that encourages such businesses to locate here. Adding the ability to market the fiber-optic internet connectivity—and with it, the ability to obtain any level of connection speed a business might need—will be a significant attractor of entrepreneurs building internet intensive businesses.

For bandwidth intensive businesses, a connection speed of 1Gbps has become the market standard. Link to this chart to compare gigabit download speeds to other connection speeds and for a general guide to information about gigabit technology: <https://www.highspeedinternet.com/resources/gigabit-internet/>.

What are the Options for Great Barrington?

Assuming the desirability of the fiber-optic internet service in the business district (however the district is defined), there are several options the town might consider:

- Option 1: Spectrum Enterprise—a division of the Great Barrington cable Charter-Spectrum;
- Option 2: A different private provider who—in response to a town issued RFI/RFP—is awarded the right to provide service under contract to the town;
- Option 3: A municipal network financed, constructed, and owned by Great Barrington, and operated by a private provider under contract to the town. (See Leverett Net, the town of Leverett's Fiber Network as a model. Link to: <https://mlp.leverettnet.net>);
- Option 4: Form a Business Improvement District (BID) or other nonprofit. Finance the fiber network under the aegis of the BID. The network would be owned and managed by the BID and operated by a private provider.
- Option 5: Individual building owners contracting with a local company to connect their buildings.

Before outlining details of the options for Great Barrington, it is worth understanding what fiber connection speed and costs will be in surrounding towns when their networks are operating. This is the kind of information entrepreneurs will research so we should understand what the competition will be.

Connection Speeds and Monthly Costs in Outlying Towns

Most internet connection contracts available in our area are “Best Effort,” which means the provider offers service “up to” a published speed, but doesn't guarantee that speed, or even any connection at all. Another option offered by some providers is a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which guarantees a published speed 24/7/365. Thus far there is no published information on the availability of SLAs for networks in the following towns so connection speeds at the prices listed below are best effort.

Leverett, MA (LeverettNet) (<https://mlp.leverettnet.net>)

The town of Leverett has been successfully operating a municipal fiber network for several years, under the Mass General Law governing Municipal Light Plant (MLP) towns. The MLP issued a 20 year bond to finance the network. The network is operated under contract to Holyoke Gas & Electric (<http://www.hged.com/telecom/default.aspx>) to provide Network Operations, and to OTT Communications (<https://www.ottcommunications.com>) to provide ISP Services. This is the model to study if considering a municipal network for Great Barrington. *Mt. Washington, Alford, and Otis*

are in the process of building town owned networks that will operate in more or less the same manner.

Cost To Leverett Customers*

Installation Fee	\$49.99 one time
Leverett MLP Fee	\$50.49/month
This is fee for operations and is paid for by subscribers, over and above the service options below:	
Fiber Internet only: (1GB symmetric service)	\$23.40/month
Telephone only: (local and long distance)	\$23.40/month
Internet + telephone (Email, POP and IMAP)	\$38.40/month

*Not included in the cost is debt service which is paid by taxpayers.

WiredWest (<http://wiredwest.net>)

WiredWest is a municipal cooperative made up of member MLP towns, operating under the Mass General Law governing Municipal Light Plant (MLP) towns. WiredWest will have no role in the member towns financing and building their networks, or ownership in the networks. The Coop's function will be administrative only. By aggregating multiple towns, WiredWest has been able to negotiate more favorable monthly service fees than a stand alone municipal net would have to pay. Currently about 16 Western Mass towns are considering joining the WiredWest network once their networks are operational.

Cost to Wired West Customer*

Installation Fee (one time charge)	\$99
Standard Internet Service, 1 Gigabit	\$75/month
Economy Internet Service, 25 Mbps	\$59/month
Digital Telephone	\$19 /month

Link to the WiredWest website for. <http://wiredwest.net/project-overview/pricing/>

*Not included in the cost is debt service which is paid by taxpayers.

Fiber Connect (<http://www.bfcma.com/index.php>)

Fiber Connect is a new private company run by Adam Chait, and financed by FeldaHardymon. Fiber Connect has signed up customers in Monterey and Egremont and is in the process of building out fiber service. A recent article in the Berkshire Eagle provides background.

(<http://www.berkshireeagle.com/stories/broadband-build-out-off-and-running-in-monterey-and-its-picking-up-speed,514531>). Fiber Connect is not going to provide service to all

homes, only 70% of the homes. In the not too distant past, Fiber Connect expressed interest in building a fiber network in the Great Barrington business district.

Cost to Customers in Monterey and Egremont

Installation Fee (one time charge)	\$500 or \$1000
Residential Service, 1 Gigabit Down/250 Mbps Up	\$99/month
Business Service, 1 Gigabit Down/500 Mbps Up	\$149/month
Digital Telephone	\$19/month

Other Municipal Networks in the Berkshires

The towns of Mt. Washington, Otis, and Alford are on track to build stand-alone municipal networks.

Connection Speeds and Monthly Costs Elsewhere in the United States

There are at least several hundred of municipal fiber networks across the country. (See map: [MuniNetworks.org](https://muninetworks.org/communitymap) (<https://muninetworks.org/communitymap>). Among the more notable offering gigabit-plus speed networks are Chattanooga, TN, Lafayette, LA, and Google Fiber networks in Kansas City, Austin, Provo, Salt Lake City, Charlotte, Atlanta and Research Triangle (Raleigh-Durham).

Gig City, Chattanooga, TN

(<http://chattanooga-gig.com> and <https://epb.com/home-store/internet>).

The Chattanooga municipal fiber network has been leading the way in ultra fast internet service. It has been very successful in attracting businesses to relocate to Chattanooga. Link below to “The City that was Saved by the Internet” (https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/ezpk77/chattanooga-gigabit-fiber-network).

Cost to Gig City Customers

Residential Service, 100Mbps	\$57.99/month
Business Service, 1 Gbps	
1Gbps	
10Gbps	\$300/month

Options For Great Barrington

Option One: Spectrum Enterprise

Spectrum, which absorbed Time Warner Cable, divides its business into four divisions:

- Spectrum Home (residential cable service);
- Spectrum Reach (media sales);
- Spectrum Business (cable-based broadband);
- Spectrum Enterprise (fiber-optic technology).

We are focusing here on Spectrum Enterprise as its products run on fiber and are not subject to the operating limitations of coaxial cable. Speeds up to 10Gbps are possible.

Symmetric Speeds

Spectrum Enterprise download and upload speeds are *symmetric*—that is, upload and download speeds are the same. With consumer cable technology, upload speeds are considerably slower than download. The ability to upload large files quickly is essential to some types of businesses, making symmetric connectivity a key feature.

Guaranteed Service

Whereas the consumer cable services are sold as *best effort*, Enterprise fiber products include a Service Level Agreement (SLA) that is based on 24/7/365 monitoring and guaranteed reliability. Along with that guarantee of service is a significant increase in monthly cost.

Recent Meeting with a Spectrum Enterprise Business Representative

A July 24 meeting with Enterprise Business Rep, Bill Moriority revealed the following:

- Spectrum has positioned 10Gbps points of presence at strategic locations in western Mass. This means that fiber-optic service can be delivered customers anywhere in Great Barrington *right now*.
- Some addresses are more easily (and inexpensively) served than others. Enterprise classifies these addresses as *Autobuild*. In the Great Barrington 01230 zip code, there about approximated 750-800 such addresses, including most of the business district. There are also some Autobuild addresses in the Housatonic 01236 zip code (including the Housatonic School).
- With Autobuild addresses, the installation charge for bringing fiber service is \$250 with a 3 year contract.

- Spectrum Enterprise Schedule of Fees

<u>Speed</u>	<u>Monthly Fee</u>
25Mbps	\$ 400
50Mbps	\$ 600
100Mbps	\$ 900
200Mbps	\$1300
500Mbps	\$2000
1Gbps	\$2500
2Gbps	\$4000

Prices increase up to 10 Gbs.

- Shorter contracts with higher installation charges, or higher monthly fees, are available.
- Addresses not on the Autobuild list can also be served, but installation costs will need to be determined on a case by case basis. Spectrum will work with customers at these addresses, negotiating either more expensive installation fees or longer contract periods.
- Enterprise will promise service within 90 days of signing a contract. However, Moriority claims it is usually within 30 days. He also stated it can be as quick as a week if the need is urgent.

The ability to market the availability of fiber for offices in the business district can be a potential economic development tool for the town and Spectrum Enterprise can offer it right now. This is excellent news.

On first blush, one might conclude: *fiber connectivity is here and so why all the fuss about building a new fiber network? However, the high cost of the Spectrum Enterprise service will put this option out of range for many businesses that might otherwise wish to locate in Great Barrington.* It is for this reason that we recommend exploring other options to see if we can find an alternative that offers lower monthly costs without prohibitively high investment.

Determining the Viability of other Options

The remaining options require some individual or entity to build another fiber network to compete with Spectrum. How realistic is it to build a new fiber network? What information is needed to come to an informed decision? At the very least, Great Barrington would need to:

- define the geographic extent of the area to be served;
- create a database of addresses;
- determine the number of potential customers (tenants) in each building;
- determine the cost of building the network via a feasibility study.

A Feasibility Study

Under the following options, there would need to be a feasibility study to determine infrastructure costs. Along with determining these costs, a marketing study to establish a demand might be useful, though who to include is a key question, and a 10-year pro forma to determine sustainability. Several entities have been contacted that have the credentials and experience to take on such a study (Westfield Gas & Electric and Matrix Design Group). Others also exist. Either through an informal meeting process, or an RFI, a specialist could be engaged to develop this information. The study could be limited to the costs to construct the network, or could also include a marketing study and/or a pro forma.

The Other Options

Option Two: Network Financed, Built and Owned by Another Private Provider

Determining if a private provider other than Spectrum might bring service to the business district at the provider's expense will necessitate the town issuing an RFI to determine if there are interested providers. The town would need to include information on the number of buildings and addresses, and the number of potential subscribers (tenants) within each building, and other information. If sufficient interest results, issuing an RFP might be the way to proceed. Issuing an RFI seems worth further discussion. Based on work done by other towns, language exist that could be used as the starting point for writing an RFI. This would make developing a well constructed RFI less daunting.

As an immediate step that could be undertaken without an RFI, given that Fiber Connect (Adam Chait), already expressed interest in bringing service to the business district, it seems worthwhile to invite him to discuss the specifics of the project as currently imagined, and determine if he would consider an approach other than the one that he previously recommended.

Option Three: Municipal Network Financed, Built and Owned by Great Barrington

The process undertaken by Leverett is a model for how this might work. However, given that the current need is for the business district alone, and not the entire town, this option has political implications. The key issue is financing. Bonding, with debt service covered by property taxes by all property owners requires a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting. Will Great Barrington be willing to invest in downtown business district fiber which will not immediately, directly benefit them, especially when most residents already have internet access sufficient to meet their needs.

Option Four: A Hybrid Public-Private Network

It is possible to imagine the creation of a new not-for-profit private entity, established for this purpose, that would finance the network, and manage construction and oversee operations, for the benefit of the town. The due diligence for this would make use of the feasibility study described above. There have been discussions with landlords about establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) which could serve this purpose. Creating a BID which could borrow in order to invest in fiber would be one option for this type of network.

Actual operation of the network would be under contract to an established ISP. Westfield Gas & Electric (Whip City) and OTT Communications are two entities that could provide this service that are already providing this service western Mass.

Option Five: Building by Building

A final option is to let individual business or building owners upgrade their own buildings. One building owner has contracted with a local provider, Crocker Communications, to bring fiber to his building. Crocker Communications will install and operate the network. The initial cost is under \$10,000 to bring it to the building and under \$5,000 to wire and equip each of the 19 commercial and residential tenants. The monthly cost to share 250Mbps among all 19 tenants is \$1900. The landlord can divide the cost equally, charge more for commercial than residential, or even make a profit by charging tenants more than the monthly cost. The landlord will also have the ability, at increased cost, to provide faster speeds either to the entire building or to individual tenants as needed.

Town involvement would be to explain to landlords why it is in their interest to do this, and provide minimal technical assistance.

Summary of the five options and their viability:

Option 1. Spectrum. Costs presented above.

Option 2. A different private provider. This would require drafting and issuing an RFI.

This is a time consuming and laborious process. We don't recommend this right now as a formal process. We believe the likelihood of there being interested providers is slim. That said, we do recommend reaching out to Adam Chait (Fiber Connect) informally to determine if his company would be interested. If so, we would need to discuss what the next steps would be.

Matrix Design Group might also be interested.

Option 3. A town financed municipal network. For reasons already stated, this is not a realistic option.

Option 4. Form a BID. Finance the fiber network under the aegis of the BID. The network would be owned and managed by the BID and operated by a private provider.

This could be the best option, but getting there will be time consuming. We have met with Westfield Gas and Electric and asked them to estimate the cost of a feasibility study. With that information in hand, the next step would be to get buy in from key landlords to form a BID. If we get that far, investing in the feasibility study makes sense. If we get nowhere with formation of a BID, then for now, this option is off the table.

Option 5— Individual building owners contracting with a local company to connect their building

That leaves us with 2 options right now (1 & 5) and a possible option if the BID is created.

- Option 1—Charter-Spectrum, with tenants contracting with Charter-Spectrum, and,
- Option 5— Individual building owners contracting with a local company to connect their building
- Option 4, formation of the BID, will take some time to develop.

Recommendations for Next Steps

- Immediately begin to educate real estate brokers and others that fiber is already available everywhere in Great Barrington.
- Establish the geographic boundaries of the area to be served. (Is it the same footprint as the BID? Who decides?)
- Create a database of the buildings in that zone, including the number of tenant premises (include ground floor retail spaces and upper floor apartments and offices). The Town Planner's office could manage this process, but additional investment in staff or volunteers will be necessary.
- Complete a comprehensive Pole Survey of the area to be served. Who owns the utility poles? How many poles are there? What are is the GPS location of each pole? Is there room on each pole for fiber? This is key information. A deliverable should be defined along with a timeline.
- Begin with feasibility study described below.

Feasibility Study, Part I.

Define the information needed to evaluate options other than Spectrum. Information to consider including:

- High level design and cost estimate for building fiber infrastructure in the defined area.
- Landlord survey. Rent range, interest in fiber, fiber service pricing.
- Building-by-building database with number of rentable tenant spaces.
- 10 year pro forma

Feasibility Study, Part II.

Either informally, or through an RFI process, identify entities that are qualified to provide services under contract to create a plan for bringing fiber into a defined business district. Companies to consider: Westfield Gas & Electric, Matrix Design Group, and OTT Communications. Research other prospects for this assignment.