

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2012
7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: STEPHEN BANNON
ANDREW BLECHMAN – not present
ALANA CHERNILA
DEB PHILLIPS
SEAN STANTON
KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

1. CALL TO ORDER

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 6, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the June 6, 2012 regular meeting minutes with amendment as discussed.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

Steve Bannon said that he is very disappointed that the Library Director, who he believes is doing a terrific job, got involved with the Library Trustees minutes discussion. He said that no paid Town official should say whether minutes should be all positive or negative. He said that the minutes are not a public relations document, but should be factual and neutral. Steve said that this is not a reflection on Kevin O'Donnell.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he has already addressed this with the Library Director.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Kevin O'Donnell said that there will be a Master Plan Public Forum on June 21st at the Fire Station from 6-8. He invited the public to come out.

There is a policy governance workshop for the Selectboard on June 26 and 27 at the Fire Station from 6:30-9. The Lenox Selectboard will also be present.

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME: None

6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A.

RAILROAD STREET YOUTH PROJECT FOR A TEMPORARY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR JUNE 23, 2012 FROM 12:00 PM TO 6:00 PM AND FROM 8:00 PM TO 11:00 PM AT 60 BRIDGE STREET. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve license

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

B.

KIRA SMITH FOR A TEMPORARY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR JUNE 23, 2012 FROM 12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM AT THE CO-OP MARKET, 42 BRIDGE STREET. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve license

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

C.

BUTTERNUT BASIN INC. FOR THE BERKSHIRE ART FESTIVAL FOR SIX (6) ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSES FOR JULY 6, 7 & 8 AND AUGUST 24, 25 & 26 2012 FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM AT 380 STATE ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve license

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

D.

BUTTERNUT BASIN INC. FOR THE BERKSHIRE ART FESTIVAL FOR TWO (2) TEMPORARY SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES FOR JULY 8 AND AUGUST 26, 2012 FROM 11:00 AM TO 5 PM AT 380 STATE ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve license

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A BHRSD/ Peter Dillon – Update on the High School renovation project
Peter Dillon spoke about the High School renovation project and said that they are currently in the middle of the feasibility study.
Dick Coons, Chair of the Grounds Committee, said that they are meeting with the other towns' Selectboards as well, and will be holding public forums to include the community in the process.
Dick said that \$300,000 has been budgeted for the feasibility study which will evaluate the existing conditions of the building and decide on possible alternatives. These may include a new building, an addition to the existing building, or keeping the current building and bringing it to code. The biggest problem currently is that the building is not handicap accessible.
The current reimbursement rate is 47.64% to be paid as expenses are incurred.

Dave Ryel asked what the budget and timeline would be if they choose to put an addition on the building.
Dick Coons said that they plan on asking the towns for approval of the appropriate funds in May/June 2013.

B. Establish 2013 Annual Town Meeting and Town Election Calendar.
Kevin O'Donnell presented the proposed calendar for the Town Meeting and Town Election which mirrors the 2012 calendar. The dates proposed included the 'mini town meeting' and the post card mailing.

There was discussion regarding changing the date, time and length of the Town Meeting.
A semi-annual meeting was suggested.
It was also suggested that the Board consider changing to a representative form of town government.

Peter Dillon said that childcare could be arranged and suggested providing (local) food.

All Board members agree to change the night of town meeting, to limit the time (which may require 2 nights) and to provide food. All agree to get input from the community about changing the form of government. The Board will talk to the moderator to get his thoughts. They will include on the post card that there is childcare available.

C.

BOS – RECOMMENDATION TO THE BUILDING INSPECTOR ON THE BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION OF SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS FOR CELL TOWER MODIFICATIONS AT 425 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

There was no comment from the Selectboard.

D.

DISCUSSION RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Kevin O'Donnell presented a draft of the resolution to the Board.

The Board agreed to take out 1Berkshire from paragraph 10. They agreed to change the wording to say, "throughout the town" and remove "mechanism." They agree to remove the Finance Committee as the ex-officio member. (page 4)

Deb Phillips asked that the Planning Board review the draft.

It was asked that Kevin O'Donnell find out how to change the designation from Board of Selectman to Selectboard.

E. Update from May 21, 2012 Solar Panel Community Visioning Session.

Kevin O'Donnell presented the workshop notes and said that there were great ideas and feedback.

Kevin said that he will work with the Planning Board if the Selectboard decides to create a by-law.

Alana Chernila suggested that a new position be created to focus on energy. She said that there is too much work to be done and no one to do it. She acknowledged that they can't afford a new position but this can determine how things are structured going forward.

It was suggested that AMERICORP be used to help with this.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will present an article that he read to the Board along with a 'position paper.'

Deb Phillips said that a policy statement needs to be created before any by-law is created.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A.

APPOINTMENT OF VERONICA CUNNINGHAM TO THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to appoint Veronica Cunningham to the Charter Review Committee

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

Alana Chernila said that she is sorry that this appointment wasn't done earlier.

B. 2012 Antique Auto Car Show Event

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the plans as submitted

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

C. Update re: Town Building Use Facility Procedures

Kevin O'Donnell presented the Building Use Procedures.

Alana Chernila said that the information presented did not address any of her concerns. She said that this discussion began with the question of who gets to use town buildings and how they go about it. Alana said that they need to acknowledge that there is wear and tear on buildings and staff time is being used. She

said that the department involved does not get reimbursed for the work being done by them; scheduling, over-time, wear and tear, etc. Alana said that a policy needs to be created so this is not on a case by case basis.

Deb Phillips said that they need to decide how to handle town groups versus private and who to charge. She would also like to know how the buildings, which were used for a specific purpose in the past, are now being used.

Sean Stanton said that the building use policy says that alcohol is not allowed, yet the Board allowed it. He would like clarification regarding this.

Steve Bannon responded that there also needs to be clarification regarding liability in this situation.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will have this completed by the end of the summer.

9. SELECTMEN'S TIME: None

10. MEDIA TIME:

David Scribner asked how the GE promotion got on the town website.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that he got a flyer with the information on it and thought that it was informational.

David said that it is propaganda and putting this on the website is not balanced.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary