

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 23, 2012
7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

STEPHEN BANNON
ANDREW BLECHMAN
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:

July 9, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the July 9, 2012 regular meeting minutes as amended.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. NOTICE OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES VACANCY

Sean Stanton said that Ronnie Cunningham has resigned as a member of the Library Board of Trustees. The Board of Selectmen jointly with the Library Board of Trustees will appoint someone until the next May Town election.

There has only been one applicant so far.

If anyone is interested, please contact Kevin O'Donnell.

B. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETINGS IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

The Board discussed the upcoming meetings and who will try to attend each.

C. ESTABLISH NEXT STRATEGIC PLANNING PRIORITIES SESSION DATE

It was determined that the next strategic planning priorities session date will be on Wednesday, October 24 at 6:30pm. It will be held at the new Fire Station.

Andrew Blechman said that the Coop Market Director and Chair of the Board are willing to talk to us about policy governance in practice.

Andrew asked for an update regarding the trees that were planted by National Grid and are not being maintained.

Joe Sokul responded that the tree warden and staff are watering the trees that are not being maintained, on a weekly basis. Follow-up on this will continue.

Andrew also asked for an update in regards to the request made by Karen Smith for the police logs.

Kevin O'Donnell said that more patrols have been done downtown; particularly in the skate park. The Police Chief has prepared a report for the next Park Commissioners meeting.

Andrew Blechman said that Senator Kerry now has an office in Springfield. Andrew gave his staffer a tour of Great Barrington and Housatonic and said that it is nice to have an office so close with the possibility of someone willing to listen.

Alana Chernila said that she has asked in the past that the body of the agenda be put in the E-mail that comes to the Selectboard. This has not been done. She asked that this be done going forward.

Alana said that there has been a request that a sign be put up on the McAllister Property saying that it is closed after dark. There have been some incidents there recently.
Deb Phillips said that the Conservation Commission has money to get a kiosk for this area, but it should be possible to put up a sign until this is done.
Kevin O'Donnell said that he will follow-up.

Alana Chernila said that there have been many communications received about the parking behind the old Fire Station. People have been ticketed and want to know what is going on. Alana asked if anything can be done.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that the 'no parking' signs have been up for years, although the police have not been enforcing 'no parking.' He added that the alley will be part of the sale of the Fire Station.

Alana said that merchants have parked there for a while and asked why there is a change now. The Police Sergeant replied that blanket enforcement has been done, based on complaints regarding parking. He said that the 'no parking' sign is there, but he has spoken to those who have received tickets and gave them other parking options.

Sean Stanton asked Joe Sokul to put up the '2-hour' parking signs until the property is sold.

Rob Navarino – 31 - 35 Railroad St.- said that he has complained about the sudden enforcement, although he understands that uniform parking rules are needed. Mr. Navarino asked if the parking spaces could be retained for the town.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to direct Kevin O'Donnell to make as many parking spaces available as possible, while we own the property.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Sean Stanton asked Joe Sokul to look at the dirt lot at the end of the public lot for more parking.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

There is a police bicycle patrol for the summer. The patrol will cover all areas, in particular, downtown and the skate park.

Kevin said that he attended a Bridge ceremony in which Great Barrington received three citations. The citations were from the House of Representatives, the Governor's office and the State Senate. Bridge presented an award to the Town, as well.

Rotary will be sponsoring a Family 'Fly-In' Day, similar to the one held last year. It will be held on September 15, 2012.

Kevin said that we have received a \$500 reimbursement check from MIIA (our insurance carrier) for the Police Department being certified by the Mass. Police Accreditation Commission.

Kevin O'Donnell said that the Great Barrington Historical Commission has received a grant for a walking tour of Historic Downtown. The tour information is on the town's website.

Kevin reported that he has addressed the concern of the resident who said that a tree was blocking a street light. The Town does not own the light. It is a National Grid light, who was notified of the problem. Kevin contacted the resident and explained the result.

Wired West held their regularly scheduled meeting that Kevin and Bob O'Haver attended. Wired West is conducting a survey to see how many people would be willing to 'sign on' when service becomes available. He encouraged all to complete the survey.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he has signed a contract for repairs to Town Hall in the amount of \$83,000.

Joe Sokul said that these repairs include the front entrance, side entrance, columns and painting.

A. SISTER CITY PROGRAM WITH INGERSOLL, ONTARIO, CANADA.

Kevin O'Donnell reported that Ingersoll sent documents to Great Barrington Board of Selectmen to adopt in order to become a sister city. The agreement between the towns was included. He asked that the relationship be formalized at the August 6th meeting, in order for him to present it to Ingersoll when a contingency from Great Barrington visits.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to direct the Town Manager to prepare a formal resolution concerning the 'twinning' with Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada to be adopted at the August 6th meeting

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Dale Abrams announced that the 'Run for the Hills' 5K run/walk will take place again this year as a fundraiser to support the Land Conservancy, which is an all volunteer organization. It will take place on September 30, 2012.

Carol Mooney – Sears property and building owner – spoke about safety. She said that she has had trouble with some youth recently that resulted in her brake lines being filed. She said that the police have been wonderful and responsive. Ms. Mooney requested that cameras be placed in parking lots for the safety of the residents and visitors. She requested that this be put on a future agenda or as a warrant item for Town Meeting.

Mary Beth Merritt spoke in regards to the loss of access to the alley next to the Fire Station. She said that this was an oversight in the Purchase and Sale agreement.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A. REVIEW 75% PLAN DESIGN FOR THE MAIN STREET PROJECT

Jon Dietrich said that the 75% plan was submitted on July 6th. The State is in the process of reviewing the plan now. The plan included changes that the Selectboard made to the design during the last discussion. He said that comments should come back at the end of August. We will then respond and go on to the 100% phase by November.

There was discussion about the size of the parking spaces and if a bike lane could be added.

In order to do this, a substantial design change would be required.

John said that the 'share-o' marks will be added to indicate that cars are sharing the curbside lanes with bikers.

B. DISCUSSION- DESIGNATING CONSTRUCTION IMPACT ZONE

Jon Dietrich said that this zone will depend on who (local or visitor) is approaching and from which direction.

Betsy Andrus said that we need to give enough room to allow those who are coming into Town to know what is happening. She suggested that the zone consist of Agway store area on Rte 23 back to the bottom of Monument Mountain.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to set the construction impact zone from WSBS to the north, Belcher Square to east, the Railroad tracks by Maple Ave to west and Guidos to the south.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

There was discussion regarding the material being used for the crosswalks.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to pave and paint the crosswalks

SECOND: Andrew Blechman

VOTE: 5-0

Paul Ivory- Historical Commission- spoke about the lights that were chosen. He explained that there are 3 basic styles and the Historical Commission strongly recommends the Williamsville Model by National Grid. He said that this option most closely resembles the ones used in the past.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to direct Kevin O'Donnell to find out from National Grid whether the light shield is an extra cost and if there is a photo of it lit up in the dark.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

C. CONTINUED DISCUSSION RE: 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND TOWN ELECTION CALENDAR

There was discussion regarding changing the venue of the Town Meeting to the Mahaiwe Theater. There was also discussion about the possibility of changing the day of the meeting.

Andrew Blechman said that the Mahaiwe will use an E-mail blast and their website to publicize the meeting, as well as, putting it on the marquis.

It was recommended that food be offered in the gazebo.

Mary Beth Merritt said that the Town has buildings that it owns and should be used. (High School). She said that parking downtown will be too hard.

MOTION: Andrew Blechman to locate the Town Meeting at the Mahaiwe, to take place on Monday, May 6th at 6:00 P.M.

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-1 Steve Bannon against

D. DISCUSSION RE: SUSTAINABILITY POSITION PAPER

MOTION: Alana Chernila to table until August 6, 2012

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

Item tabled

E. EXTENSION OF CLOSING FOR THE SALE OF FORMER FIRE STATION

MOTION: Steve Bannon to extend the closing of the sale of the former Fire Station until September 30, 2012

SECOND: Andrew Blechman

VOTE: 5-0

7. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. THE BRICK HOUSE PUB, INC., JOHN J. FLYNN, MANAGER FOR A CHANGE OF MANAGER TO MARK CAIOLA, NEW OFFICER/DIRECTOR AND TRANSFER OF STOCK ON A COMMON VICTUALLER ALL ALCOHOLIC RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE AT 425 PARK STREET N., HOUSATONIC, MA 01236.

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Deb Phillips to open the public hearing

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

b. Explanation of project – Richard Dohoney, representing the applicant, said that this is merely an organizational change

c. Speak in favor/opposition – No one

d. Motion to close public hearing

MOTION: Deb Phillips to close the public hearing

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

e. Motion re: Findings

MOTION: Deb Phillips that no impediment was disclosed

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

ANDREW BLECHMAN – yes

ALANA CHERNILA – yes

DEB PHILLIPS – yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

f. Motion re: Approval/ Denial/ Table

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve change of manager and transfer of stock

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

ANDREW BLECHMAN – yes

ALANA CHERNILA – yes

DEB PHILLIPS – yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

8. LICENSES AND PERMITS:

- A. GREAT BARRINGTON LAND CONSERVANCY/DALE ABRAMS FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD RUN FOR THE HILLS 5K (A 5 KILOMETER RUN & WALK EVENT) ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 9:30 AM (WITH TOTAL TIME FOR EVENT FROM 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM). THE COURSE FOLLOWS SEEKONK, SEEKONK CROSS AND ROUND HILL WITH START ON ALFORD ROAD AND FINISH ON SEEKONK ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to grant permission for the 5K Run/Walk

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. BOS – RECOMMENDATION TO THE PLANNING BOARD ON THE SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION OF BARRINGTON BROOK, LLC AND STONE PATH DEVELOPMENT, INC. 390 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA FOR AN OPEN SPACE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF 59 UNITS ON BURNING TREE ROAD, LONDONDERRY DRIVE AND THRUSHWOOD DRIVE, GREAT BARRINGTON, PER SECTIONS 3.1.4 A (8), 8.7 AND 10.4 OF THE ZONING BYLAW. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Ed McCormick, representing Stone Path Development, Inc., explained the project.

There will be 59 single family homes, a pool, a community center and tennis courts.

The design was displayed. A traffic analysis was performed and it determined that the pattern was adequate to cover this project.

Mary Beth Merritt said that she lives across the street and is concerned with the water coming down the road; drainage is an issue. She also expressed her dislike of the banners and trailers that are put up for the project. Ms. Merritt said that it is important to consider the impact on the community and she is worried about property value.

Austin Mooney replied that this town is a destination location for 2nd homeowners. This will add to the tax rolls and property values will go up.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to send a positive recommendation to the Planning Board and to address the following issues:

Drainage, impact on neighboring properties and insurance against the town's responsibility for infrastructure.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. DISCUSSION REQUIRING POLICY DIRECTION RE: SERVICE OF ALCOHOL ON TOWN PROPERTY. (VOTE)

Kevin O'Donnell explained that there is a by-law allowing service of alcohol on town property with permission from the Board, which can remain the same, or a by-law amendment can be made to restrict alcohol service on town property.

Shelley Brooks – So. Berkshire Community Coalition Coordinator – said that their mission is to prevent substance abuse among youth. She asked that event hosts don't serve alcohol if there is youth present.

Paul McNeil – RR St. Youth Project – Officially requested that the 'Friends of the Library' commit to not allowing alcohol on their property.

Holly Hamer – President of the Library Board of Trustees – Ms. Hamer said that 'Friends of the Library' is not responsible for library policies; although they have purchased alcohol for events in the past. The Library Board of Trustees creates the policies.

MOTION: Andrew Blechman that the Town retains the existing by-law and handle future requests on a case-by-case basis setting forth any requirements deemed necessary, and to direct the Library Board of Trustees to review their Policies and Procedures.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 4-0-1 Steve Bannon against

C. REQUEST FOR BOS TO APPROVE WAIVER OF THE TOWN'S RIGHT TO PURCHASE SHAW PROPERTY ON SEEKONK ROAD AS SHOWN ON THE ASSESSOR'S MAP 33 AS LOTS 74, 64 AND 65. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to waive right of first refusal assuming it will remain in 61A.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

D. REQUEST BY HEATHER FISCH/BLUE VENICE ROCK OPERA FOR SHORT TERM SPACE.

Heather Fisch explained the project and the need for the space.

There was discussion among the Board about the request and the availability of the space.

The Board suggested that Ms. Fisch contact Peter Dillon about using the High School.

10. SELECTMEN'S TIME: None

11. MEDIA TIME: Trevor Jones said that the Board discussed creating a new matrix for the evaluation of the Town Manager. He asked if there has been any progress.

Sean Stanton replied that this needs to be figured out before the next process.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary