

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2012
7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: STEPHEN BANNON
 ANDREW BLECHMAN
 ALANA CHERNILA
 DEB PHILLIPS
 SEAN STANTON
 KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

7:00 PM – PUBLIC SESSION – BOARD ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. June 26 and 27, 2012 Special Joint Meeting with Lenox Selectboard re: Policy Governance.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the June 26 and 27, 2012 minutes

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0-1 Alana Chernila abstained

B. August 13, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the August 13th minutes.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR.

The Board decided to keep this item on the agenda going forward.

B. ROGERS ROAD MATTER PREVIOUSLY HEARD BY THE ZBA.

Sean Stanton said that he received an E-mail from Thomas Jensen about this matter. Sean feels that this is a ZBA issue, and they have ruled on it already. He said that it needs to go back to them.

Steve Bannon said whether the cease and desist order is being enforced is open to interpretation.

All agree that the matter should go back to the ZBA.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD.

Andrew Blechman said that his friend tripped on the sidewalk on Gilmore Avenue and was injured. He said the sidewalks need attention.

Kevin O'Donnell said a walkability study will be discussed at a meeting in September.

Sean Stanton suggested that the area be looked at to see if there is a 'quick fix' in the meantime.

Alana Chernila reported that the street sign that used to be Taconic Ave. has been changed and is now St. James Place.

Alana also reminded everyone that school is starting and asked that they be aware of children getting on and off buses.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. RECOGNIZE YEARS OF SERVICE

The following employees are retiring and were thanked for their service.

Sean Stanton presented each with a certificate of recognition.

- ROBERT AVERY/DPW CEMETERY DIVISION, HEAD GROUNDSKEEPER -37 years of service
- DANNY BERSAW/POLICE OFFICER.- 25 years of service

B. RACHEL FLETCHER/HOUSATONIC RIVER WALK REPORT.

Will Conklin – Director of Greenagers and Rachel Fletcher were present. Rachel said a celebration will take place on Saturday, September 8 at 10:00 AM at the Riverwalk to recognize 25 years since the creation of Riverwalk. There is currently ½ mile of recreational trails. It has been 10 years since the naming of the park entrance (to the downstream section) after W.E.B DuBois. A permanent outdoor exhibit dedicated to him will be unveiled, explaining why he was devoted to the Housatonic River.

Ms. Fletcher gave a formal invitation to the Board.

Will Conklin said that this project has been turned over to Greenagers who will take care of the Riverwalk going forward and appreciate the opportunity to do so.

C. UPDATE REST OF RIVER CLEAN-UP/NAT KARNS.

Kevin O'Donnell said that Great Barrington is a participant in this effort. He requested that the Board formally endorse the letter and material in the executive summary; authorizing the Chair to sign the letter. Several towns are meeting and discussing the report regarding the socio-economic cost of the river clean-up. After similar action by other towns, the letter and material will be formally entered into the record with the US EPA.

Nat Karns, Executive Director of BRPC said that he does not know where the EPA is in the clean-up process. He explained that the letter does not say what the towns thoughts are on what level of clean-up is important, but want to recognize that there is a cost to our community with no clean-up.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to endorse the letter

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-1 Andrew Blechman opposed

Andrew Blechman suggested that a thank you letter be sent to EPA for pushing this forward. He said that G.E. should not be given any reason to delay.

D. UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVE/HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION. (DISCUSSION)

Kevin O'Donnell said that the Town Meeting passed an article to pursue electricity aggregation. He researched options and thought the following was the most viable option.

Jeffrey Rogers-Representative/Hampshire Council of Government said their mission is to provide regulatory services to towns. Group purchasing is their focus. If you decide to become part of an aggregate, it would be the Town's aggregation. The supplier will give service to the whole town. Residents will have the option of opting-out.

Andrew Blechman asked if there is a down-side to this.

Mr. Rogers responded that he does not know any. This would not cost the town a penny. If the town chooses to work with them, they will create a five (5) year contract. There is a green energy option, as well. There are no fees.

E. REPORT ON TWINNING TRIP TO TOWN OF INGERSOLL, ONTARIO.

Kevin O'Donnell spoke about the plaque that was presented to the Town by Ingersoll and put on a slide-show about the trip.

Bob Tepper thanked Kevin for a great representation of the Town.

Kevin O'Donnell reported that he received a bid price of \$3900 for the phase 1 environmental study of the Housatonic School. He will go forward with the study. He will not get a price on phase 2 until the first phase is complete.

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

David Magadini spoke about two items on the agenda: Twinning of the towns and the update to the Charter Committee. Mr. Magadini disagrees with the twinning of the towns because Laura Ingersoll was 'a traitor' and Ingersoll is run by a Mayor.

In regards to the Charter Committee, Mr. Magadini said that it was "illegally quorumed" at the inception and new members are still being added.

Richard Stanley spoke about parking and the future construction project. He said that we learned from the Water Main Street project that there needs to be better traffic flow. 'Parking will not be a problem if there is poor traffic flow.' Mr. Stanley said that traffic control was a failure. He said that the police who are in charge of traffic control are not trained to do so.

John Horan – Brainard Ave. – said that the traffic in the Castle Street area is a problem. He read a letter that was put together by neighbors about this problem. (70 names on the list) Mr. Horan said that more stop signs and traffic calming measures are needed.

Kevin O'Donnell said he will set up a meeting with the group.

Bart Razor- owner of Carr Hardware – said that it is obvious to see when construction began and ended by looking at sales charts. He said that people will come in to the stores if they know that 2 lanes are open. It is important to keep traffic flowing. He said that frustration causes people to give up.

Sharon Gregory – Hollenbeck Ave. – suggested if the town wants to participate in civic engagement that Citizen Speak Time be moved up.

Sean Stanton responded that there are other ways to communicate if it is hard to come to the meeting.

Erik Roan acknowledged Carr Hardware for allowing Railroad Street Youth Project to update the mural.

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. ADAM ZIEMINSKI, AJZ HOLDINGS, LLC, D/B/A CAFÉ ADAM, 325 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA FOR A RESTAURANT AT 420 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA PER SECTIONS 3.1.4 C (21) AND 10.4 OF THE ZONING BYLAW.
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Steve Bannon

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-0-1 Sean Stanton recused himself

a. Explanation of Project

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition-

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

e. Motion re: Findings

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

MOTION: Deb Phillips to postpone until the 9/10 meeting

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING TO DETERMINE THE TAX ALLOCATION FOR FY 2013 FOR THE TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Deb Phillips to open the public hearing

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

b. Explanation of Project- Kevin O'Donnell said that this is a description of four classification options for distributing the tax levy among property owners.

Chris Lamarre explained that he takes the average assessed value of the entire residential class of properties. This includes condos, multi-family dwellings, vacant land and single family homes. An average is derived and the exemption is not to exceed 20% of that average. The exemption of \$65,473 is for homes valued at \$327,366 or less. The rest of the value gets pushed on multi-family dwellings, non-domicile and apartment buildings.

There was discussion among the board regarding property taxes.

Chris said that the tax rate would be 13.14%, which is a \$29.00 average increase over last year.

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition

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 we comply with State Law for Fiscal Year 2013 in setting a single tax rate of \$13.14.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the tax rate

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ROLL CALL VOTE:

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

ANDREW BLECHMAN – yes

ALANA CHERNILA – yes

DEB PHILLIPS – yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

C. CUMBERLAND FARMS, INC./VSH REALTY, INC., 100 CROSSING BOULEVARD, FRAMINGHAM, MA, 100 CROSSING BOULEVARD, FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702 TO MODIFY EXISTING SPECIAL PERMITS 583-99 AND 603-00, TO DEVELOP 11 PARKING SPACES WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT 148 MAIN STREET, AND TO MAKE EXTERIOR CHANGES TO EXISTING STRUCTURES AT 140 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 9.6 AND 10.4 OF THE GREAT BARRINGTON ZONING BYLAW. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Deb Phillips to open the public hearing

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

b. Explanation of Project

Susan Smith representing Cumberland Farms explained the project. She said that they have combined the site as one complete plan. Some parts of the plan include: a connecting sidewalk from the parking area to allow for pedestrian safety, a stockade fence to eliminate headlight glare, a continuation of the street-scape to continue the Main St. construction, drainage work, and storm water improvements. The construction will take 3 weeks at which the business will be closed.

- c. Speak in Favor/Opposition - George Sanders is an abutter to the South. He said that he has submitted a letter with suggestions in regards to the project. Some suggestions include: changing the pole lights, (they are bright), move the fence to the property line and make it as tall as possible and the re-evaluate the bushes since they will block the police officers view into the lot.

There was discussion about the project among the board.

Susan Smith was asked to bring back the old plans.

Sean Stanton said that he would like to have available parking to all, better drainage and safety.

Steve Bannon asked if security cameras could be installed.

A Cumberland Farm representative said that this could be done.

The Selectboard agreed to do a site visit by the next meeting.

- d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

- e. Motion re: Findings

- f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

MOTION: Deb Phillips to continue until the 9/10 meeting

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Officially recessed

7. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. GREAT BARRINGTON FISH AND GAME FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2012 FROM 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM AT 338 LONG POND ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve license

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. GREAT BARRINGTON FISH AND GAME FOR TEN (10) ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSES FOR EVERY SUNDAY FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2012 – NOVEMBER 25, 2012 FROM 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM AT 338 LONG POND ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve license

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. REVISIT DOWNTOWN PARKING TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENT. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Deb Phillips said that parking during the Main Street Reconstruction is the focus. There are other things that can be spoken about, but a plan for this is needed immediately.

Robin Helfand said that she is concerned that the Main Street Task Force has this focus, so the parking task force should have short, medium and long term goals. She said that they would like to come together and discuss items other than those that are short-term.

There was discussion about this assignment.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to charge the parking task force with the original mission; with an emphasis on the 2013 Main Street Reconstruction Project, specifically parking.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

All agree not to cross traffic flow with parking.

**B. APPOINTMENT TO
- CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

MOTION: Steve Bannon to appoint Richard Needleman as an at-large member of the Charter Review Committee

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

- CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL

MOTION: Steve Bannon to appoint Pat Navarino to the Cultural Arts Council

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

9. SELECTMEN'S TIME:

Andrew Blechman asked about the asphalt curbs that were put in on the street near the hospital.

Steve Bannon spoke to Joe Sokul who said that they are very easy to repair.

Sean Stanton thanked the DPW for trimming the bushes on the side of the street/sidewalk on Rte. 41.

10. MEDIA TIME: NONE

11. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary