

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012  
6:30 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

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

**6:30 PM** - EXECUTIVE SESSION – TOWN MANAGER CONFERENCE ROOM  
- CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS RE: SALE OF OLD FIRE STATION  
(M.G.L. c.30A, sec.21(a)6).

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to adjourn to go into executive session as stated above and to return to public session

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

ANDREW BLECHMAN – yes

ALANA CHERNILA – yes

DEB PHILLIPS - yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

**VOTE: 5-0**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION - PUBLIC SESSION - BOARD ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:50 P.M.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

November 21, 2011 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve minutes of the November 21, 2011 Regular Meeting

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

December 12, 2011 BOS and FIN COM Joint Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve minutes of the December 12, 2011 BOS and FIN COM Joint Meeting

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:**

Alana Chernila said that Sharon Gregory suggested, in a past meeting, creating an economic development committee. Alana said that this is a good idea and feels that it would be helpful. She suggested this topic be put on a future agenda.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that he would get in touch with neighboring communities to see how they have gone about creating such a committee and get the information to the Board.

Steve Bannon spoke about the PWED grant in regards to Railroad and Church Street project. Steve said that there were 2 open meetings to get suggestions from the public about this project. He said that he would like to see cohesiveness between the public meetings and the plans that the Selectman saw. Steve asked that the Town Manager give Selectman a summary from the public meetings and how any suggestions that were made went into the plans. Kevin O'Donnell said that he would put this information together for the Board.

Sean Stanton read a Resolution thanking the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve and pass the Resolution.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

#### **4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**A.** Kevin O'Donnell said that there has only been one couple that has volunteered for the Swap Shack. He said that he will put out another request for volunteers and asked that anyone who may be interested contact him so that the swap shack can get up and running.

**B.** Kevin O'Donnell stated that Wired West has applied for a grant through the Lieutenant Governors office under the Regionalization Program. They are hoping that the grant will be between \$400,000 and \$500,000 to cover the financing cost of a municipal bond offering, which will finance the last component of the Wired West operation. The grant application deadline is January 17<sup>th</sup> and he asked that the Board take positive action on this. Kevin proposed that the Board go on record as formally supporting the grant application.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to formally support the grant application

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

#### **5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

**A. JOHN FLYNN OWNER OF BRICK HOUSE PUB, INC.**

Mark Caiola, co-owner of the Brick House Pub, spoke about the event that was held at the Brick House Pub on New Year's Eve. He said that they have received 'flack' from the neighbor and said that he will not apologize. Mark said that the only thing he wants to apologize for is not going through the proper channels. He feels that this complaint is 'borderline harassment' at this point. Mark said that they are a family restaurant and they were trying to give people something to do on New Year's Eve; particularly youth. He added that there were 75 people under 21 and they were all wearing a bracelet for identification.

Paul Kleinwald commended the Police Department for quick action in a matter recently. He said that he had purchased an item from someone who seemed to be legitimate, but learned that the item was stolen from another town. He quickly alerted the other dealers in the area. Mr. Kleinwald said that Officer Zucco was in charge of the investigation. When Mr. Kleinwald received a call from the seller to purchase another item, he contacted the police who quickly responded and arrested the man.

Mr. Kleinwald also spoke about the by-laws that were passed affecting antique dealers and his desire to have them rescinded. He said that he is circulating a petition to get a warrant article for the Town Meeting. He offered to help write this by-law.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will have Chief Walsh talk to the Board about this topic.

Robert Gray from Housatonic referenced a past meeting about the Housatonic Mill Revitalization in which he thought that it was said by the Board that they are 'in the middle of this' (referencing the mill revitalization). He asked if the Board still felt this way and if they have a position on the negotiations and re-development.

Sean Stanton replied that the Board does not have a position. He said that the Board has communicated with both parties and they have not received anything from them to vote on.

Alana Chernila clarified that what she had said in a past meeting was 'why are we in the middle of the business dealings of two individual men'? She said that it was not to say that they were in the middle of the Housatonic Mills situation.

Kevin O'Donnell said that it is premature to take a position because nothing formal has been presented to the Board. The Board has continually supported economic development activities. Steve Bannon said that they are looking forward to a proposal from Mr. Kelly and hope that Mr. Muss will have one as well.

Chris Hennessey, representing, Michelle and Bruce Loubert addressed the Brick House Pub event. He said that they do not want to 'rain on anyone's parade' and they know that people just want to have a good time. Mr. Hennessey did say that there were 75 people outside in the back of the pub, there were high powered lights, an amplified sound system and loud music. Mr. Hennessey said that the Louberts' concern was how the Brick House went about putting on this event. He said that the Louberts did not have an opportunity to come to the Board and request reasonable parameters to be put in place to address some of these issues. He added that neighbors were not notified. He asked that notice be given when these types of events are going to occur and an opportunity to voice their concerns with the Board or the Brick House Pub.

Steven Hall said that he went to the Brick House event and had a great time. He said that the music was off by 6:30 P.M. and the lights were off by 9:00 P.M. Mr. Hall said that he lives close enough to see the snow from his house and noise wasn't an issue. He said that his children had a lot of fun.

Kevin O'Donnell said that a permit was issued previously. Some permits have a specified outside area. Kevin said that there isn't a clear area on how we define the premise for indoor and outdoor activities. He suggested that the Board revise the entertainment license to specify the area included in the premises and what may be the impact of particular events. Kevin also suggested clarifying how to handle each situation. Steve Bannon said any changes to license renewals should be highlighted for the Board to see clearly. Kevin O'Donnell suggested that the Board set up criteria as to what requires a special entertainment license and what will require the abutters to be informed.

Sean Sermini – 13 East St. – stated that this event was not about New Year's Eve. It was about doing something for the kids in a controlled environment and to keep them safe. He asked the Board to keep an open mind when he comes to them in the future for an event request. Mr. Sermini said that he wants to give the youth in the area opportunities to do things. He asked that the Board be lenient on them for the event that they held and said that it won't be a problem in the future.

John Flynn said that he is quite sure that everyone in Housatonic knew about the event. He recited his phone number and E-mail address for anyone who has a concern to contact him.

## **6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

A. MYKONOS GRILL, INC. d/b/a MYKONOS GRILL, CHRIS CONSTANTOPOULOS, MANAGER FOR A NEW COMON VICTUALLER WINE AND MALT BEVERAGES RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE AT 284 MAIN STREET, STORE 39, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

a. Open Public Hearing

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to open the public hearing

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

b. Explanation of Project -- There will be 16 seats with 12 inside and 4 in the foyer. A full lunch and dinner menu will be offered. Beer and wine will be served.

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition – None

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 there is no adverse impact from granting a Beer and Wine License to Mykonos Grill.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the license

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. MASTER PLAN UPDATE FROM TOWN PLANNER. (DISCUSSION)**

Chris Rembold stated over the last 6 months or so, there has been an intensive outreach effort throughout Town aimed at promoting a broad and diverse participation in the Master Plan.

Chris Rembold said that he continues to keep communication up and running, especially through 'blogging', putting the Master Plan in the paper, etc. Chris said that there was a Town-wide forum in July and there have been 12 neighborhood meetings with a total of about 250 – 300 participants. There was broad and diverse involvement at the meetings. Chris said that the common theme among the participants was the importance of open space, beauty and cultural resources.

Chris stated that local food and agriculture is in the new plan, as well as, alternative energy.

The Master Plan Committee is now working on drafting a vision and set of goals that will be presented in May. There will be specific strategies to go along with these goals. The Master Plan Committee meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30pm.

Andrew Blechman said that Chris Rembold has done a phenomenal job in moving this along. He said that there has been great transparency and participation.

**B. UPDATE ENERGY RFP AUDIT RESPONSES. (DISCUSSION)**

Kevin O'Donnell said that they have disseminated an RFP and have received 7 applications that are being reviewed by a committee comprised of the energy committee and some staff members. This is the next step moving towards getting the Green Communities designation. They will pick a consultant and move forward with an energy reduction plan.

Kevin said that his staff put light sensors in the bathrooms as part of energy conservation.

**C. BOS – DISCUSSION RE: FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.**

The Selectman discussed the dates that they would be available to meet for additional meetings and the topics that they would like to see discussed.

**D. MAIN STREET - OUTREACH TO NON-CHAMBER MEMBERS. (DISCUSSION)**

Deb Phillips asked if there is a committee that is a liaison between the Town and the Chamber for the construction project.

Steve Bannon said that the weight should not be completely on the Chamber in this matter.

Alana Chernila said that they would be covered if there is an economic development committee to work with the chamber.

Deb Phillips said that the scheduling will be up to the Board. She suggested that there are things that can be done on the Town website in conjunction with the Chamber.

Alana Chernila asked about the communication process around the GB Fire District construction since it will not come from the Town.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that this will be on a future agenda and that there may be special situations that need to be presented.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. BOS - APPOINTMENT OF TWO (2) MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE TOWN CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

Deb Phillips to nominate Alana Chernila

Steve Bannon seconds the nomination

**VOTE: 5-0**

Andrew Blechman to nominate Steve Bannon

Alana Chernila seconds the nomination

VOTE: 5-0

B. BOS - RESOLUTION - THANK YOU TO THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE.  
*SEE SELECTMENS ANNOUNCEMENTS*

C. BOS -- APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE ENERGY COMMITTEE. (DISCUSSION  
**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to appoint Peter Greer as the 9<sup>th</sup> member of the Energy Committee for a 2 year term.

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE: 5-0**

**9. SELECTMEN'S TIME:**

Andrew Blechman said that the Berkshire Coop Market is making a decision this month regarding the possibility of relocating. He said that he is hoping to attend the meeting and asked if the Board would send a letter encouraging them to stay.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will put this on the January 18<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Alana Chernila asked if the Transfer and Recycling Center is accepting Credit Cards yet.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will look into the progress.

**10. MEDIA TIME:**

**NONE**

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Alana Chernila, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker  
Recording Secretary