

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012
6:30 P.M. – PUBLIC SESSION – FIRE STATION**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

II. Discussion re: Pedestrian Street Lighting Plan - # of Lights

Craig Okerstrom-Lang represented the Historic District Commission.

He said that they would like to have 16 pedestrian lights; only at pedestrian crosswalks on Main St.

They would also like to change the luminaries. (not the pole)

Craig said that there will be private funds available to pay for the change to the lighting.

Steve Bannon said that the State approved the number of lights as a safety issue so it should remain as planned.

Jenny Clark said the proposed cobra head lighting may be stronger than what is currently there. She suggested that 'over-lighting' may be an issue.

Alana Chernila said that harmony between cobra and pedestrian bulbs needs to be dealt with; it is not clear.

There was discussion about the possibility of there being 'redundant' lighting.

Chris Rembold said that he will check into this.

Craig Okerstrom-Lang said that the Historic District Commission highly recommends more white light.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to use metal halite for the pedestrian lights and keep 20 pedestrian lights as planned.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 4-1 Andrew Blechman against

Craig said that the decision that was made regarding the luminaries can remain as is and can be changed later. The new choice can fit into the same pole. The HDC wants the 'Riverside' globe but National Grid does not provide it.

Craig said that the HDC would like to purchase them with private funds.

III. Discussion: Budget Review Options by Department Heads

The selectboard received the budget options by department heads for their review.

Alana Chernila said that it was great to see alternate ideas and appreciates the work that was put in to the process.

Kevin O'Donnell explained the process that was followed in order to create the list.

Chris Rembold said that the list was not compiled in rank order. He said that they did not make a judgment call on the items; department heads made suggestions for all departments.

Andrew Blechman said that it would be interesting to see the items ranked by feasibility and cost savings.

There was discussion about outsourcing police dispatch.

Sean Stanton said that there is not enough information yet, but they are heading in the right direction.

Alana Chernila said that she sees big options in doing things more efficiently. She wants to frame this in the positive instead of talking about it as "cutting."

Andrew Blechman said that he would like to see level service with savings, as well. Andrew asked that Kevin give the selectboard a list of items that he chooses not to pursue.

Chief Walsh said that it is important to respect the voice of the residents on items that have come up in the past.

IV. Discussion re: July 2012 Strategic Planning Priorities – Modify/Amend as needed.

Kevin O'Donnell presented the minutes from the Strategic Planning Priorities from the last session held on July 11, 2012 for review.

The following items were discussed and any action taken is as follows:

Dewey School- Seek long term lease with State for retention of court system in Dewey School.

Kevin O'Donnell said that the repair work on the building was awarded. He said that the State is willing to consider a revised lease. The State is considering what number they would pay for the total facility cost.

Joe Sokul explained that the State has a team that will look at the building and give it a value. This team will be in the area soon.

Lauren Sartori encouraged the selectboard to consider a period of time that borrowing will be needed for certain projects. This will help for planning to cover borrowing costs and interest.

ALL AGREE TO KEEP THIS ITEM ON UNTIL THE LEASE IS SIGNED

Maintain proactive distressed building code compliance-revisit before September

ALL AGREE TO KEEP THIS ITEM AND ADD "BY TOWN MEETING."

Achieve a high level of service with an efficient use of town funds by utilizing the tool of the budget policy-revisit in September 2012 as a part of FY14 budget policy

ALL AGREE TO KEEP ITEM AND REMOVE "REVISIT IN SEPTEMBER 2012 AS A PART OF FY14 BUDGET POLICY"

Continue to develop sustainability practices

This item requires another joint meeting.

Alana Chernila asked if a memo can be sent out to the other Boards. She said that the selectboard will need to meet and make a plan in order to craft this memo. All agree that this discussion should be put on the next Selectboard's agenda.

ALL AGREE TO KEEP THIS ITEM

Restructuring of the transfer station

Joe Sokul said that a flyer is going out about the new sticker and price options. He will listen to the minutes of the meeting in which they discussed the prices of the annual sticker to clarify.

Review situation with Housatonic school campus-revisit August 2012

ALL AGREE TO KEEP THIS ITEM AND REMOVE "REVISIT AUGUST 2012"

Ways to restructure a department by using resources in a different way to provide the best service while achieving the lowest cost.

ALL AGREE TO REMOVE THIS ITEM

Create a building maintenance operating procedure

ALL AGREE TO REMOVE THIS ITEM

MOTION: Alana Chernila that a priority be added focusing on developing town-wide landscape maintenance plan for municipal property, which will tie into the Main Street Reconstruction Plan.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

Alana Chernila asked about the progress of the building use policy.

Kevin O'Donnell said that it is complete.

Sean Stanton said that this should come back to the Board to be reviewed and voted upon. He will also set a date for the Library Board of Trustees to respond to the policy so the selectboard can proceed with the vote.

V. SELECT NEXT STRATEGIC PLANNING PRIORITIES DATE

The next meeting will take place at the Fire Station on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker".

Cara Becker

Recording Secretary