

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011
6:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL - BOARD ROOM**

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

- I. Call to Order** – Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. Special Town Meeting Discussion** – Sean Stanton stated that he met with Kevin O'Donnell and Mr. McCormick about the format the Town Meeting will take place. It was decided that non-residents will be seated in the cafeteria in order to ensure that those speaking are residents. The Wired West topic will be presented first and then Chip Elitzer will make a motion giving him 5-10 minutes to speak. The Board of Selectmen will have 5-10 minutes to speak and then it will be open to all residents present to speak for 3 minutes each. Stephen Bannon asked if the cafeteria will be set up for non-residents. Kevin O'Donnell replied yes.

Deb Phillips asked what the procedure is if someone on the Board wants to speak as a citizen. Kevin O'Donnell replied that they would simply get the attention of the moderator in order to get a turn.

Sean Stanton said that the Main Street Reconstruction warrant article is non-binding. He also stated that Town attorney will be present to answer legal questions. Stephen Bannon also said that it is not legally binding. Stephen Bannon asked Kevin O'Donnell to bring the written motions in case they are needed.

Sean Stanton read what he will present at the meeting. Stephen Bannon asked if non-residents will be able to speak? Kevin O'Donnell replied no.

Deb Phillips stated that they need to focus, not on the details of the project, but on the process. Stephen Bannon stated that it is important to state that the project is being done not because they have received the money, but because the work needs to be done.

Sean Stanton said that he will get the fact sheet and talk about why this project needs to be done- the roads, trees, traffic lights, safety issues, etc.

Alana Chernila reminded the Board that the right hand turn lanes and summer construction were the two major issues of the petition.

Sean Stanton replied that it is not possible to have a right hand turn lane on both Bridge to Main and Main to Bridge. He said that, geometrically, it can only go one way. He also stated that he would address the 2 concerns but said that the Board can't be a 'single-issue board' and that they have to take the project as a whole and use a process.

Bud Atwood suggested that a dollar amount be put next to each point of the project.

Deb Phillips said that it is important that they make it a case for doing the project as a whole and not in pieces.

Stephen Bannon said that doing it piecemeal will take longer.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that if it is done piecemeal, they will have to start the process all over with a new application for each individual piece.

Deb Phillips added that they would then lose their 'spot' and it may move the project back 10 years.

Alana Chernila stated that the figures on the fact sheet don't express the entire project. She suggested that they explain that there are other costs.

Stephen Bannon asked if this can be clarified before it is handed out.

Kevin O'Donnell replied yes.

Alana Chernila asked if the State would only pay for 3 inch diameter trees.

Kevin O'Donnell said that typically they pay for 1-2 inch diameter trees and we asked them to pay for 3-4 inch diameter trees.

Deb Phillips suggested that if the topic of tree donation comes up, to say that they hear the concern, are looking at it and there are possibilities.

Sean Stanton stated that they surveyed the merchants who did not commit publically and received 8 positive responses, 1 negative and 11 maybe's.

Stephen Bannon said that many of the merchants are not residents.

David Scribner said what project doesn't have a disruption to life?

Stephen Bannon agreed and added that the end result is what they need to focus on.

Alana Chernila said that she would like to get a few more responses from the merchants. She would like to get 25 total responses before the meeting.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will get the staging map, design map and fact sheet for the meeting.

III. Adjournment -

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Bud Atwood, the Board adjourned its meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Cara Becker

Recording Secretary