

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012
6:15 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: STEPHEN BANNON – not present
ANDREW BLECHMAN
ALANA CHERNILA
DEB PHILLIPS
SEAN STANTON
KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

**6:15 PM - EXECUTIVE SESSION – TOWN MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM
- CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS RE: BIG Y TIF AGREEMENT**

(M.G.L. c.30A, sec.21(a)6).

MOTION: Deb Phillips to go into executive session as stated above and to reconvene into public session

SECOND: Alana Chernila

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ANDREW BLECHMAN – yes

ALANA CHERNILA – yes

DEB PHILLIPS - yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

VOTE: 4-0

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 27, 2012 BOS, Pl. Bd., Agricultural Commission, and Energy Committee Joint Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the February 27th joint meeting minutes

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-0

February 27, 2012 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Alana Chernila to approve the February 27, 2012 minutes

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 4-0

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

Andrew Blechman expressed his condolences to the Banks-Dobson family for their 'senseless' loss.

Alana Chernila said that she had suggested, at a past meeting, parking kiosks spaced throughout town. The Board was to hear information about costs and they never received the information. Alana said that this could alleviate parking problems in town.

All agree to have Kevin O'Donnell get a confirmed amount and more information.

Alana Chernila said that the Board has discussed how they will communicate with those who interact with them via E-mail, however, it still seems unclear. The process of responding to E-mails was reviewed.

Deb Phillips said that she will 'cc' Kevin O'Donnell and Sean Stanton when she acknowledges an E-mail to clarify the process.

Alana Chernila shared that the program, "This American Life" had a great broadcast about budgets. She recommends that people listen to it- Episode 459 called 'What Kind of Country'.
(ThisAmericanLife.org)

Deb Phillips read the letter written by Michael Ballon regarding drunk-driving. The letter spoke to the grossly inadequate penalties for such and asked for a change in the penalty guidelines.
Sean Stanton said that he received a list of establishments where a person left and was then convicted of drunk driving. He said that the Board should contact these establishments. Sean also recommended that they get in touch with all leaders about this topic.

Michael Ballon requested that the Board write a resolution about this.

MOTION: Alana Chernila to direct Kevin O'Donnell to write a letter to elected officials urging them to consider the support of mandatory stricter penalties for drunk-driving.

SECOND: Andrew Blechman

VOTE: 4-0

Lee Rogers suggested, in the letter to the State, to persuade them to contact Connecticut officials. He said if they were more effective, this may not have happened. He suggested the same for New York.

MOTION: Alana Chernila to direct Kevin O'Donnell to draft a letter urging other states to enact harsher penalties; specifically New York and Connecticut, but not limited to these.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 4-0

Andrew Blechman stated his concern for safety on Sheffield 'flats' and encourages the State and the Town to make double lines in this area.

Sean Stanton asked Chief Walsh to talk to Sheffield police about 'policing' that road.

Chief Walsh agreed.

A. Board of Selectmen policies and procedures

Alana Chernila asked that the Board look at the term for Chair.

Andrew Blechman suggested that the term not exceed 3 years.

There was discussion about the pros and cons of an extended term.

The Board agreed to discuss this topic more at a meeting when all Board members are present.

Kevin O'Donnell was asked if there is a Town policy and procedure.

Kevin O'Donnell said that there are many individual policies and labor contracts. He said that he will put together a list of all these, which the Board said that they do not expect right away.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he and local agencies have gotten together to get a list of services available in the Southern Berkshire area. This information is now on the Town web-site. He said this is important information to get out and asked if there is any information to add or edit, that it be e-mailed to southcountyassist@gmail.com.

Kevin said that Wired West is sending out a survey in the area and he encourages all who receive it to participate.

Kevin noted that there are still vacancies on the Tree committee, the Charter Review Committee and volunteers are needed for the Swap Shack.

A. Review of downtown parking options for special events

Kevin O'Donnell said that this is regarding Berkshire International Film Festival (BIFF) and the opera.

Alana Chernila said that the Board should rescind 2 hour parking in the whole downtown area. She said that this will avoid confusion.

MOTION: Alana Chernila to temporarily rescind 2 hour parking on Castle St., Main St., and in front of the Town Hall for the opera. This will be extended to the overlay district for BIFF. The parking attendant will be given the weekend off.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 4-0

B. Bandstand Summer 2012 Program update

Lee Rogers, Chair of the Cultural Council, presented ideas for the summer bandstand schedule. He said that David Grover will play again on the weekends. During his performances last summer, donations amounting \$1200 was collected from the crowd. 9 concerts have been scheduled for the summer.

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Carol Diehl – 224 Grove St., Housatonic – asked about the Housatonic crosswalk and if there are any plans to fix it.

She also addressed the Kelly construction project for the Mills in Housatonic. Carol said that it was not well thought out or received. She feels that there is no intent to attract businesses. Carol feels that it is important to move the tax base away from real estate. She said that an economic consultant is needed.

6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

- A. NATIONAL GRID AND VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. FOR PERMISSION TO LOCATE POLE ALONG AND ACROSS HURLBURT ROAD – INSTALLING JO POLE 55-50 WITH ANCHOR AND TO SERVE 131 HURLBURT ROAD, BEGINNING AT A POINT APPROXIMATELY 1900 FEET NORTH OF THE CENTERLINE OF THE INTERSECTION OF EGREMONT PLAIN ROAD AND CONTINUING APPROXIMATELY 20 FEET IN AN EAST DIRECTION. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve petition as submitted

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-0

- B. RENEWAL OF 2012 WYANTENUCK COUNTRY CLUB SEASONAL ALL ALCOHOLIC CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE. (VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve renewal of 2012 Wyantenuck Country Club Seasonal All Alcoholic Club Liquor License

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-0

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers license by-law modification.

Kevin O'Donnell said that the Police Chief met with Mr. Kleinwald and made some amendments to the existing by-law. These amendments were in the Board's agenda packet for review.

Chief Walsh said that the one difference was that Mr. Kleinwald felt that any item with less than 5% gold is not worth a lot and should not have to be reported. Chief Walsh said that the Police feel that any stolen item should be reported and may have worth to someone.

Alana Chernila suggested that they consult Mr. Kleinwald to see if he is happy with the amendments that were made.

Sean Stanton tabled the discussion and asked that Mr. Kleinwald be contacted about this discussion taking place at the next meeting.

- B. Report – Housatonic crosswalk/Depot-Street

Joe Sokul spoke about the history of the crosswalk relocation. He said when the road construction was being planned; Mr. Aberdale contacted him about the location of the new ramp. Mr. Aberdale explained why the new location would not work in front of his business and asked for it to be moved.

Joe Sokul said that the current crosswalk has drainage issues and they will correct the problem.

Andrew Blechman asked if a citizen can ask a town employee to move something.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that they can contact the Superintendent with any concerns or questions.

Joe Sokul said that the business owner brought up a legitimate problem that would affect his business, so they decided to make the change. He said that he feels that it was the right decision.

Joe Aberdale explained his position.

He explained how the planned positioning of the ramp would have been a safety hazard.

He suggests that the current handicap ramp be kept as it is.

MOTION: Alana Chernila to authorize Joe Sokul to look at ways to mark the entire area including the old crosswalk area and the new crosswalk area to make it pedestrian friendly by using paint and/or signage, with no change in parking.

SECOND: Andrew Blechman

VOTE: 4-0

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BOS - Resolution for Fairgrounds

Sean Stanton read the Resolution that the Town Manager wrote in regards to the Fairgrounds. There was discussion about the wording.

Alana Chernila expressed concern that the resolution may not support the need and should be stronger and more specific to voice the Boards support. Alana suggested that they get help from the Town Planner.

All agree that Kevin O'Donnell contacts the partners in the project if this resolution meets their needs.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

B. BOS – Appointment of two members to the Cultural Council

MOTION: Deb Phillips to appoint Marcia Stamell to the Cultural Council for a term ending in 2015 and Sherry Steiner for a term ending in 2012

SECOND: Andrew Blechman

VOTE: 4-0

C. BOS – Review of revised Weekday and Sunday entertainment application and license forms.

This item was tabled until a later meeting

9. SELECTMEN'S TIME:

Andrew Blechman stated that he has spoken to the Historical Commission who agreed to look at past pictures to see what lighting was used throughout the town.

Alana Chernila asked that the Selectmen's Agenda be put on the main page of the Town website with a link to the calendar.

10. MEDIA TIME: None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Alana Chernila, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary