

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2012
7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 9, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the April 9, 2012 regular meeting minutes.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0-1 Andrew Blechman abstains

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

Andrew Blechman said that the letter from the Hampshire Council of Governments in regards to purchasing supplies was interesting and asked Kevin O'Donnell if there is anything like this that exists around here.

Kevin O'Donnell said that the Berkshire County Selectmen's Meeting would be a great place to bring this up and he will find out when the next meeting will be held.

Alana Chernila suggested, in order to make communication easier among the Board, the agenda should be cut and pasted into the body of the Email. This would make it easier to look back at past agendas.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will look into this.

Steve Bannon said that The Record featured a headline that said the Selectmen were 'feuding', which is not the case. He wanted to clarify.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Kevin O'Donnell spoke about the previous discussion regarding a 'pledge' liquor licenses. Kevin said that there have not been any pledges in the past however, the law does allow it.

Sean Stanton asked about the limit on package store licenses; where did this come from and is it a State Law? He requested to see the details about this.

Kevin O'Donnell said that it is a state law and is a quota based on population. He will get the information to present to the Board.

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

David Magadini encouraged citizens of Great Barrington to come out on May 7th for the Town Meeting. He asked the citizens to support articles 36-40 which he petitioned to get on the warrant.

6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

- A. JOHN D. EUSTICE/BERKSHIRE CYCLING CLASSIC FOR PERMISSION TO USE TOWN ROADS ON MAY 6, 2012 (PER TIME TABLE ATTACHED). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to grant permission for the use of town roads on May 6, 2012.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A DISCUSSION RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OPTIONS.

Deb Phillips spoke about an economic development committee. She said that other towns have a mixture of officers on their committee. Deb said that she liked the West Boylston mission statement because it was very straight forward. An economic development committee is her recommended action. Deb also said that they would need to define the relationship between the Board and office staff.

Andrew Blechman said that this is a perfect project to partner with the Chamber of Commerce.

Alana Chernila said they should not partner with other towns. She recommends that they 'think outside the box' in regards to bringing in business.

Kevin O'Donnell suggested that a Chamber member be part of the committee.

Andrew Blechman said that the job description of the Town Planner is economic development.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that it depends on how one defines economic development.

Andrew said that it is part of the Town Planners 'tool box' and he would like him involved.

Deb Phillips said that she will come up with a mission statement to bring back to the Board for the second meeting in May.

All agreed.

B. Alana Chernila spoke about the recent changes around the Main St. Reconstruction project in regards to the depth of the street. She suggested a peer review or any other way to deepen the conversation around this change. She said that a peer review could look at the current plans to see if it makes sense.

Deb Phillips responded that the State is the peer review.

Alana Chernila said that she would like to know how the project could get so much bigger without changing the timeline.

Kevin O'Donnell said there have been several conversations with DOT and they are still anticipating the same timeframe.

Joe Sokul said that he will be at the construction site daily. There will also be a full-time engineer on the project.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. DOWNTOWN PARKING TASK FORCE – REVISIT NO RESTRICTIONS ON TOWN PARKING LOTS (TOP OF CASTLE AND RAILROAD STREETS). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Bud Atwood presented the map depicting the available parking areas.

Alana Chernila suggested having parking kiosks to increase 2 hour parking.

Sharon Gregory said that she is all for kiosks, but said there needs to be a short term remedy on the west side where tenants need more parking.

Steve Bannon said that he is comfortable with the original decisions that were made.

All agree to keep the plan as was originally decided upon.

There was discussion about the coloring of the different lots.

Steve Bannon suggested that there be a line under the orange area that says, "See individual lots for parking hours. Hours may vary."

Bud Atwood said that parking hours are posted in each lot.

All agree that the Coop Market lot needs to be revised.

**B. BOS – TO ADOPT CRITERION 3 AND 4 OF GREEN COMMUNITY DESIGNATION.
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

Chris Vlcek presented the criteria for Green Community Designation. He said that this is a roadmap of projects and they will do their best. There is no 'policing' by the State.

Alana Chernila said that doing this will put the town in line for grant money.

Chris said that the first grant cycle will be at the end of June.

The Board would like to hear from the Police Chief about idling status at the next meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to adopt Criterion 3 and 4 of the Green Community Designation. .

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

C. DISCUSSION RE: BOARD SELF EVALUATION PROCESS.

Steve Bannon presented the Board with the results of the self-evaluation. He said that it is important that they now do something with the results: they need to act and make changes.

Steve suggested that certain points may be put on future agendas for discussion.

Deb Phillips agreed that some of the items will need further discussion.

Andrew Blechman pointed out that this may be difficult since the survey was anonymous.

Sean Stanton suggested that this be discussed further after the late June Governance Workshop.

All agreed.

9. SELECTMEN'S TIME:

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

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will present it during the second meeting in May.

10. MEDIA TIME: None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary