

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2012
7:00 P.M. – REGULAR SESSION – BOARD ROOM**

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

7:00 P.M. – Public Session – Board Room

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. CONVENE AS BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS: SEWER ABATEMENTS

MOTION: Steve Bannon to convene as Board of Sewer Commissioners

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-0

Kevin O'Donnell spoke about the sewer abatements that were presented to the Board for the period of July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. He stated that he concurs with the abatements as per DPW Superintendent's recommendations on the list.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the sewer abatements as presented

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Alana Chernila to reconvene as the Board of Selectmen

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 26, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the minutes from March 26, 2012

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

4. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. Address Michelle Loubert Correspondence Re: Board of Library Trustee Holly Hamer.

Sean Stanton said that he spoke with Trustee Hamer and requested an apology.

Holly Hamer extended an apology and stated that 'what was said and was sent was a mistake.'

Michelle Loubert said that the content of the E-mail warrants further review. She said that she will take this matter to the Board of Library Trustees.

Alana Chernila spoke to a discussion in a past meeting about the possibility of reducing the Town Charter Committee member numbers.

Deb Phillips asked if there could be a minimum number to begin the process and then recruit to fill the committee.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will have a breakdown of who was appointed at the next meeting.

Deb Phillips asked about the progress in regards to getting the new parking signage in place.

Kevin O'Donnell said that they should be able to order the signs and then have them up within a week for the Town owned locations.

Deb Phillips said that not all private lots have the same hours; therefore the map may take longer to create. She suggested that they move forward on the parking lot signs and the parking arrows, since the map may take longer to resolve.

Deb also asked about the results of the research on parking kiosks.

Kevin O'Donnell said that it would cost \$14,000 per kiosk. He suggested talking about this option at a future meeting.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Kevin O'Donnell said that there are still openings on the Swap Shack, the Cultural Arts Council, and the Town Charter Review Committee. Please contact the Town Manager if you are interested.

Kevin O'Donnell said the Town and Castle Street LLC met today. 20 Castle Street reported positive preliminary reports on the brick work, but is waiting for final reports. The preliminary environmental report falls within a positive framework, but is not complete. Both parties agreed to a 30 day extension.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve a 30 day extension

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 4-0

BOS – Review of revised Weekday and Sunday Entertainment Application and License Forms

Kevin O'Donnell said that the license will now specify any terms and conditions that there may be. There is a spot to check off any outdoor activities that may take place. This would apply to anything that may take place that is not covered by the annual license. Any outdoor entertainment events would require a DRT review as part of the process, prior to coming before the Board of Selectmen. Kevin said that the new application gives more specificity.

Sean Stanton stated that it seems cumbersome to have the DRT involved.

Steve Bannon said that a spot for the number of people expected is not on the form.

Helen Kuziemko responded that an applicant is asked to submit a formal proposal that will include this information.

Michelle Loubert spoke to a letter that she sent to the Selectboard on March 16th that included her questions and concerns. She read the letter.

She asked if neighbor notification would be a possibility when there is an outside event. Michelle also asked what the timeframe is to submit these forms.

Alana Chernila asked that the Board receive a report summarizing how this change is going.

6. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Marsha Stamell – 624 S. Egremont Rd. – The American Institute for Economic Research wrote the guide, Follow the Money, which is about Municipal Government and Budgets. Ms. Stamell brought the guide and said that she would love to give it out at the Town Meeting.

Sean Stanton suggested that some be available at the libraries.

Steve Bannon suggested giving it out at the 'Mini Town-Meeting.'

Kevin O'Donnell asked Ms. Stamell to contact his office to work out the details.

David Magadini stated that there is no pay-phone in Great Barrington. He said that the one near the Post Office does not work. He requested that there be a pay-phone put in the park behind Town Hall.

David thanked all those who signed his petition.

Tristan Osgood – Tristan suggested that there be a co-housing community at the Fairgrounds.

David Proskauer said that he is concerned that there will be a park going in at the Fairgrounds. He said that this will not bring in money for the Town, where a co-housing community would do so.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BOS – Review 2012 Town Meeting Warrant Articles

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend Article 18

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

Article 19- was voted on previously

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend Article 20

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend Article 21

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

Article 22 – The Board would like to see a map before they vote

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend Article 23

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to recommend Article 24

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend Article 25

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

Kevin O'Donnell will change the order of the vote so that the second part (Article 44) of the warrant is voted on first.

Article 26 – Sean Stanton suggested that an article be added to supersede this one to make it shorter and create a deadline.

Andrea Panaritis – 30 Seekonk Rd. – said that she appreciates any assistance in creating a timeline for this. Sean Stanton said that he will meet with Andrea to talk about the verbiage.

Article 27 – Dale Abrams – gave a detailed presentation about the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act; a statute to help preserve the communities unique character and resources, protect farmland, public open space and outdoor recreational areas. He said that this is not about changing the tax rate, but placing a surcharge on the local property tax from 1-3%. There is a guaranteed state match of 25 – 100%. He gave the example that \$49 - \$133 a year will generate \$170,799 - \$512,335 through this match.

Michelle Loubert said in this economic time, people are breaking under the tax burden. She said that the timing is poor.

Deb Phillips said that this would offset projects that are on the budget in the future.

Alana Chernila said that this gives her hope for out-of-the-box thinking.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend Article 27

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend Article 28

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon not to recommend Article 29
SECOND: Deb Phillips
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon not to recommend Article 30
SECOND: Deb Phillips
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon not to recommend Article 31
SECOND: Deb Phillips
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon not to recommend Article 32
SECOND: Alana Chernila
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon not to recommend Article 33
SECOND: Deb Phillips
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Deb Phillips not to recommend Article 34
SECOND: Steve Bannon
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Alana Chernila not to recommend Article 35
SECOND: Steve Bannon
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon not to recommend Article 36
SECOND: Deb Phillips
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon not to recommend Article 37
SECOND: Deb Phillips
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon not to recommend Article 38
SECOND: Deb Phillips
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend Article 39
SECOND: Steve Bannon
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to recommend Article 40
SECOND: Deb Phillips
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to recommend Article 41
SECOND: Deb Phillips
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Deb Phillips not to recommend Article 42
SECOND: Steve Bannon
VOTE: 4-0

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend Article 43

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

Article 44- see article 25

B. BOS – Recognition of businesses that employ volunteer firefighters

The list of businesses that employ volunteer firefighters was presented to the Board.

It was suggested that a decal be created saying words to the effect, “we proudly employ Great Barrington Fire Fighters”, which should then be presented to the businesses at a future meeting.

ALL AGREED

8. OLD BUSINESS: None

9. SELECTMEN’S TIME: None

10. MEDIA TIME: None

11. ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Stephen Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Cara Becker
Recording Secretary