

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 26, 2010  
7:00 P.M. – PUBLIC SESSION – BOARD ROOM**

**PRESENT:** WALTER ATWOOD  
STEPHEN BANNON  
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:**

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips: To accept the minutes from July 12, 2010 – Regular Meeting

**SECOND:** Bud Atwood

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 Stephen Bannon abstained

**3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/ STATEMENTS:**

Stephen Bannon stated that there was a lot of traffic "gridlock" last weekend and asked if it was time to direct traffic on Fridays at East and Main Streets.

Sean Stanton announced that we now have a Purchase and Sale agreement for Searles Bryant and the closing should be in a few weeks. The parties are waiting for the environmental report.

**4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

A. Recognition of retiring wire inspector John Zanin.

Kevin O'Donnell acknowledged John Zanin for having the longest tenure in the Town with 36 years of service. The Board wished him well in his retirement. Mr. Zanin thanked the Board for their recognition.

B. Presentation of the criteria for Green Communities Designation.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he had directed his staff to inquire and explore what is needed to enable the Town to qualify as a green community by the State. This designation will give the Town the position to apply for special grant funding in the area of energy conservation. The Town has completed energy audits of its facilities and had a meeting with National Grid to see what adjustments should be made. There are 5 criteria points that the Town needs to meet with the last being the "stretch code." He would like

the Board to allow him to proceed in taking steps to put the Town in a position to qualify for the State Green Community Designation.

Lauren Garrity from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission presented reviewed the criteria points of being a 'green community including the new "stretch code."

The 5 criteria points are:

1. As-of-right siting for renewables
2. Expedited application/permitting process
3. Establish energy baseline and a program to reduce use by 20% in 5 years.
4. Policy to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles
5. Adopt the Building Stretch Code

The new stretch code criteria includes greater attention to detail in regards to air leakage, recessed lighting, moisture control, and HVAC systems. New homes built will also require a "blower door test" to be performed.

Bud Atwood asked where the grant money comes from.

Lauren Garrity said that it does not come from tax payers money, it comes from green communities division. He also asked if energy costs will go up. Ms. Garrity said yes.

Bud Atwood expressed concern about the current cost of living without these increases. He feels that it will be too expensive to build or live here with these changes.

Alana Chernilla stated that she heard that it is quite a 'battle' to get Town Boards to agree on this process and she would like more information as to why. She asked if there was a plan or thought as to educating the Town so that this doesn't happen.

Lauren Garrity suggested that discussions take place on this topic a few months before the Town Meeting and by then there will be more models to discuss and 'stretch' will have been around for a while by then. It was also suggested that builders should come to the meeting to discuss how it affects them.

Stephen Bannon asked if there is a cost to bring in the designated certification person. The presenter said it that there is and it ends up being about \$300 with the energy star rebate.

Deb Phillips asked who can become a certifier. Anyone who gets certified can, but you can't certify your own home.

Kevin O'Donnell asked the Board if he could proceed to take steps to have the Town designated as a Green Community. He stated that they would have to bring the topic of the "stretch code" to the Town Meeting and he will work to do a presentation before the Town Meeting.

C. Resolution- Creation of an Energy Committee.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to create an energy committee that mirrors the 'resolution creating an energy committee' as presented.

**SECOND:** Alana Chernilla

**VOTE:** 4-1 (Bud Atwood opposed)

**D. Consideration of – Use of Town Property by Commercial Enterprises**

Kevin O'Donnell stated that there have been more requests for the use of Town property. He stated that allowing more flexibility in use conforms to the strategic planning priority of being more business friendly. It would be nominal revenue to the Town without additional resources required.

Stephen Bannon spoke about banners saying that once we start allowing them, there could be possibilities of banners all over Town.

He also feels that if we allow vendors to sell things on Town property, they should only be Great Barrington vendors.

Deb Phillips stated that we should look at the possibility of banners very differently than businesses selling goods.

Bud Atwood agreed and said that any revenue from sales on Town property should be placed in a separate fund. He also said that he has a problem with allowing the placement of banners.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he would draft a policy and bring it to the Board and it can be reviewed again in 6 months.

**5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

Jim Stark- 1099 Main St.

He stated that the Finance Committee is enthusiastic about voter turn-out at the Annual Town Meeting. He stated that the remote areas will have a screen to watch the meeting and may possibly be able to vote and speak as well.

Stephen Bannon asked that this topic be put on future Board's agenda and he would like the Finance Committee be there to present their ideas, costs, etc.

**6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

**A.** Fairview Hospital for permission to use Town roads for the Great Barrington Kids Bike Treasure Hunt on August 1, 2010 at 1:00 PM.

Lauren Smith, from Fairview Hospital, stated that every summer there is an educational program sponsored by the Hospital and this year, they decided to hold it outside. It will be held in the East St. neighborhood at 1:00 PM and will encompass less than a mile. The children will get a compass, clues and there will be a helmet safety check. CHP will also participate.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to give permission for use of the Town roads for the Bike Hunt

**SECOND:** Bud Atwood

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Stephen Bannon abstained, being an employee of the hospital)

**B.** Great Barrington Fish and Game for a one day beer and wine license for August 8, 2010 from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM at the Club House, 338 Long Pond Rd.

**MOTION:** Bud Atwood to approve the One Day Beer and Wine License.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

C. William Nolan/Nolan Realty Trust for 2010 Annual Real Estate Sign License.

**MOTION:** Bud Atwood to approve the 2010 Annual Real Estate Sign License.

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. 2011 Memorial Day Marathon.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that on Memorial Day weekend 2010, Running Away Inc. held a marathon that was very successful. They would like to make this an annual event and ask that the Board support this event and give permission to use the roads in Great Barrington. It is no cost to the Town.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to give permission for use of the Town roads for the Marathon on Memorial Day 2011.

**SECOND:** Bud Atwood

**VOTE:** 5-0

B. Town Clerk's Request to appoint election workers for FY 2011.

Town Clerk submitted a list of election workers for Board's approval.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve appointing election workers as listed.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

**8. SELECTMENS TIME:**

None

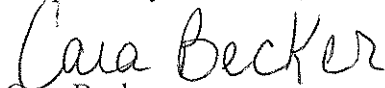
**9. MEDIA TIME:**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion made by Deb Phillips, seconded by Stephen Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary