

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2013**

PRESENT:

SEAN STANTON
DEBORAH PHILLIPS
STEPHEN C. BANNON
DANIEL BAILLY
ANDREW BLECHMAN
TOWN MANAGER JENNIFER TABAKIN

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting began at 7:01 p.m. at Town Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

Ms. Phillips said that a Great Barrington Trails & Greenways event will be held Saturday at Benedict Pond Appalachian Trail to make a link with the Appalachian Trail community.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager said:

- Main Street design meeting has been rescheduled to July 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, possibly Fire Station
- Strategic Planning meeting will be delayed until August
- Plastic bag policy meeting will be held July 9
- Vacancies remain on several boards and she hopes to recruit volunteers
- Police reported quiet July 4th weekend. Officer Jason LaForest will begin bicycle patrols
- Lease negotiations will begin for Dewey School Courthouse
- Castle Street drainage improvement work is half done
- Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission will hold a meeting on potential passenger rail service to the Berkshires on July 10
- Part-time Conservation Commission Agent is needed

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

On the subject of the sale of the old fire station on Castle Street:

Michael Ballon, Castle Street Café, read a letter to the board asking the Selectmen's consideration, when negotiating the sale of the old fire station on Castle Street, to merchants and business owners who rely on the rear alley for deliveries or trash pickup. He suggested the board designate the front of the station for potential restaurant seating.

Adrienne Cohen, Crystal Essence, said construction work on the old fire station could be disruptive to neighboring businesses. She suggested a parking deck be built on the site instead. She said town sidewalks are dangerous.

Beryl Jolly, Mahaiwe Performing Arts, read a letter regarding the draft easement for the fire station property and said it was not precise enough and could inhibit theater activities and safety during performances. She said trailers need to be able to use either alley beside the station to deliver materials to the theater's rear door. She said the theater could provide advance notice of its shows to the new owner.

Robert Navarino, Chef Shop, read a letter responding in similar fashion to the draft easement discussion. He said he and other merchants have identified "20 distinct impacts on our businesses" and proposed some solutions, including putting the alleys under jurisdiction of a public-private authority to own, refurbish and maintain.

Ray Pieczarka, Mahaiwe Block, said he hopes the board looks after his rights as he has a right-of-way to the courtyard at the rear of his building.

6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

- A. ADAM MEAD/GB FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD 2014 ANTIQUE AUTO CAR SHOW ON AUGUST 1, 2013 FROM 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

On a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, the board voted unanimously to approve the request. Adam Mead noted the date is 2013, not 2014.

- B. JOHN KROL/KINDRED GREAT BARRINGTON NURSING AND REHABILITATION, THE BERKSHIRE RUNNING CENTER AND PORCHLIGHT VNA/HOME CARE FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD EIGHT

MILE ROAD RACE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2013 AT 8:00 AM STARTING AT THE NEWSBOY STATUE (MAPLE AVENUE/ROUTE 23) AND FINISH AT KINDRED GREAT BARRINGTON.
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

The board on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, voted unanimously to approve the request. It was noted the date is Aug. 25, not Aug. 17.

- C. BETSY ANDRUS/SO. BERKSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BERKSHIRE CO-OP MARKET AND WSBS RADIO TO CLOSE THE NORTH BOUND LANE ON MAIN STREET (ON THE WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF ELM AND MAIN (CARR HARDWARE) TO THE INTERSECTION OF CASTLE AND MAIN STREETS FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2013 FROM 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM IN DOWNTOWN GB. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Mr. Stanton asked why the request wasn't to close all of Main Street, as has been done for past events. Ms. Andrus said the Chamber only wants to close the outmost southbound lane. The idea is vendors will set up tables in parking spaces, facing the sidewalk. This approach is intended to focus people on shopping and dining. Stanton asked if it wouldn't be more dangerous that way, as people would still be crossing the street. Ms. Andrus said the Chamber would hire three police officers. Ms. Phillips moved to approve the request, Mr. Bannon seconded, the vote was unanimous.

- D. BETSY ANDRUS/SO. BERKSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR TEMPORARY WEEKDAY OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2013 FROM 3:00PM – 9:00PM ON MAIN AND CASTLE STREETS (2 STAGES: FRONT OF TOWN HALL AND FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Ms. Andrus said there will be bandstands in front of Town Hall and at Congregational Church. Mr. Bailly moved to approve the request, Mr. Bannon seconded, the vote was unanimous.

- E. SARA KATZOFF/BAZAAR PRODUCTIONS/THE BERKSHIRE FRINGE FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR JULY 15, 2013 FROM 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM AT DANIEL ARTS CENTER/BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

The board on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, voted unanimously to approve the request.

- F. SARA KATZOFF/BAZAAR PRODUCTIONS/THE BERKSHIRE FRINGE FOR TWELVE (12) ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSES FOR: JULY 17, 2013 FROM 6:30 PM – 10:00 PM; JULY 18, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM; JULY 19, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM; JULY 20, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM; JULY 22, 2013 FROM 5:30 PM – 11:00 PM; JULY 25, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM; JULY 26, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM; JULY 27, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM; AUGUST 1, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM; AUGUST 2, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM; AUGUST 3, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM; AND AUGUST 5, 2013 FROM 4:30 PM – 11:00 PM AT DANIEL ARTS CENTER, **REAR COURTYARD**, BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

The board on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, voted unanimously to approve the request. Ms. Phillips indicated there would be a 4:30 p.m. starting time for all the permits.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. BOS – APPOINTMENT OF SELECTBOARD MEMBER TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) AND THE SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (SBREPC). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Ms. Phillips moved to appoint Mr. Bannon to the committee. He agreed. The vote was unanimous.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **CONTINUATION** - BOS RECOMMENDATION TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ON THE SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION OF BERKSHIRE AVIATION ENTERPRISES FOR PROPERTY AT 70 EGREMONT PLAIN ROAD TO BUILD A DECK AND DISABLED ACCESS RAMP ONTO THE EXISTING OFFICE BUILDING IN THE R-4 ZONE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Claudia Shapiro of Egremont Plain Road asked to read an 11-page statement and present a 72-page document in opposition to the proposed special permit. She suggested the application was not filed under pertinent section 9.2; she alleged there was information missing from the application; she said the airport falls within the Water Quality Protection District; she suggested the airport has a high potential for hazardous leaks; and she said the abutter's list does not reflect one change of real estate ownership.

Town Planner Chris Rembold said the only issue under consideration by the Selectmen is to make a recommendation on the construction of a deck, and issues dealing with pre-existing, non-conforming structures. The airport predates zoning and is a nonconforming commercial use in a residential zone. No one was at the meeting to represent the applicant, Berkshire Aviation Enterprises. After discussion, the board on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, voted unanimously to make no recommendation.

B. BOS – AMENDMENT TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE’S RESOLUTION.

On a motion by Mr. Bannon, seconded by Ms. Phillips, the board moved to reduce membership of the committee to seven, and to remove the requirement that one member be from the Board of Selectmen. All approved.

C. CONTINUATION OF CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE’S REPORT.

Mr. Stanton pointed out four instances, in the draft revision of the town charter, where he would restore original language or change what was suggested by the citizen review committee. Other members said they may have suggestions. The board decided to hold a workshop session to go through the draft line by line. A tentative date of Sept. 16 was selected, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

A strategic planning meeting was scheduled for Aug. 20, 21 or 22, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall or fire station. The town manager is to work out the specifics.

9. SELECTMEN’S TIME:

10. MEDIA TIME:

11. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

NEXT SELECTMEN’S REGULAR MEETING: MONDAY, JULY 22, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.



Bernard A. Drew
Recording Secretary