

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013
7:00 P.M. – PUBLIC SESSION – FIRE STATION**

PRESENT: DAN BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
ANDREW BLECHMAN – via conference call
DEB PHILLIPS
SEAN STANTON
JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

I. Call To Order:

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

The Chair announced that Andrew Blechman will be participating via conference call due to his being out of town.

II. Review 2012 Planning Priorities

III. Discuss Strategic Planning Framework

Jennifer Tabakin said that this year's plan will build on prior years strategic plans. It will also implement visions of the Master Plan and set strategic priorities for Town Government.

The plan should also focus on the 'Big Picture'; town government with its opportunities and challenges.

Jennifer presented discussion points about:

- Governance and Accountability
- Accountability and Transparency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Infrastructure Management
- Infrastructure
- Local Development Projects
- Policy Advocacy
- Local Public – Private Development Projects
- Local Economy
- Public Safety
- Budget, Management and Administration

Steve Bannon requested that the Railroad Street and Elm Street Redevelopments be added to the list of local development projects.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she will also add the potential Town Hall project.

Andrew Blechman spoke about the choice-in option in the school district. He feels that not enough money is received for this. He suggested meeting with local legislators to talk about 3 top issues that the Selectboard feels need intervention.

All agree to create a list of these issues.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she would like to present the Selectboard with a schedule of upcoming milestones. A discussion can then take place about what needs to be done to meet the schedule deadlines. This will also help the Selectboard to fill in priorities around the milestones.

Deb Phillips reminded the Selectboard about the topics of solar and gun safety that has come up in the past. She would like these topics to continue to be part of a conversation.

Steve Bannon suggested that the Selectboard look at the strategic planning priorities from 2012 to see what has been accomplished and 'where we are.'

Leigh Davis, a member of the finance committee, said that her focus is increasing revenue. She suggested that each Board/Committee present ideas on how they can increase revenue.

Deb Phillips said that the infrastructure in the budget is unsustainable and asked what can be done about it. The town cannot generate enough income to maintain infrastructure.

IV Select Next Strategic Planning Priorities Date

The next meeting will take place at the Fire Station on Wednesday, October 21, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

V. Adjournment:

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary