

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 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: Bud Atwood: To accept the minutes from August 9, 2010 – Regular Meeting

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Deb Phillips abstained – she was not present at the Aug 9th meeting)

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/ STATEMENTS:

Bud Atwood stated that it took him 1 hour to get through Town and suggested that the Police Department starts ticketing the UPS trucks that have been blocking traffic.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. Main Street Reconstruction Project

Kevin O'Donnell stated that they are at the 25% mark of the design phase. The project is on target and the NPO is open to hearing comments. The budget is \$3.8 million. Public comments have been incorporated into the design plans. The Mass DOT has requested that a design engineer be available during the construction, which will increase the cost.

Jon Dietrich, a member of the design team, presented the plans for the project. He said that this is a 6 stage process and we are currently in stage 3.

He spoke about 5 categories of improvements:

1. Traffic and Roadways- there will be new signals at Taconic and Main, Bridge and Elm, Cottage and Main. There will also be new lanes added to Taconic and Bridge.
2. There will be an overall widening of the lane width throughout.
3. There will be 8 pedestrian crosswalk locations with a push button mechanism and a 'bump out' will be created to shorten crossing distance.

4. Sidewalk and Accessibility –sidewalks will be ADA accessible, cracks, low spots with a pattern. (The design is being worked on now)
5. Trees and Lighting - a list of trees was presented, a variety of small, medium and Large will be chosen for planting. Gathering spots and benches will be added as well. They would like to illuminate the pedestrian crosswalks better. They are deciding on style and size of lights as well as seasonal lighting. They would like to have a conduit for outlets in certain areas for seasonal lighting. National Grid will pay for the poles and lighting if they use their own equipment. (Poles and light fixtures)

Tom Ingersoll presented the different tree options. He noted that there will be need for more maintenance of the trees. The options were: Red Maple, Columnare, American Sycamore, Pin Oak, American Elm, Katsuratree, Yellow Wood, Eastern Hophornbeam, Callery Pear, Crabapple, Hawthorne, Allegheny Serviceberry, and American Hornbeam. He stated that there will be a mixture of sizes planted.

Kevin O'Donnell recapped that National Grid will replace the poles and overheads at no cost to us. If we want a more decorative fixture, it will be at our cost. He encourages the Board not to deviate from National Grids options. He said that he is not optimistic that we will be able to have the enhancement of placing outlets for seasonal lighting. LED lights were suggested, however, they are not offered, so it would be at our cost, as well.

Deb Phillips asked what the energy savings would be if we choose to have LED lighting? Joe Sokul said that National Grid does not feel that it is profitable to use LED, but we can run the numbers to see.

Alana Chernila asked if there are any other funding options for LED lighting? Kevin O'Donnell responded that they will continue to explore this option.

Stephen Bannon said that he could not support anything other than National Grid lighting - he feels that anything with an extra cost is "ludicrous."

Alana Chernila suggested that there should be a comprehensive plan for tree maintenance including weeding, irrigation, etc.

CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Jenny Clarke – She and other residents have been researching the lighting design topic and would like to present their ideas to the Board. She asked if they were flexible to hear their thoughts and ideas.

Kevin O'Donnell encouraged her to bring her ideas to the Board.

Brandy Nelson – Barrington Place – She requested a 'slow, children at play' sign on their street. She stated that drivers go very fast and that there are many families on the block. She suggested that there should be more speed enforcement on Taconic as well.

Alice Nelson – Manville St. – She lives on a dead end street and there is a sign on the Northbound side of the road indicating such, but not Southbound. She asks if another sign can be added to the back of the other.

Sean Stanton said that they will take care of it.

Bruce Castino stated his unhappiness with some past deals ‘lost in translation.’ He is hoping that before fall or winter, the Board will become involved and expedite the situation.

Christine Ward – Announced that on Sept. 13 there will be an Elder Berry Bash at Lake Mansfield, supported by GB Senior Center and the GB Garden Club. There will be the planting of elderberries and a picnic for seniors. The planting is at 10AM, the picnic at 11:30AM and Roger the Jester at 12:30PM.

Sharon Gregory – She would like to have the issue of lighting and trees made public. Sean Stanton responded that all of the information is on the Town website.

Norma Siegel – she revisited an issue that she has spoken about in the past – there are areas of Great Barrington that do not get cell service. She stated that this creates a very dangerous situation and asked what is being done about it?

Sean Stanton responded that AT&T is working on putting a tower up.

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing to consider removal of hazardous and public shade trees at various locations in Town.

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Bud Atwood to open public hearing

SECOND: Deb Phillips

Vote – 5-0

b. Explanation of Project –

Kevin O’Donnell said that by state law, we can’t remove trees in the right away without having a public hearing. He stated that if we remove all the trees on the list, we won’t have much money left in our tree budget.

c. Speak in favor/opposition- David Magadini stated that there is a tree in front of the Barrington House with dead limbs. He feels that trees should be better maintained by water, fertilizing, and pruning. He suggests preventative maintenance. He objects to the hearing itself since according to Mass. Gen. Law Chapter 78; there needs to be a sign on the trees that are to be cut down 7 days before the meeting, as well as notice in the newspaper.

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Bud Atwood to close public hearing

SECOND: Deb Phillips

Vote – 5-0

e. Motion re: Findings

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve the trees on the list provided as the findings of fact.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

Roll Call Vote

WALTER ATWOOD - yes

STEPHEN BANNON - yes

ALANA CHERNILA - yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

MOTION CARRIED – 5-0

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/table

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve taking down trees according to the findings of fact.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

Roll Call Vote – 5-0

WALTER ATWOOD- yes

STEPHEN BANNON- yes

ALANA CHERNILA - yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

MOTION CARRIED – 5-0

7. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. Continuation of National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. request for permission to install one (1) Jo Pole and anchor on Silver Street beginning at a point approximately 380 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Newsboy Monument Lane.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he has not heard any new information from National Grid at this time and suggested that the Board table the matter.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to table the matter

SECOND: Bud Atwood

Vote – 5-0

B. Hong Kong Buffet/Hong Yang for a 2010 Annual Common Victualler License at 345 Main St.

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve license

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

C. Great Barrington Trails & Greenways

-Permission to use Town Sidewalks for the GB Walk-About

MOTION: Bud Atwood to grant permission to use the Town sidewalks

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

-BOS- to proclaim September 11th, 2010 as the GB Walk-About Day

MOTION: Bud Atwood to proclaim September 11, 2010 as the GB Walk-About Day.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

D. BOS – Recommendation to the ZBA on the special permit application of Susan Pettee and Michael Owen Wise, trustees, Susan Pettee revocable trust to build a landing, stairs and a small deck at the rear southwest corner of the house at 173 Castle Street.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to send to the ZBA a positive recommendation on the special permit application

SECOND: Bud Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

E. BOS – to designate October 24, 2010 as United Nations Day

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to designate October 24, 2010 as United Nations Day

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BOS – Position pertaining to ballot question regarding repeal of Chapter 40B affordable housing law.

Rep. Pignatelli is surveying districts on the ballot initiative to get their feelings. Kevin O'Donnell stated that the law makes things more onerous for people to get affordable housing.

Sean Stanton said that he would like to hear from the other Boards (ZBA and Planning) as to what they think.

Bud Atwood feels very strongly that they need to repeal 40B.

9. SELECTMEN'S TIME:

Alana Chernila said that they are still looking for more people for the Energy Committee. Anyone interested, please send an e-mail to Kevin O'Donnell. If you have any questions about the Committee, she will be happy to answer them.

10. MEDIA TIME:

None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Stephen Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary