

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2012  
4:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**           STEPHEN BANNON  
                  ANDREW BLECHMAN  
                  ALANA CHERNILA  
                  DEB PHILLIPS  
                  SEAN STANTON  
                  KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

**4:00 PM – PUBLIC SESSION – BOARD ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

**2 SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:**

**A. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD.**

Andrew Blechman said that there was an E-mail from the chair of the Planning Board regarding Wired West. He understood that a deadline was approaching and asked if this was being addressed.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that Wired West is trying to determine the interest level of the residents for the service they would be offering. Therefore, a survey will be put out on the town website and will also go to the Chamber of Commerce.

Andrew Blechman spoke about the 'photo realism' projection that was presented to the Board and the public at the 75% hearing for the Main Street Reconstruction. He said that the photos do not look like what the end result will actually be. He asked how the design team gave such inaccurate drawings and how this type of information 'slides' through.

**MOTION:** Andrew Blechman that the design team presents the board with a more accurate drawing of the signaled intersections, as well as, options for the major intersections in town; at no additional cost or at the already scheduled payment amount.

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

Steve Bannon asked Kevin to provide an update on Seekonk Cross Rd. He would also like to know how the work can be speeded up, if it is not progressing.

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

Kevin O'Donnell announced that he received the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment for the Housatonic School. It gives the school a 'clean bill of health' from any environmental contamination. It was recommended that there need not be a Phase 2 study. Kevin said that he would like to include this information in the RFP. This will delay issuing the RFP, however, the 60 day window will stay in place.

**4. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

**A. ROB NAVARINO – UPDATE FROM BUSINESS MEETING WITH 20 CASTLE STREET LLC.**

Mr. Navarino said that there was a meeting between business owners and Mr. McCormick and Mr. Mercer, who further outlined the scope of their plans for the construction phase and final configuration of the outdoor café. The plan included the public access way and parking lot on the west side being closed for construction for 2 years effective immediately. The driveway on the East side, adjoining the Mahaiwe theatre, will be temporarily blocked by scaffolding. The business owners explained to Mr. McCormick and Mr. Mercer how this would greatly impact their business. In a later phone call, Mr. McCormick promised to limit access to the Mahaiwe alley for only a few days time during the early phase of construction and to

allow access to the west side driveway during the duration of the construction. The plan to permanently block the West side driveway, after the construction is complete, remains intact. The west side closure will deter emergency vehicle access to the Mahaiwe theatre and other businesses. It will also force the relocation of 4 large dumpsters, as well as, eliminate deliveries to businesses. As a result, trucks will park and unload on Railroad and Castle Street. There will be more traffic and an extra cost to businesses for use of smaller delivery vehicles.

Mr. Navarino presented a design board with proposals that were presented by the business owners to Mr. McCormick and Mr. Mercer.

Matthew Feldman – Fiore – spoke about the proposals. He said that the goal is to help the town by having a historical building re-vamped. He said that even the business owners plan hasn't helped everyone.

Matthew Adelson – Mahaiwe Production Manager – stated that the Mahaiwe has a specific emergency egress plan that was created with the Fire Department. He asked if all emergency apparatus could fit down the east alley. He said that there is a plan to have removable bollards and asked how quickly they can be removed in an emergency.

Alan Kalish – stated that 12 to 15 parking spaces would be lost. Business owners rely on the alley for trash pick-up and having trash pick up now on the streets would be a safety issue.

Michael Marcus – Bizen – said that the sale of the fire station is a great thing with the exception of giving the land away that is around it. He said the balance of power has been tipped and he wants a level playing field. Mr. Marcus said that there is something wrong with not being able to access their own property. He asked the Selectboard to take the property portion of the sale out.

Dana Dapolito – 24 Castle St. – Spoke about Barrington Brook Development. She said that she has been to all of the public meetings. Ms. Dapolito read a letter that was written to the Planning Board. She said that this construction will add additional cars to the residential traffic. The developer had spoken about the marketability of the property, but she feels that the residential marketability will go down with this construction and plan. Each sale of a unit will increase economic instability.

Ms. Dapolito said that special attention needs to be paid to the traffic that will be on Lake Mansfield Rd. along Lake Mansfield.

Ms. Dapolito also read a letter that she sent to the Board of Selectmen about Jonathan Hankin seeking his refusal to vote. She said that he has a conflict of interest.

## **5. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

A. DENNIS DERWIN/DENNY'S DEN FOR 2012 ANNUAL COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE AT 109 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD (COVE BOWLING LANES). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the license

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

## **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. 4TH EXTENSION TO AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF THE FIRE STATION. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Sean Stanton said that he has the agreement and has clarified the wording.

Kevin O'Donnell said that the 7 day provision is included in the selectman's packet.

Steve Bannon said that they should continue with the discussion, hoping for an amicable resolution for both sides.

Sean Stanton said that the area should be accessible for all and the easiest way to do this is to have the town retain ownership of the majority of the land. If the owners don't agree, the town can own the easement.

Sean said that there may have to be some compromise on the business owner's part.

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to approve the 30 day extension including the wording that either party can terminate the agreement if given 7 day written notice to the other party.

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

## **7. SELECTMEN'S TIME:**

Andrew Blechman said that he has heard requests that the Selectboard meetings be amplified. He asked if this would be possible.

Sean Stanton said that it would be better if everyone spoke louder; he is not interested in getting speakers.

Alana Chernila asked if the discussion about the Barrington Brook Development is still open. Steve Bannon said that the Board does not have control over elected bodies. He suggested that any concerns regarding Jonathan Hankin should be brought to the ethics commission.

**8. MEDIA TIME:** None

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Steven Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker".

Cara Becker  
Recording Secretary