

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2012  
7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**           STEPHEN BANNON  
                  ANDREW BLECHMAN – not present  
                  ALANA CHERNILA  
                  DEB PHILLIPS  
                  SEAN STANTON  
                  KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

**7:00 PM – PUBLIC SESSION – BOARD ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. September 10, 2012 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the September 10, 2012 minutes

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 4-0

B. September 19, 2012 Joint Meeting BOS and FIN COM Budget Policy.

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to approve the September 19, 2012 Joint meeting minutes

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 3-0-1 Deb Phillips abstains

C. September 28, 2012 Special Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the September 28, 2012 Special meeting minutes

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 4-0

D. October 9, 2012 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the October 9, 2012 minutes

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 4-0

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

A. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR.

The selectboard received the upcoming meeting calendar to determine if they will be able to attend any meetings. No Discussion.

B. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD.

Deb Phillips said that Great Barrington Trails and Greenways will be working on their relationship with the Appalachian Trail this summer. She said that they are hoping to do an event at Benedict Pond, which is one of the connections to the Appalachian Trail.

They are starting to plan the summer events and Deb asked anyone interested in the helping, to please contact them.

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

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he is working with BRPC to serve as the test community for the new software system. This will be done internally, where they will "work out the bugs" and then have information on the home page.

Kevin said that the town is also working on getting interns from The Internship Program, which is comprised of young adults with aspergers. Kevin suggested that they may be the ambassadors during the Main Street Reconstruction Project.

Kevin congratulated the new Fire Chief Charles Burger. He was appointed with a unanimous vote by the Interview Committee.

#### 5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

David Magadini spoke in regards to the Community Preservation Act being on the ballot. He said that the description of the Act is very long and complicated. He believes that every voter in Great Barrington should have a copy of this information. David said that it should be made available in both libraries and the town hall.

#### 6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

##### A. SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/BETSY ANDRUS FOR PERMISSION

- TO CLOSE RAILROAD STREET FOR THE HOLIDAY STROLL FROM  
3:00 PM – 8:00 PM ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012; AND

- TO USE ONE LANE ON EACH SIDE OF MAIN STREET, BOTH NORTH AND  
SOUTHBOUND FROM 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012.

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to give permission for the street closure and the use of one lane on each side of Main St. as requested.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 3-0-1 Sean Stanton recused himself as he will be a vendor**

B. RAILROAD STREET YOUTH PROJECT/PAUL MC NEIL FOR ONE DAY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2012 FROM 7:00PM – 11:00PM AT THE HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY CENTER IN HOUSATONIC. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**This item was withdrawn**

C. NATIONAL GRID AND VERIZON NEW ENGLAND – CASTLE HILL ROAD TO INSTALL ONE (1) NEW JO POLE IN PUBLIC WAY, TO REPLACE THE REMOVAL OF TREE GUY ON POLE 3, BEGINNING AT A POINT APPROXIMATELY 307 FEET SOUTH OF THE CENTERLINE OF THE INTERSECTION OF CASTLE LANE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the installation of pole as requested

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 4-0**

D. BARD COLLEGE OF SIMON'S ROCK/LEE ROGERS FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2012 FROM 5:00PM – 9:00PM AT THE DINING HALL, BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK, 84 ALFORD ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

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

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 4-0**

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BOS AND BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES- JOINT APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Holly Hamer to nominate Mary Pat Akers

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 8-0 Both the BOS and Library Board of Trustees voted together**

B. BOS – RECOMMENDATION TO THE PLANNING BOARD ON THE SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION OF PROJECT NATIVE, 342 NORTH PLAIN ROAD, HOUSATONIC, MA FOR A FREESTANDING SIGN IN A RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AT 342 NORTH PLAIN ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to make a positive recommendation to the Planning Board

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 4-0**

C. ADOPTION OF FY2014 BUDGET POLICY. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to adopt the budget policy for FY2014

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 4-0**

D. CONSIDERATION OF SETTING A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Kevin O'Donnell said in order to deal with the remediation 'issues' for Searles Bryant and the former Fire House, \$373,000 will be needed. In order to do this, they will need to seek Town Meeting approval. There is money in free cash, so this will not result in a negative impact.

The Searles Bryant consultant and Iredale Mineral Cosmetics would like to be paid before the Town Meeting for the money that they have spent on this process.

Sean Stanton said that he is not prepared to go to the Town Meeting to ask for money that they may not need. He said that he would prefer to go to the Finance Committee for Iredales \$73,000 and wait on the other.

**All agree to hold off on a decision.**

## **8. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Main Street Reconstruction Project – Traffic Signals/ Trash/ Recyclable Bins Discussion

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to go with as much yellow as possible, with the mandatory black background.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 4-0**

There was discussion regarding the pedestrian crosswalks. It is currently a grey concrete and the State is requiring a contrasting color. (Brick Red or Yellow)

It is currently in the plan as brick red as the selectboard wanted.

Trash/Recycle – Joe Sokul said that a final decision has not been made on these.

The new benches recommended are steel. There will be a total of about 21 benches.

Sean Stanton said that he is concerned that they are not bolted down and said they are not as warm the wood benches that are there currently. Sean questioned the weight of the benches and suggested that they are all the same.

**All agree that they want the benches to be heavier.**

Joe Sokul said that he will research this and said that he needs to be able to remove them for winter maintenance.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to get dark green benches if available

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 4-0**

Joe Sokul said that the old ones will be reused in other park areas.

Alana Chernila said that the selectboard should help those who are trying to create the receptacles. She said trash and recycling receptacles have a huge presence on the sidewalk and asked if money can be raised or diverted to pay for this project. Alana said that none of the options presented are appropriate.

Sean Stanton said if there is something that has to be taken out of the project budget, this would be it.

Jim Mercer, representing the Historic District Commission, said that they, along with other groups, would be willing to put money aside for the receptacles, historic custom lighting and a conduit wired for the holiday lighting.

Deb Phillips asked if the money is taken out of the budget from the trash bins, can that money be used for the conduit.

Joe Sokul said that he will research this.

There was discussion regarding the pedestrian lights. The Historic District Commission requested a white light. There was a question about the number of lights required for safety.

Chris Rembold said that the number of cobras is fixed and based on safety. He suggested that the pedestrian lighting be harmonious with the cobra lighting.

Alana Chernila said that they should look at the shape, reflecting of the light, and light harmony between the cobras and pedestrian lighting.

Jim Mercer asked that an Ad Hoc Committee be created to research the following items:

Luminaires

Trash/Recycling receptacles

Conduit

Upsizing the trees

Steve Bannon said that a committee should not be created but they should turn this over to the Historic District Commission for their research.

There will be continued discussed at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Joe Sokul added that the cobra lighting that is being put in can be retro-fitted for LED.

Kevin O'Donnell said Fuss and O'Neil quoted 3 renderings to cost \$4100. **They will not move forward.**

#### B. Property Maintenance Code – Continued discussion

Ed May presented a slide show about the suggested code.

Deb Phillips asked if the Selectboard can give Mr. May more authority if he is invited by a neighbor to look at the rear of a building.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will ask town counsel about wording regarding this.

Alana Chernila said that she wants to make sure that you are able to grown food in the front yard without a neighbor claiming that the yard is 'unkempt'.

Ed May will check the wording on this.

#### C. Extension of Purchase and Sale agreement for the sale of Castle Street Fire Station

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to accept the extension of the purchase and sale agreement for the sale of the Castle Street fire station.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 4-0**

#### D. Town Manager Search Process – Next Steps

Alana Chernila said that she has spoken to several references for the Collins Center and they were all favorable. She said that one specific comment was "they had such a clear knowledge of everyone in Massachusetts" and went on to say how helpful this was.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to ask the Collins Center to submit a proposal to do a full recruitment of a town manager.

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE: 3-0-1 Steve Bannon abstains**

#### 9. SELECTMEN'S TIME: None

**10. MEDIA TIME:** David Scribner asked if anyone has been assigned to make sure that traffic flows smoothly during the Main Street Reconstruction.

Sean Stanton said that they have had meetings with Richard Stanley about this topic.

Alana Chernila said that she has been to meetings also and said that it is being addressed.  
Sean Stanton said that they should find out what is in the contract regarding police presence.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Steven Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Cara Becker  
Recording Secretary