

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012  
7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**           STEPHEN BANNON  
                          ANDREW BLECHMAN  
                          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:**

March 12, 2012 Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the March 12, 2012 regular meeting minutes with amendment as discussed.

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 Steve Bannon abstains

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

A. BOS – Discussion of upcoming meetings in the following month

There was discussion regarding the upcoming meetings. The Selectmen stated who would attend each meeting, if possible.

Andrew Blechman said that the loud light in the pedestrian underpass is not loud anymore thanks to the help of DPW Superintendent, Joe Sokul.

Deb Phillips asked if there could be a sign that indicates parking behind Town Hall on weekends and evenings.

Joe Sokul replied that he is working on this currently.

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

Kevin O'Donnell stated that there are still openings on the Cultural Council, the Charter Review Committee and volunteers for the Swap Shack.

Alana Chernila said that the swap shack should get under way before getting more volunteers.

Sean Stanton suggested that they reduce the number of members on the charter review committee so that it can get started.

Kevin O'Donnell said that there is a Selectman meeting scheduled on November 11. There is a Holiday on Sunday that will be celebrated on Monday, therefore, the Monday meeting will be moved to Tuesday, November 13.

**5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

Dave Magadini spoke to the closing of the community shop and stated that the closing should not have happened. He said that it is a vital function of the community as a thrift shop and community shop.

Mr. Magadini suggested that the Board call a special town meeting to address this closing or to put an article on the warrant to fund this establishment as a town entity. He said that this is part of a tradition of Great Barrington.

Jenny Clark spoke about getting LED lighting in Great Barrington. She said that it would save the town money, however, it is not available as a pilot program in any town except Wellesley. She said that she would like to petition the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities on behalf of this.

Sean agreed.

Jenny Clark said that she is also willing to call Rep. Pignatelli's office about this, as a citizen independent of the Board.

Alana Chernila said that the Board sent a letter a year ago to National Grid. They received a response and Alana suggested that the Board pick up on that communication again.

Jon Dietrich said that East Hampton has done this type of project through Mass Electric, and said that they can be contacted.

Jenny Clark agreed to be the point person on this.

## **6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

A. Holly Hamer/the Trustees of the Great Barrington Libraries for one day beer and wine liquor license for Friday, March 30, 2012 from 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P. M. at main reading room of the Mason Library. (Fee Waiver Requested)

Holly Hamer said that this will begin the Centennial Celebration. Patrons will have the opportunity to meet the new Director, see the changes in the library, and receive a free book for the 'Town Read.'

Michelle Loubert expressed that she is disturbed that alcohol will be served in the library. She said that 2 meetings were recently held about under age drinking and she feels that it is not appropriate to serve alcohol in a public building.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license with fee waived

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

A BOS – Appointment of regular and alternate members to the tree committee.

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to appoint Jessica Wikle to the tree committee with Susan Sheridan as an alternate

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 Deb Phillips recused herself

B. BOS – Review of Policies and Procedures

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to remove the limit of terms that a Chairperson can serve.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

Andrew Blechman said that he is in favor of 3 years but not an unlimited term.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Update – Main Street Reconstruction Project

Kevin said that the most recent DOT exception report stated that the only point of conflict is the road grade.

The DOT insisted that there be a 2% grade and so changes were made accordingly. Kevin said that trees/location is acceptable to the Tree Committee and the Design Team to work with the Chamber.

\$10,000 has been allocated for signage to be used during the construction.

Kevin said that work equipment will be stored nearby, but not on Main Street.

The design was presented to the Board.

Handrails will not be needed as there are now 2 steps up from the street.

Andrew Blechman asked for a picture or design of what it would actually look like.

Alana Chernila asked how the change in the plan will affect the timeframe of the project.

The project is still planned to move forward and to be completed within the original timeframe.

Andrew Blechman inquired if an exception could be requested for the handicap ramp at the Rotary Way crosswalk to be removed.

A tree list and location diagram was presented.

Andrew Blechman said that the tree committee is a great example of a citizen committee. There was great decision making and they all worked well together.

Kevin O'Donnell said there will be a landscape maintenance plan going forward.

Alana Chernila suggested that the Board determine who will carry out the tree maintenance. She said that one person should be in charge of trees and planters.

A Town Hall Concept Plan was presented.

The presentation showed that the current design holds the following problems:

A steep driveway with cars parking at the front of the building

Limited gathering areas for people at the main entry.

A difficult and awkward entry at Castle St and Main St.

The new plan included double loaded parking with a total of 35-46 spaces.

Handicap spaces closer to the ADA entrance

Additional parking along Castle St.

Mark Moore from the Mass. DOT said that the driveway changes would be eligible for transportation funds. He said that other aspects of the plan would not be paid for and we would be responsible for the costs.

Kevin O'Donnell said that the construction cost would be approximately \$ 660,000, not including the design cost.

Alana Chernila suggested that the project be completed in stages with the parts that are covered completed first.

There was discussion about which part of the plan could be completed first.

Mark Moore said that the cost of bike racks would be covered as part of enhancements.

Jenny Clark said that a left turn into the Town Hall parking lot, as indicated in the plan, would not be safe.

Kevin O'Donnell said that Chapter 90 money can be used for the design cost.

**MOTION:** Alana Chernila to authorize the design team to create a plan of the Town Hall property that is eligible for state funding

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

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

Alana Chernila said that she would like to discuss an economic development committee.

Alana said that there needs to be a way to pay at the dump. She would like this topic put on an agenda.

#### **10. MEDIA TIME: None**

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker  
Recording Secretary