

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011
6:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL - BOARD ROOM**

PRESENT: WALTER ATWOOD
STEPHEN BANNON
ALANA CHERNILA
DEB PHILLIPS
SEAN STANTON
KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

Planning Board : Richard Dohoney Jonathan Hankin
 Jack Musgrove Donald O'Goranson
 Suzanne Fowle Schroeder

1. Call to Order – Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

A. BOS and Planning Board Joint Meeting

-Edward McCormick presentation of the Housatonic Mills Project.

Mr. McCormick is representing Mr. Steven Muss in the Housatonic Mills Project.

He presented the concept of the plan which is in the beginning phase.

He described some of the items proposed such as a round-about at Wabeek St., a new parking facility, a specialty market building, pedestrian walk-ways, an amphitheater, and many new trees and gardens.

When asked why these building haven't been changed before now, Mr. McCormick answered that one owner can't do it alone. This project has more than one proposed owner.

He explained that there are many communities that are establishing mill revitalization. In order to do so, it is important to have a sustainable site, participation of the community, and the support of the market.

Mr. McCormick said that it would be perfect for Housatonic because it can open up the river-walk areas, improve scenic vistas, improve environmental health and generate employment opportunities.

He re-iterated that this is just a concept and there will be due-dilligence.

He stated that they would like to work with the Town Planner to create the Mill Revitalization District.

Deb Phillips asked what the creation of such a district will do.

Mr. McCormick replied that it will establish standards.

Don Goranson asked what the date is to present it for the warrant.

Kevin O'Donnell replied April 1st. He added that it would not be 're-inventing the wheel', so it may be possible.

It was stated that the playground was made a park in perpetuity by a vote and Mr.

McCormick said that they are not suggesting that it be purchased, since this is only a concept, they would like to explore what can be done with it.

It was asked if the zoning laws are changed, will this commit the Town to this proposal.

Kevin O'Donnell replied no. He also added that there would be a number of public hearings along the way in regards to the proposal.

Gail Garret, representing the Kelly's, gave a letter to the Board from them and stated that her client has not agreed with the plan at this point. She insisted that the Board notify them if there is a petition, meeting, or vote about this topic. The client is in favor of the overlay district. She asked the Board to think about the future when making any decisions. She wanted to alert the Board of any plans that call an area 'bleighted'. She stated that the U-tube video about Monument Mill is inaccurate. It depicts the mill as inactive, which is untrue.

Deb Phillips stated that the conceptual plan is a motivator for the Town to create a Mill Revitalization district even if nothing is done. She said that this is something that should be done anyway.

Adjournment -

On a motion by Jack Musgrove, seconded by Jonathan Hankin, the Planning Board adjourned its meeting at 6:50 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes :

January 24, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve minutes from the January 24, 2011 meeting

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 5-0

January 26, 2011 – Main Street Reconstruction Meeting

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve minutes from the January 26, 2011 meeting

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

3. Selectmen's Announcements/Statements:

A. Kevin O'Donnell stated that due to the fact that the BOS meeting date was scheduled on May 9th, Town Election Day, he suggested that the date be changed.

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve the change of date of the BOS meeting to May 10, 2011.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. BOS and Finance Committee: Joint appointment to Finance Committee.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that there are two applicants for the Finance Committee:

Hal Sussman and John Breasted who each gave a brief statement.

MOTION: Bud Atwood to appoint Hal Sussman to the Finance Committee

SECOND: Jonathan Hankin

VOTE: 3-0-7

MOTION: Alana Chernila to appoint John Breasted to the Finance Committee

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 4-0-6

Kevin O'Donnell stated that there is not a majority from either Board so the appointment is on hold.

C. May 2011 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

Sean Stanton reminded the Board to submit anything that they may want to see as warrant articles.

Alana Chernila reminded everyone that she has office hours Monday at the Coop café from 3-6.

Stephen Bannon said that the Main Street Reconstruction meeting was very positive and he felt that it was a positive for the process. He said that the Board feels that more meetings are needed in regards to this topic.

Bud Atwood thanked Sean Stanton for a great job.

Deb Phillips thanked everyone who came out to the meeting.

Sean Stanton said that there is a lot of work to be done and he looks forward to moving forward in the process.

He also stated that the new owners of Saint James Church have asked for a letter of support for their plan going forward. He will draft a letter with Kevin O'Donnell and bring it to the next meeting for approval. (Copies of the plan will be made for the BOS and the 2 libraries.)

4. Town Manager's Report:

A. Presentation of the 250th Anniversary Commemorative Flag and Town Hall playground update.

The Flag was commissioned by Karen Amanti of Otis to depict Great Barrington history.

The flag is on sale and it was presented to the Board to hang in the meeting room.

Mr. McCormick also stated that the 250th Committee has finalized their calendar, which is online for viewing.

Mr. McCormick stated that the Jane Iresdale playground, to be erected in the back of Town Hall, will be dedicated on May 28th.

B. Castle Street former Fire Station RFP submittals- Kevin O'Donnell stated that the Feb. 28th meeting will have a more detailed report for the Board.

C. Approval of Library 2011- 2014 Union Contract.

MOTION: Bud Atwood to ratify Union contract

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

D. Intent to participate in FY 12 household hazardous waste collection program. Kevin O'Donnell stated that he recommends that the Town of Great Barrington participate in the FY12 household hazardous waste collection program again this year.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve participation in hazardous waste program.

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 5-0

5. Citizen Speak Time:

A. Jim Stark – satellite Town meeting

Jim Stark presented a concept of the finance committee to increase participation in the Town Meeting by having satellite stations at the fire station in Great Barrington and Housatonic. They envision a system that will allow those at these sites to be able to participate and ask questions.

Sean Stanton said that he is concerned about the cost.

Stephen Bannon asked that the Town Manager explore the cost and legality of going forward with such a plan.

B. Authorization to proceed with Historic Designation Application for Ramsdell Library

Jim Stark stated that this type of designation would give funding for certain projects and gives some flexibility in meeting certain standards. He also stated that this designation would not be a barrier to any projects.

Stephen Bannon thanked Mr. Stark for his work and said that he would like to see the letter of support from the Library trustees and the Historic Commission.

Jim Stark said that he would forward those letters to Kevin O'Donnell.

6. Licenses or Permits:

A. JENISE LUCEY/BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR APRIL 2, 2011 FROM 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM AT 15 CRISSEY ROAD. *FEE WAIVER REQUESTED* (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips - To approve license with fee waiver as requested

SECOND: Bud Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

B. HONOR S. BLUME/GREAT BARRINGTON KENNEL CLUB FOR ONE DAY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 FROM 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM AT GREAT BARRINGTON VFW, 800 SOUTH MAIN STREET. *FEE WAIVER REQUESTED*/ (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips - To approve license with fee waiver as requested

SECOND: Bud Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

C. HONOR S. BLUME/GREAT BARRINGTON KENNEL CLUB FOR ONE DAY SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2011 FROM 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM AT GREAT BARRINGTON VFW, 800 SOUTH MAIN STREET. *FEE WAIVER REQUESTED/ (DISCUSSION/VOTE)*

MOTION: Stephen Bannon - To approve license with fee waiver as requested

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 5-0

7. New Business:

A. 2011 Annual Town Meeting Petition Warrant Article Topics

Sean Stanton read the petition and asked if the Board is to recommend one way or another. Kevin O'Donnell responded yes to accept the language on the warrant. This would be appropriate to do at the joint Finance/BOS meeting. *No action taken.*

Sean Stanton also read the petition regarding PCBs and read the hand-out about the PCB presentation to be held on March 1, 2011.

MOTION: Deb Phillips - To support petition on PBC's

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve petition for the constitutional ammendment

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 4-1 Bud Atwood against

MOTION: Deb Phillips - To sponsor a warrant item to create an economic opportunity area in Housatonic.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. Referral of Zoning amendments to the Planning Board

MOTION: Stephen Bannon - To refer zoning amendment back to the planning board

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

All were encouraged to come to the public forum on March 10th.

C. Referral of proposed landowner petition for zoning amendment to the Planning Board
MOTION: Bud Atwood – to refer proposed landowner petition for zoning amendment to the planning board.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

This will be considered at the March 10th forum.

Don Goranson thanked the DPW for their work on the roads. He said that they have done a great job. He also thanked Sean Stanton for coming to the Planning Board and updating them on the Main St. reconstruction plan.

8. **Selectmen's Time:** Nothing to report
9. **Media Time:** None
10. **Adjournment** - On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Stephen Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary