

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2010
7:00 P.M. – PUBLIC SESSION – BOARD ROOM**

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

STEPHEN BANNON – NOT PRESENT

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Deb Phillips: To accept the minutes from June 28, 2010 – Regular Meeting

SECOND: Bud Atwood

VOTE: 4-0

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/ STATEMENTS:

A. Selectmen Chernila re: Commonwealth of Massachusetts "Green Communities" Designation Process.

She spoke in regards to the Strategic Planning meeting when the Selectmen spoke about better communication to the public. She saw, in another town, a shelf of DVD's at the circulation desk of the library from the last 3 years of meetings. She suggested that we do the same. The Town Manager will look into it.

The MMA Conference on green communities suggested that there should include an "energy" commission. It should be directed toward being a green community that will shape the Town into being energy efficient. She suggested that we appoint such a committee.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he would draft a protocol with duties and responsibilities to be brought to the Selectmen for review.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. Council on Aging (COA) Revised bylaws.

Kevin O'Donnell spoke about minor changes to the bylaws for the Council on Aging. He presented the changes as noted in the executive packet. He would like the Board to accept the new changes which will open positions to a maximum of 3 non-residents.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to accept changes to the bylaw as written.

SECOND: Bud Atwood

VOTE: 4-0

B. Railroad Street Youth Project (RSYP) – Mural at CARR Hardware in the Taconic Parking Lot.

The RSYP requested that a part of the parking lot be closed off to repaint the mural at CARR Hardware in the Taconic Parking Lot.

The dates are July 16 (5PM-12AM), July 17 (5PM-12AM), July 18 (5PM-12AM), July 24 (9PM – 12AM) and July 25 all day.

There was a presentation of a rendering of the new W.E.B. DuBois mural and they invited everyone to join in the painting on July 25.

MOTION: Bud Atwood to accept to close a section of the parking lot for the mural painting with the dates referenced.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 4-0

C. Update of Town Department's Meeting in Housatonic.

The Town Manager received a summary of office hours in the Housatonic School. After review, he feels that it is not cost effective to maintain the satellite office except for in regards to the Police Department.

D. BRIDGE – Presentation of citation from the Governor and BRIDGE Award.

Mark Siegers and Gwendolyn VanSant presented the cultural competency award because of the Town's efforts to bring cultural competency into the work place by Town employees.

She also presented a citation from Governor Patrick rewarding the Town's cultural diversity in the workplace.

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Joanne Brett-Sims –Berkshire Hills Vintage and Fine Jewelry - 177 Main Street, GB

She complained about the bad conditions of the property at 177 Main St. and she wants to know what the town is doing about it?

Kevin O'Donnell said that he would look into it.

James D. Logan – 47 West Sheffield Road, GB

(Volunteer for Sonsini Animal Shelter)

He asked permission to hold the adoption clinics in front of the Mason library from June through October. They have 2 -3 volunteers at the tables and between 2 and 5 cats are given homes at each clinic.

The Board will have this topic at the next meeting and gave permission for the clinics to continue until then.

David Magadini- He reminded everyone that there is a Library Trustees meeting at the Fire Department at 7 PM. The discussion will be about the plan for the library in the future. He encourages people to come down and speak their mind.

Ron Simms – 177 Main Street, GB

He feels that there should be a change to the bylaws. He referred to a situation that occurred when his landlord ‘locked out’ their building and, as a result, was not allowed to have access to his belongings. He feels that there should be a 2-3 day window of opportunity in which they can access the property.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Public Works Economic Development (PWED) Grant Application for the Engineering Design of the Side Streets for Improvements of Castle Street, Bridge Street and Railroad Street.

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Bud Atwood to open public hearing.

SECOND: Alana Chernila

Vote – 4-0

b. Explanation of Project – It is an engineering design application to do the design work for the side streets connected with the Main Street Reconstruction Project. The DPW Superintendent submitted a grant to do the design work which, if granted, would result in no cost to us.

c. Speak in favor/opposition- A member of the audience asked how much money would be saved? Joe Sokul responded \$89,900.

Craig Okerstrom-Lang asked if the design would include putting utilities underground. The response was that the cost would be too great but Joe Sokul said that they are in contact with National Grid in regards to this project and will continue looking at the possibility.

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Bud Atwood to close public hearing.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

Vote – 4-0

e. Motion re: Findings

MOTION: Deb Phillips to accept findings as being cost effective to file the application.

No opposition noted.

SECOND: Alana Chernila

Vote – 4-0

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/table

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve the filing of the application of the PWED grant.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

Vote – 4-0

7. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. Great Barrington Bike Committee for permission to use Town roads for a Community Bike Ride on Saturday, July 17, 2010.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve use of Town roads for Bike Ride.

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-0

B. Elizabeth Freeman Center/ Ann Miller for one day beer and wine license for July 16, 2010 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at Chartocks Residence, 51 Hollenbeck Ave.

Fee Waiver Requested

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve license with fee waiver as requested.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 4-0

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BOS – Recommendation to the Planning Board on the special permit application of ERH – Bryant, LLC to deviate from off-street parking and loading requirements at the former Bryant School, Church and School Streets.

A detailed report was given by Lucy Prashker, Craig Okerstrom –Lang, Bob Montgomery, Randy Croxton and Steve Mack with graphics describing the project and the plan for parking. They indicated that the new plan would have 8 additional parking spots than what is required. They spoke in detail about the aesthetics of the project including the use of rain gardens, retaining walls with climbing vines and the use of natural lighting.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to recommend accepting the parking proposal with the conditions recommended by the DRT as indicated in the last page of the memorandum.

SECOND: Bud Atwood

Vote – 4-0

B. BOS – Appointment of alternate member to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC)

Kevin O'Donnell recommends that Chris Rembold, Town Planner, be the alternate to the BRPC.

(No action needed)

C. BOS – Appointment of member to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA)
Sean Stanton recommended that Town Manager, Kevin O'Donnell be appointed and asked for updates going forward.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to appoint Town Manager, Kevin O'Donnell, as member to BRTA as recommended by the Chairman.

SECOND: Bud Atwood

Vote – 4-0

9. SELECTMENS TIME:

Bud Atwood spoke in regards to the roadwork in Housatonic and near the library and suggested that they do not recommend the contractor that did the work. He said that he was unreliable.

He also suggested that with FY 11 funding the Town can commence action against various buildings that are falling down or in disrepair.

10. MEDIA TIME:

David Scribner asked what the remaining steps are to completing the sale of the Searles/Bryant property?

Bud Atwood stated that the Planning Board will look at the 'parking special permit' at the July 22nd meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Alana Chernila, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Cara Becker

Recording Secretary