

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION
TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: ED ABRAHAMS
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
BILL COOKE
SEAN STANTON

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman, Sean Stanton, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. Discussion of upcoming meeting calendar.
The calendar was presented to the Selectboard.

Bill Cooke announced that the Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force is holding a community meeting at Crissey Farm on 11/4/15 at 7:00 PM.

Jennifer Tabakin added that the Design Team will attend this meeting and would like to hear from the public. She encouraged all to attend.

Ed Abrahams said that many people came to speak at the Planning Board meeting last week regarding the proposed hotel. That particular meeting was intended to be a review and not a public hearing for comments. Ed apologized that this was not made clear to the public.

Sean Stanton asked if the Selectboard wanted to look at the policy regarding the overnight parking ban. He said that it would be necessary to hear from Police Chief Walsh, Joe Sokul, Fire Chief Burger and Chris Rembold about how it would affect all areas. He suggested that the Selectboard consider a ban only during snow storms and not a complete winter ban.

Dan Bailly said if this is the route that is taken then communication would be needed each time a ban takes effect. He said that there will also need to be active ticket and towing for those who do not comply.

The Town Manager suggested that this be a future agenda item.

Joe Sokul said that this is not a policy, but a by-law.

Kathleen McCormick said that her client has requested that the 11/9/15 public hearing for 79 Bridge Street Realty, LLC be opened and then immediately continued until a later meeting.

The Selectboard agreed to open the public hearing on 11/9/15 and then continue until the 12/16/15 meeting. There will be no discussion on 11/9/15.

Kathleen requested that the location of the meeting be announced at the 11/9/15 meeting.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jennifer Tabakin said that the trees were planted at Housatonic Park and look great. She thanked Joe Sokul.

Jennifer announced that the Secretary of Elder Affairs will be at the Senior Center on Wednesday.

The Alford Rd. construction begins this coming week. There are 2 phases; the first takes place this season, which is to complete roadway from Castle Hill Ave. to Alford Town Line and the second will begin in the spring, which is to complete Taconic Avenue.

There is now an option to pay bills online through the town website. There is no administration fee for E-checks.

The Town Manager announced that Treasurer, Sandy Larkin will be retiring after 25 years. We are all sad to see her leave and wish her well.

Jennifer gave a brief report of the Great Barrington Housing Authority. She said that it is an independent commission that follows MGL. The Selectboard has no oversight authority.

Dan Bailly asked the Town Manager for an update regarding the Housatonic School. He requested that she come back with a draft proposal and update at the 11/23/15 meeting.

Jennifer responded that she can come back with a strategic approach, but not until December.

Sean Stanton asked that the Thursday morning meeting be changed to a time that he and Dan Bailly can attend so that they can see what progress has been made.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she would be happy to reschedule the meeting.

4. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Implementation of the FY14 CDBG CDF I 00727 Great Barrington-Sheffield Community Development Block Grant, including the Housing Rehabilitation Program, the Front Street Drainage Design and the Sheffield Town Hall ABR Design. (Discussion/Vote)

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Steve Bannon to open the public hearing

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

b. Explanation of Project

Chris Rembold introduced Patricia Mullins and Nancy Doucette from BRPC.

Pat Mullins gave an update about the grant. She reported that most of the Housatonic Housing Rehabilitation projects will be completed by 12/15/15.

There is \$165,000 that has not yet been committed. 2 more house projects need to be done to meet the grant.

Pat Mullins reported that the engineering design for the Housatonic drainage project is complete.

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition: None

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Steve Bannon to close the public hearing

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Main Street Reconstruction – Update

Jennifer Tabakin summarized the Main Street reconstruction project, which is a \$5.8 million project, 100% funded by Mass DOT.

Infrastructure achievements thus far include new pavement with a new sub-base, deeper basins for water collection, a new main line to collect rain water drainage, ADA accessible sidewalks, new traffic signals, bike paths, bike racks and trash bins.

The Town Manager addressed some concerns about the work.

Some of these include: moving the pedestrian pole at Castle St., getting a cost estimate for painting the pedestrian poles, getting a location assessment for the Elm Street cobra head light poles, and getting design feedback on the possibility of making the sidewalk wider near the Masonic Temple.

Jennifer said that the bump-outs have not taken out parking spaces; there have never been spots at crosswalks.

Carol Diehl – 224 Grove, on behalf of a citizen group, said that she has safety concerns and read a memo addressing them.

Chip Elitzer said that the cobra head lights have an industrial look. He requested that many be taken down and replaced with the decorative light poles.

Sean Stanton said that National Grid and DOT should be asked about this again.

Eve Schatz – 4 Pleasant Ct. asked how the snow plows will clean the roads since they cannot pivot around the new curbing.

Joe Sokol responded that it may take a bit longer but his equipment can do it.

Gabriella Senta – 11 School St. asked what the purpose is of the raised curbing.

The Town Manager explained that many of the raised sidewalks are raised to deal with draining. She also said that some areas have planters.

Ms. Senta said that the area in front of The Gypsy Joynt, Sims, Carr Hardware and Tune St. are the worst.

Sean Stanton said that these areas will be looked at to see what she is referring to.

B. Renewal of Construction Zone Impact Area for Main Street

MOTION: Steve Bannon to renew the Main Street construction zone impact area

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

6. NEW BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Narain Schroeder/Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) for approval of Conservation Restriction from Rising Paper Land, LLC to Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc. (Discussion/Vote)

Narain Schroeder recapped the project. He is working with Kirt Mayland. He explained that 46 acres surrounding the solar array will be part of the restriction. The town needs to approve, but does not hold the restriction. There will be a clause that will give public access along the river at Division Street.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Conservation Restriction

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- B. SB – Recommendation to Berkshire Hills Regional School District Committee (BHRSDC) for one Selectboard member and one Finance Committee member to serve on the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to recommend Dan Bailly to serve on the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee.

SECOND: Ed Abrahams

VOTE: 5-0

- C. Participation in the 2016 Solarize Mass Program. (Discussion/Vote)

This item was tabled.

7. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME: None

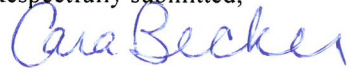
8. SELECTBOARD'S TIME: None

9. MEDIA TIME: None

10. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Dan Bailly, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary