

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014  
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION  
TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:** ED ABRAHAMS  
DANIEL BAILLY  
STEPHEN BANNON  
DEB PHILLIPS  
SEAN STANTON

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Deb Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:**

**A. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD.**

Ed Abrahams asked all of the businesses to decorate for the season. He asked for more lights.

Deb Phillips detailed steps that have been taken since the rejection of the school renovation vote. She explained that there is a letter from the MSBA regarding the comment that we are not eligible for repair funding, which we are not. There have been people who have come forth and said that there are "other ways" and she is hoping that as the School Committee puts together a committee regarding this, and that these people come forward to participate.

Deb said that there has been a meeting with a consultant from the Massachusetts Association of Regional School Districts to learn about the process of amending the Berkshire Hills Regional School District Agreement. The 'ball' is now in the hands of the School Committee, who will form a committee with representation of the 3 towns to start examining the existing agreement to determine what amendments to recommend.

Deb explained that there is work being done by 2 residents to form a liaison with other regional school districts to bring more legislative clout to changing the school choice reimbursement.

Smitty Pignatelli helped to apply for a grant to get all the districts in South County working collaboratively as a first step in exploring the best way to sharing resources, whether through regionalization or otherwise.

Deb said, as a town, what can be done quickly is to address the issue of local contractors being eligible to bid for state projects. Deb said that she requested that the Town Manager and the DPW Superintendent reach out to the Department of Capital Assessment Management and they have offered to hold a workshop for local contractors that will be scheduled in 2015 to work with them on how to become registered and apply for state jobs.

Deb said that she hopes that we can work together in a positive and constructive way. She invited all to get involved.

Further updates to come.

**B. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR.**

The calendar was given to the Selectboard.

Ed Abrahams pointed out that there is a Conservation Commission meeting scheduled on 12/15 and 12/17 and asked for clarification.

Recording Secretary, Cara Becker, said that she will verify the dates and get back to the Selectboard.

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- A. TRIPLEX MANAGEMENT CORP. INC. D/B/A TRIPLEX CINEMA, LISA CABRERA RIZZO, MANAGER FOR A NEW COMMON VICTUALLER ALL ALCOHOLIC RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE AT THE TRIPLEX CINEMA, 70 RAILROAD STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

a. Open Public Hearing

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to open the public hearing

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

a. Explanation of Project:

Lisa Cabrera Rizzo and John Valenti presented the project. They explained that they want the Triplex to be a destination location. The Beacon Cinema has been serving alcohol successfully for 5 years. The goal is to enhance the customer's experience.

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition: Betsy Andrus said that this is a huge benefit. She feels that this is a positive project.

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to close the public hearing

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

e. Motion re: Findings

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve the Findings of Fact for a new Common Victualler

All Alcoholic Restaurant Liquor License for the Triplex Management Corp. Inc. d/b/a Triplex Cinema, Lisa Cabrera Rizzo, Manager, and with the findings that the benefits of the proposal outweigh any possible detrimental impacts.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve the license

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**Motion Passed**

**4. LICENSES OR PERMITS**

- A. RICHARD STANLEY/TRIPLEX MANAGEMENT CORP. INC., D/B/A TRIPLEX CINEMA FOR 2014 ANNUAL COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE, SATURDAY THRU SUNDAY, 8:00 AM – 12:00 MIDNIGHT AT TRIPLEX CINEMA, 70 RAILROAD STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve license

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

- B. SO. BERKSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/BETSY ANDRUS:

- FOR PERMISSION TO CLOSE RAILROAD STREET PARKING FOR THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY STROLL ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014 FROM 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM AND THRU TRAFFIC FROM 3:00 - 9:00 PM. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Betsy Andrus explained that this is for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Stroll

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to approve as outlined

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0-1 Sean Stanton recused**

- FOR PERMISSION TO CONE OFF PARKING AT THE BEGINNING OF BRIDGE STREET TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FROM 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to grant permission

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0-1 Sean Stanton recused**

- FOR PERMISSION TO CONE OFF THE FRONT PARKING SPOTS AT THE TOWN HALL AND CLOSE OFF THE FIRST HALF OF THE CIRCULAR DRIVE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to grant permission

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0-1 Sean Stanton recused**

- C. SO. BERKSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/BETSY ANDRUS FOR TEMPORARY WEEKDAY OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014 FROM 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM (INCLUDES SET UP AND CLEAN UP) AT MAIN AND RAILROAD STREETS AND FIREWORKS AT MEMORIAL FIELD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to approve license

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0-1 Sean Stanton recused**

- D. SO. BERKSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/BETSY ANDRUS FOR PERMISSION TO HANG BANNER ACROSS MAIN STREET FROM NOVEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 15, 2014. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to grant permission to hang banner

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0-1 Sean Stanton recused**

## **5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Jennifer Tabakin listed the available town positions.

She thanked Joe Sokul and Tim Drumm for joining her on WSBS to talk about what different Town Departments do.

Jennifer announced that the Governor has signed the Town Charter, so it is now official.

### **A. REVIEW OF MAIN STREET LIGHTS, FIXTURES AND STREET FURNITURE.**

Jennifer Tabakin gave a presentation reviewing lights, fixtures and designs as approved for the Main Street Reconstruction project.

Some of the details include a 30 ft. cobra light with a new light fixture head. Jennifer explained that this will be very similar to what is in place currently. There will be banner attachments allowed on cobra heads.

Jennifer presented the decorative street lighting option that was chosen.

Jennifer went over the payment material and color.

The benches were chosen in green. There are 17 new benches.

Sean Stanton suggested that the bench color change to black to match the bike racks and trash receptacles.

Joe Sokul said that the existing benches, which are green, are part of the plan and so the new ones were chosen to match.

Sean replied that the town should fundraise for replacement benches, but the current ones should be painted black, in the meantime.

Deb Phillips asked for the cost of a new bench.

Joe Sokul replied that they are \$1500 each.

Eileen Mooney asked if the benches have already been appropriated.

Deb replied that they have been appropriated for.

Dan Bailly said that the Historic District has purview over the streetscape. Their only request is to keep the cement benches in front of Town Hall.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to change the color of the benches to black

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

The Selectboard agreed to keep the ornamental light poles black.

Jennifer Tabakin explained that National Grid will be coming for a 'field visit' to demonstrate the light wattage options.

Deb Phillips asked that the Selectboard be notified of this date so they can participate. Sean Stanton expressed concern regarding the sidewalk color. He said that the sidewalk color should be dark gray, not brown.

#### B. UPDATE ON HOUSATONIC SCHOOL.

Jennifer Tabakin reviewed a timeline and suggested process.

Jennifer spoke about the adaptive re-use of the building. The building will remain as a community facility and the park will remain as a park and town commons.

There is administrative work being done and Jennifer asked the Selectboard to authorize her, as Town Manager, to receive proposals for special counsel to help with this real estate deal.

Sean Stanton asked Jennifer if she will come back to the Selectboard with the proposals. Jennifer responded that the Selectboard can review the proposals with her or she can come back with a recommendation. The Selectboard does appoint the counsel.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to authorize Jennifer Tabakin to receive proposals for special counsel.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

The Town Manager reported that the Town Planner will be proposing a bigger site boundary at the Housatonic school, which is a minor change but may require a survey. This will also go to the Planning Board for approval.

Deb Phillips asked if this would need to go to Town Meeting since separating the properties went to Town Meeting previously.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she doesn't believe so.

Sean Stanton disagreed since the property line is being changed.

Jennifer said that she will come back to the Selectboard with more details.

The Town Manager said that she is working with the Housatonic Water Co. to scope and estimate the work that needs to be done in order to add sprinklers to the building.

Jennifer recommended an open house as part of the marketing plan.

The RFP should be very broad to open up opportunity. The RFP should be ready in January or February, with a legal review in March.

#### C. UPDATE ON RAMSDELL LIBRARY

The Library Director reported that the Library Board of Trustees has recommended that the Ramsdell Library hours be changed to the following: Tues, Thurs and Fri 10-5, Wed 12:30 – 8:30 and Sat. 10-3. The Ramsdell Library does not currently offer children's programs so this change will allow an opportunity to do so. This change will add a half hour overall. This schedule will begin the first full week of January.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she recommends this and said it can be tried and re-assessed seasonally.

### 6. NEW BUSINESS:

#### A. KIRT MAYLAND – REQUEST FOR GB TO SERVE AS HOST FOR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH SUNLIGHT GENERAL CAPITAL. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Jennifer Tabakin recapped the basics of the project. She explained that entering into the agreement will result in getting solar net meter credits to provide to the town and the school.

Kirt Mayland requested that the Selectboard authorize Jennifer Tabakin to sign the application for net metering.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to authorize Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin, to submit a net metering application to the Department of Public Utilities in connection with the solar electric generating facility project to be located off of Park St. and for which the town will serve as host and customer including a request for classification as the municipality or other governmental entity and to authorize the Town Manager to designate, as appropriate, project officials to act on behalf of the town with respect to such application.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**B. SB – REQUEST FROM THE TREE COMMITTEE TO DECREASE MEMBERSHIP.  
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

Dennis Gibbons explained that the committee can't fill its membership and requested a decrease.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to change the tree committee membership from 11 to 7.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**C. SB – AMENDMENT TO THE TREE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to amend the tree committee resolution to reflect the decreased membership.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**D. SB – TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO RECEIVE PROPOSALS FOR SPECIAL  
COUNSEL ON MUNICIPAL REAL ESTATE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to authorize Jennifer Tabakin to receive proposals for special counsel.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**7. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

Karen Christensen introduced a citizen initiative regarding the high school project. She presented a petition with 50 signatures that included items such as the need for a master plan for education, undertaking the most important repairs by hiring local contractors and increasing financial transparency by creating a three-town finance committee.

Ron Banks spoke about the petition that Karen Christensen presented. He stated that town taxes in other states are not based on the number of children in the school but is based on property value. He feels that there needs to be a change and said that the solution needs to be a good one for Great Barrington into the future. Ron quoted some figures of costs broken down by town, tuition and cost over 5, 10 and 15 years.

Sharon Gregory stated that the Finance Committee supported the principals of the petition. She said that she supports the idea of having a multi-town finance committee to meet with the school committee.

Sharon stated that the Selectboard controls half of the 25 million dollar budget and the School Board controls the other half. The town has very little visibility over the school budget, hence 'a disconnect.' Sharon feels that the Finance Committee can bridge the gap that has surfaced over the recent vote. Sean Stanton responded to Sharon Gregory that the Selectboard does not control half of a 25 million dollar budget; "that's not how it works." The Selectboard and Finance Committee agree on the budget that is sent to town meeting, where it is voted upon.

**8. SELECTBOARD'S TIME: None**

**9. MEDIA TIME: None**

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Sean Stanton, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker  
Recording Secretary