

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015  
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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 4, 2015 Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve the February 4, 2015 minutes

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

February 9, 2015 Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve the February 9, 2015 minutes

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

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

**A. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD**

Sean Stanton announced that the Fire District is asking residents to keep their water running in a pencil width stream during this extreme cold to prevent freezing pipes.

**B. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR**

Ed Abrahams asked about the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. He asked for clarification about what meeting is scheduled. (see response in the Town Managers report below – letter i)

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

- a. Jennifer Tabakin congratulated Cara Becker in her new position as the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Police Chief. Cara will continue in her role as recording secretary for the Selectboard.
- b. DCAMM will be holding a training at the Fire Department on 3/18/15 for local contractors from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Pre-registering is required. The Town Manager will e-mail the information to the media in order to get the word out. Information is also on the town website.
- c. Mass. DOT is holding a public hearing on 3/10/15 about the Route 183 (Park Street) bridge construction in Housatonic.
- d. The spot saver launch party is on 2/25/15 at Castle Street Café at 5:00 PM.
- e. Thank you to intern, Ryan Caruso/BRPC, for his work on entering lot dimensions on the tax map for the Assessor's office.
- f. There has been a public service announcement from the Mass. Department of Public Safety about heavy loads on roofs; the information will be available on the town website.
- g. Thanks to the Fire Department for their hard work tending to many calls.

h. There was a Library meeting with Project Native and Greenagers in which there was discussion about having a seed library. The possibility is being explored.

i. There will be a Planning Board public hearing on 3/12/15 at 7:00 PM at town hall regarding zoning in Housatonic. Chris Rembold will be in Housatonic to answer questions on the next 2 Wednesdays at the Ramsdell Library.

Chris Rembold also just met a grant deadline for the Community Development Block Grant for \$874,000 which includes a housing component and portions of the drainage project.

j. Council on Aging Director, Polly Mann, is participating in the 'Age Friendly Community' grant project.

k. Thank you to the Historic Commission's, Gary Leveille, for organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Ramsdell Library and for the archiving work.

l. Kirt Mayland advised the Town Manager know that there has been a delay on the signing of the Housatonic Solar array paperwork. However, this will progress soon.

Jennifer Tabakin reported on the Housatonic School.

A task force will be created, therefore, a selection committee will be needed. The Selectboard agreed that they should be the selection committee for the task force.

Jennifer said that Paul Ivory, Chairman of the Historical Commission, prepared information about listing the school on the historic register. Historic tax credits would go to someone who wants to make the purchase. Jennifer said that this information should be part of the packet. Mr. Ivory recommended hiring an architectural historian who will prepare the information to be submitted to the historic register. The Town Manager said that there is money in the development line in the budget for this. This information would be giving the buyer an option and is not binding.

The Selectboard agreed that it is a good idea to give the buyer the option.

Steve Bannon asked the Town Manager to come back with an estimated cost.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve hiring an architectural historian.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

Jennifer Tabakin reported that parking is an issue near the Housatonic school. She has received many calls and people want to know how much parking is available with the school. Jennifer said that the new zoning will provide alternatives. She would like to come up with more alternatives to address parking needs.

1. The Town Manager is looking for ideas for more parking.
2. The Town Manager would like a Selectboard member to come and discuss this topic.

Dan Bailly and Ed Abrahams agreed to meet, discuss and give suggestions. Ed Abrahams suggested that the Planning Board be part of the Housatonic parking conversation.

Dan Bailly asked if overnight parking is allowed at the Housatonic School.

Jennifer Tabakin responded that it is not and there has been no complaints in the past.

Dan said that many cars have been parking overnight and some seem to have been there for an extended period of time.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she will look into it and see what cars are there long-term.

The Town Manager said that Town Counsel has responded regarding the proposed petition articles. He said the 4 that would affect the School District would require an amendment to the regional school agreement. The other petition articles would require a resolution and, therefore, would be advisory only. Steve Bannon said that it should be the Selectboard's policy, going forward, to have the Town Counsel review petition articles before-hand.

Deb Phillips said that it will be explained at Town Meeting that these articles are advisory only.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. GARY STOLLER/350MA GROUP-REQUEST FOR SB TO PASS A RESOLUTION FOR THE STATE PENSION FUND TO DIVESTMENT ITS HOLDINGS IN FOSSIL FUELS.

Gary Stoller presented a resolution to the Selectboard.

He explained that 350MA is a statewide, grass-roots, environmental organization that is working on a few campaigns for environmental changes. Their goal is to make Massachusetts the first state to divest its

funds in fossil fuels. Mr. Stoller said that Great Barrington's funds go to the Berkshire County Retirement System which invests in PRIT, which is also being targeted by Sen. Ben Downing.

Mr. Stoller explained points in the resolution.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to make changes as appropriate and create a resolution for the Selectboard to review and one to be created for the warrant for Town Meeting.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

B. SB RECOMMENDATION TO ZBA ON THE SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION OF PAUL GREENE ON BEHALF OF NICKI WILSON TO CONSTRUCT A SCRENEED PORCH ON THE REAR OF A PRE-EXISTING, NON-CONFORMING DWELLING AT 80 CASTLE HILL AVENUE. Jennifer Tabakin said that this has been reviewed by town staff. The project includes replacing a porch on the existing footprint.

The Town Manager was asked to request the owner to appear at the next meeting.

No recommendation was made by the Selectboard.

C. SB - APPOINTMENT OF FENCE VIEWERS

Bernie Drew introduced himself and spoke about his interest in being a fence viewer.

Kirt Barbieri also expressed interest but was not present.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to appoint Kirt Barbieri and Bernie Drew as fence viewers.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

D. PARKING REQUEST

Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin, said that a request has come from the film department. A television shoot is coming to Great Barrington and we would like to provide them parking. The filming will take place in various stores.

The location of the parking spots was presented.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve reserving between 8 and 12 parking spots on Friday 2/27/15 and Sunday 2/29/15.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 4-0-1 Dan Bailly recused**

Jennifer Tabakin said that the Selectboard may want to consider creating a fee schedule for such events in the future.

6. **CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:** None

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

8. **MEDIA TIME:** None

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Sean Stanton, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary