

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD

Ed Abrahams thanked Joe Sokul and his staff for all the work that they have done to keep the streets clear. Dan Bailly echoed the sentiment.

3. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

**A. CHANGE OF DBA (DOING BUSINESS AS) MEZZE SOUTH INC. (D/B/A VERDURA)
TO MEZZE SOUTH INC. (D/B/A ALLIUM) AT 42-44 RAILROAD STREET.
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve the change of DBA

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

**B. JENISE LUCEY/BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ONE DAY
BEER AND WINE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR MARCH 5, 2015 FROM 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM AT
15 CRISSEY ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve the license

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

**C. GB HISTORIC PRESERVATION LLC (PAUL JOFFE) FOR A DRIVEWAY PERMIT AT
198 MAIN STREET. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

Steve Mack, representing Foresight Land Services, explained the project. He said that this is part of the work on the Church property. A curb-cut application needs to be approved by the Town first then the State will review it in order to be part of the Main Street reconstruction project.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve subject to the conditions in the letter, as well as, the supplemental conditions.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jennifer Tabakin gave an update regarding the spot saver program. She said that the signs are in and ready to be put up. There will be a party for merchants at Castle Street Café on Wednesday, February 25 @ 5:00 pm. Thanks to Michael Ballon for helping to launch the program and get the word out. RSVP to Betsy Andrus at the Chamber.

The Town Manager thanked the DPW for the snow removal.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SB APPOINTMENT TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE HOUSING AUTHORITY UNTIL THE NEXT ANNUAL ELECTION. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

The Housing Authority emailed their support.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to appoint Nan Wile

SECOND: Steve Bannon

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ed Abrahams –yes

Dan Bailly – yes

Steve Bannon – yes

Deb Phillips – yes

Sean Stanton – yes

VOTE: 5-0 Motion Carries

B. BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY/VIN RONGHI- PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL EXPRESS ROUTE FROM GREAT BARRINGTON TO PITTSFIELD AND REVERSE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin, spoke about the proposal from BRTA. She gave the details regarding the bus service being added in the morning and in the afternoon. These would be considered ‘express’ routes. There will be a six month trial period at no cost to the town. In six months, the ridership numbers will be re-assessed.

Deb Phillips asked if BRTA will let us know after the six months if there will be a cost to the town. She also asked if the cost would be shared with Lenox and Stockbridge.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she will find out.

Steve Bannon asked if they will advertise this additional service.

Ed Abrahams asked when it will start.

Jennifer replied that the plan does not specify a start date.

Sean Stanton asked what the long term plans are for Sheffield and outlying towns.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve the proposal with the caveat that the following questions be answered: Will the additional service be advertised? Will they let us know what the additional assessment cost will be after 6 months if this is successful and will it be shared with Lenox and Stockbridge? When will the additional service begin? What are the long term plans for Sheffield and other outlying towns?

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

C. REFERRAL OF ZONING AMENDMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Jonathan Hankin explained that zoning came to Great Barrington in 1932. Over time, zoning has been imposed on existing fabric, sometimes unsuccessfully. The goal of the Planning Board with these amendments is to create zoning to reflect the fabric of Housatonic.

Town Planner, Chris Rembold, said that there will be a Public Hearing on March 12, 7:00 PM in the town hall meeting room.

The amendments were as follows:

-Create a new Housatonic Village Center district and amend the Zoning Map to rezone the center of the Housatonic Village from B2 General Business to HVC

-Create a new Housatonic Village Overlay District.

-Amend the Zoning Map to rezone the R1B One-Family high Density Residential areas of Housatonic to R3 General Residential.

-Revise the existing B1 neighborhood business regulations and amend the Zoning Map to rezone the North Plain Rd. B2 zone to B1.

-Amend the Zoning Map to change two lots on Pothul Drive at Castle Hill Ave. from R2 to R1A to bring them into conformance.

- Amend the height regulations and definitions of accessory buildings and accessory uses in order to allow for construction of garages or barns with accessory dwelling units and the constructions of accessory buildings on adjacent lots in common ownership.

Maps were provided for reference.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to refer the zoning amendments back to the Planning Board for advertising the public hearing.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

**D. PETER DILLON/BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
RE: REGIONAL SCHOOL AGREEMENT. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

Steve Bannon explained that the School District is looking to re-open the regional school agreement. The reason for this is that the agreement is antiquated and needs to be re-written. They would also like to take a look at funding formulas.

Any changes to the agreement would have to be unanimous by the School Committee.

A committee would need to be formed to discuss this and the district will bear the cost of a facilitator.

Deb Phillips said that this would be a clearly defined process and any changes would need to be agreed upon by all towns.

The Town Manager suggested that other towns that are dealing with this same situation should be looked at for reference.

Superintendent, Peter Dillon, said that the committee would be created and begin around September and work until January/February.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to give permission to form a Regional School Agreement Committee.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

6. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

- KAREN CHRISTENSEN – SCHOOL ISSUES- not present
Deb Phillips read a letter written by Dana Dapolito into the record.

7. SELECTBOARD'S TIME: none

8. MEDIA TIME: None

9. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Sean Stanton, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary