

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2015
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION
TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: ED ABRAHAMS – not present
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
BILL COOKE
SEAN STANTON – not present

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Vice Chairman, Steve Bannon, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD – none

B. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR

The calendar was presented for the Selectboard's review.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jennifer Tabakin thanked Police Chief Walsh for being part of her most recent radio show.

She also congratulated the Police Department on achieving re-certification. The process was 2 days long and very impressive.

The Town Manager welcomed Travis Weigle to the DPW.

Jennifer announced that the town has a new facebook page. She encouraged residents to provide the town with their E-mail address for further updates.

The Community Preservation Act applications are now due in September, which is different from last year.

The Town Manager requested the Selectboard to appoint Attorney Richard Dohoney to represent the Building Inspector at the ZBA hearing regarding Claudia Shapiro and Danny Bell 's appeal.'

MOTION: Dan Bailly to appoint Richard Dohoney as attorney for Ed May at the ZBA hearing.

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

The Town Manager announced that the environmental testing at Reed Cleaners is complete and the results are forthcoming.

The pot-hole repair on Lake Mansfield Rd. is complete. The RFP is out to get design work for the remainder of the road.

Upcoming

The bridge work in Housatonic will be put out to bid in September with the project beginning in spring 2016.

The Bridge St. bridge construction is planned for spring 2016 and will be done by the State.

The tax workshop will be rescheduled for August 11 or 12 at the Fire Station at 6:00pm. The agenda will be posted.

4. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. PATTY SPECTOR/THE JOSH BILLINGS RUNAGROUND TRIATHLON FOR PERMISSION TO USE TOWN ROADS FOR THE 39TH ANNUAL GREAT JOSH BILLINGS RUNAGROUND ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

This item was moved to a future meeting

B. JOHN KROL/ONE EIGHTY MEDIA, INC. FOR PERMISSION TO USE TOWN ROADS FOR KINDRED GREAT BARRINGTON NURSING AND REHABILITATION/THE BERKSHIRE RUNNING CENTER AND PORCHLIGHT VNA/HOME CARE FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL EIGHT MILE ROAD RACE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2015 TO START AND FINISH THE RACE IN THE VICINITY OF THE KINDRED GREAT BARRINGTON BUILDING ON MAPLE AVENUE/ ROUTES 23/41. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to grant permission

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

C. KATHLEEN RICHARDS/MAHAIWE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER FOR TEMPORARY OUTDOOR WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2015 FROM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM AT THE GAZEBO (TOWN GREEN) FOR BINDLESTIFF FAMILY CIRKUS. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to approve license

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

D. ROBIN M. VICKERY/ GREAT BARRINGTON FISH AND GAME FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2015 FROM 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM AT 338 LONG POND ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to approve license

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

E. BETSY ANDRUS/SO. BERKSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AS FOLLOWS:

1. PERMISSION TO HOLD THE 3RD GB DIG AND DINE BBQ IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2015 FROM 5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Betsy Andrus said that the rain-date is flexible.

MOTION: Dan Bailly to grant permission

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

2. TEMPORARY OUTDOOR WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2015 FROM 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM FOR PING PONG BALL DROP AND BAND IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

The Town Manager expressed her concern about the ping-pong ball drop, stating that they may go into the sewer basins and into the river. She said that a cleanup plan is needed.

Betsy Andrus replied that foam will be put on the catch basins to prevent the balls from going in. She said that volunteers will help with cleanup.

MOTION: Dan Bailly to approve license

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

3. TEMPORARY OUTDOOR WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2015 FROM 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM AT THE CORNER OF CHURCH AND MAIN STREETS FOR BAND AND 4:30 PM TO 10:00 PM FOR BANDS AND FIREWORKS AT SKI BUTTERNUT. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to approve license

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

4. TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015 FROM 4:30 PM – 10:00 PM (**RAIN DATE**) FOR BANDS AND FIREWORKS AT SKI BUTTERNUT. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to approve license

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

5. PERMISSION TO CLOSE MAIN STREET (THE SOUTHBOUND LANE FROM BERKSHIRE BANK TO TOWN HALL) ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015 FROM 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM FOR PET PARADE IN DOWNTOWN. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to grant permission

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

6. TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT FOR AUGUST 30, 2015 FROM 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL FOR PET FEST. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to approve license

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

- F. DAVID P. RYEL/SKI BUTTERNUT/I.E. INC. FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2015 (RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015) FROM 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM FOR G.B. SUMMERFEST AT 380 STATE ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to approve license

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

5. NEW BUSINESS:

Paul Joffe presented his plan to bury 100 time capsules under the foundation of the Church during renovation of his commercial property. He invited anyone who is interested to register at 198Mainst.com. The capsules are free.

- A. SB – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Jessica Camp introduced herself and expressed interest in the Agricultural Commission.

MOTION: Dan Bailly to appoint Jessica Camp to the Agricultural Commission

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

- B. SB – RECOMMENDATION TO THE ZBA ON ZACHARY CULBRETH'S APPLICATION

FOR A SPECIAL PERMIT TO DEMOLISH AND REBUILD A PRE-EXISTING NON-CONFORMING GARAGE IN A NEW LOCATION ON PROPERTY AT 170 TACONIC AVENUE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to send a positive recommendation to the ZBA

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

C. SB – RECOMMENDATION TO THE ZBA ON CLAUDIA J. SHAPIRO’S APPEAL OF THE BUILDING COMMISSIONER’S REFUSAL TO UNDERTAKE ZONING ENFORCEMENT REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S ISSUANCE OF AN ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE (AUGUST 18, 2013) FOR A FLY-IN AT GREAT BARRINGTON AIRPORT. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Dan Bailly to send a letter of recommendation to the ZBA to uphold the Building Inspectors ruling that the ‘Fly In’ activity does not violate zoning.

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-0

6. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Steve Bannon read a letter into the record from Dana Dapolito regarding the split rate tax.

Chip Elitzer – 39 Alford Rd. Great Barrington – said that he is a proponent to the split tax rate. He explained, with the split tax rate, that when you eliminate LLC’s and multiple home owners, you only have an \$880 savings. Approximately 102 properties would save \$400 or more. Mr. Elitzer said that this is not business friendly and sends a message that 2nd homeowners are not wanted.

Michele Loubert asked if the DOR will be invited to the tax workshop.

Jennifer Tabakin replied that they have said that they are not available.

Michele Loubert asked if the Town Manager would be open to a citizen reaching out to them to arrange their participation.

Jennifer Tabakin asked that Michele contact her to discuss this further.

Nancy Orenstein – 4 Alford Rd., said thank you to the police and all who have slowed down on the hill. She expressed concern that parents allow their children to play in the street. She asked that this be communicated to the police so they can see where the parents are when the children are in the street alone.

A citizen said that there is a swastika spray painted on an electric meter on Division St and said that nothing has been done to cover it.

Vivian Orłowski- Lakeview Rd, Great Barrington, asked the Selectboard to take the lead in the tax forum and suggested that the tax rate information be communicated.

Steve Bannon said that a joint meeting should be set to discuss. He suggested that Michael Wise bring his presentation to the Finance Committee and have them bring it to the Selectboard. No proposals from the Finance Committee have been made.

Ms. Orłowski said that timing is key for buyers, sellers and investors.

Steve Bannon said that he will communicate with Michael Wise.

Will Ryan – 116 Brush Hill Rd., said that he will be affected by the tax increase. His decision to buy in Great Barrington was difficult because the tax rate is higher. If this change is made, he may move and pointed out that his purchase power moves with him. He feels this tax rate decision will be sending a negative message.

7. SELECTBOARD’S TIME: None

8. MEDIA TIME: Eileen Mooney asked about the status of the Housatonic School. Steve Bannon replied that the RFP is not ready yet.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Dan Bailly, seconded by Bill Cooke, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the phrase "Respectfully submitted,".

Cara Becker
Recording Secretary