

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

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

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

**7:00 PM - OPEN MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER.**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 13, 2015 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve the April 13, 2015 minutes

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

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

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

Ed Abrahams invited all to participate in the Great Barrington Historical Society House Tour. Ed read the flyer with all of the details.

Dan Bailly thanked Deb Phillips for her service on the Selectboard and wished her luck. Dan wished Sean Stanton good luck in the upcoming election.

Steve Bannon thanked Deb Phillips for her work on the Selectboard. He said that this has been the most enjoyable Board to be on and said that it has been enjoyable working with her.

Sean Stanton thanked Deb Phillips and said that it has been a pleasure.

Deb Phillips said that it has been a great Board to be on and it has been great working together. Deb thanked Rosa Zubizarrita for an exceptional beginning to the community forum meetings. The information from the meeting is being collated. There will be more information to come.

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

The next Selectboard meeting will be Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Bailly reminded all that tomorrow is the candidate's forum from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at the Claire Teague Center and reminded the public about the upcoming Mini Town meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm at the Fire Station.

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

Jennifer Tabakin thanked Deb for her service and thanked her for taking time to teach others while providing information about resources. Jennifer expressed her appreciation for this.

Jennifer Tabakin handed out the Act Now flyer from MMA about the state budget which outlines all relevant points about local funding. Jennifer encouraged all to consider calling our representatives.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she has received a request from Mahaiwe for leniency of parking regulations on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 4:30 pm during the opera. They have also asked that four parking spots be reserved on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to put out race cars in front of Mahaiwe to draw attention to the Paul Newman documentary.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to suspend parking enforcement on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 until midnight

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to reserve 4 spots on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in front of the Mahaiwe Theatre.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- UPDATE ON DATA REPORTING SYSTEM

Jennifer introduced a product that she recommends the town consider that would link to the town's current internal MUNIS system. The new product would interface with graphics, charts, etc. It would also allow the ability to drill down on information as seen. This would have a cost attached to it; an initial set-up cost of the software (approximately \$2500) and then an ongoing maintenance cost (approximately \$5000 a year). Jennifer gave the printed information to the Selectboard.

Deb Phillips said that this would be a line item after 2016.

Ed Abrahams asked how long the contract would be for.

Jennifer responded that that she feels that we would need to commit for at least 3 years but she will find out about the cancellation policy.

- WEBMASTER AND WEBPAGE REDESIGN

Jennifer Tabakin reported that there is ongoing work to re-design our website. The goal is to have a user-friendly front page. There should be a mock up done soon. \$1500 was budgeted for this.

**5. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

**A. DEBRA STORY FOR A DRIVEWAY PERMIT ON WEST SHEFFIELD ROAD.**

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

James Kelly represented Debra Story. Mr. Kelly said that there was a water run-off concern and there will be a change to fix this problem.

Deb Phillips spoke about the concern regarding the need for more water bars.

Mr. Kelly responded that a berm can be put across the old road to decrease run-off.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve with conditions as submitted.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

**B. RICHARD BROUSSEAU FOR A DRIVEWAY PERMIT AT 25 LAKE AVENUE.**

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

DPW Superintendent, Joe Sokul reported that there were no negative comments from the Town Planner on behalf of the recommending Boards/Committees/Commissions.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

**C. RUNNING AWAY/MATT LINICK FOR PERMISSION TO UTILIZE TOWN ROADS (ROUTE 183, DIVISION STREET, ROUTE 41 AND VAN DEUSENVILLE ROAD) ON MAY 24, 2015 FOR THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY RACE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

DPW Superintendent, Joe Sokul said that this will be the 6<sup>th</sup> year for this event. 1500 runners are expected.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to grant permission.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

**D. BETSY ANDRUS/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/GB DIG AND DINE – PRESENTATION.**

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Betsy Andrus and Barbara Watkins presented this event. The Dig and Dine event will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> either on the sidewalk or on the street depending on the construction status. There will be 25 tables with 200 people. Castle Street Café, Prairie Whale, Allium, and Berkshire Mountain Bakery will all provide a part of the meal. This event is co-sponsored by the Town.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- E. COCA-COLA REFRESHMENTS USA INC. FOR AN ANNUAL 2015 COIN OPERATED SOFT DRINKS AND FOOD MACHINES LICENSE AT S & A SUPPLY, 20 MAPLE AVENUE.

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- F. COCA-COLA REFRESHMENTS USA INC. FOR AN ANNUAL 2015 COIN OPERATED SOFT DRINKS AND FOOD MACHINES LICENSE AT SEWARDS TIRES INC., 952 MAIN STREET.

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- G. ANDREW BELCHER/MASS BLISS, LLC FOR TWO (2) TEMPORARY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES FOR JULY 10, 2015 (OUTDOORS) FROM 5:00 PM-11:00 PM AND (INDOORS) FROM 10:00 PM – 2:00 AM; AND JULY 11, 2015 (OUTDOORS 5:00 AM-11:00 PM) AND (INDOORS) FROM 10:00 PM – MIDNIGHT AT SKI BUTTERNUT.

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Andrew Belcher presented this event. The event will include music, theatre, yoga, fitness programs and more. The event is family friendly.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- H. ANDREW BELCHER/MASS BLISS, LLC FOR TEMPORARY SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR JULY 12, 2015 FROM 12:01 AM – 2:00 AM AND 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM

(INDOORS AND OUTDOORS) AT SKI BUTTERNUT. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- I. JEFF CAMINITI AND HOWARD LIEBERMAN/EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS/STONE SOUP VENTURES FOR TWELVE (12) TEMPORARY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES FOR MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, JULY 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015 FROM NOON UNTIL 8:00 PM AT GB FAIRGROUNDS. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- J. BRUCE BERNSTEIN/AGE TRIAD AND EGREMONT COA FOR PERMISSION TO CLOSE WEST PLAIN ROAD (JUST PAST THE FIRST STEINER SCHOOL PARKING LOT) FOR A ONE MILE COURSE ON JUNE 1, 2015 FROM 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Bruce Bernstein distributed a map of the course to the Selectboard. This is an intergenerational walk that will include Steiner School students. The Egremont Police Chief Brian Shaw and Chief Walsh have approved the details of the event.

Sean Stanton asked that the farm owner be notified of the event.

Mr. Bernstein replied that he would notify the owner.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve with the caveat that the farmer is notified

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- K. SARAH DONALDSON/CHARLEY'S FUND FOR PERMISSION TO USE ROUTE 7, BROOKSIDE ROAD AND EAST SHEFFIELD ROAD STARTING AND ENDING AT THE GB FAIRGROUNDS ON JUNE 27, 2015 FROM 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM FOR THE 2015 CHARLEY RIDE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Sarah Donaldson reported that this event will begin at the Fairgrounds this year and presented the route.

She also requested a letter from the Selectboard saying that they approve the use of State Roads.

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

## 6. OLD BUSINESS:

### A. TOWN MANAGER'S EVALUATION. (DISCUSSION)

Deb Phillips presented an overview of the Town Manager's evaluation. She read each category and the score that was given. Each member of the Selectboard answered particular questions in the narrative section. The Selectboard will go into Executive Session without the Town Manager to discuss the Town Manager's contract.

Eileen Mooney asked when this evaluation was done.

Deb Phillips replied that it was done over the last couple of weeks.

Eileen Mooney said that the Selectboard was going to provide her with a summary of the first evaluation.

Deb Phillips said that she has decided not to as per the Attorney General's response to the appeal.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS:

### A. GB21 COALITION MEMBERS (RON BANKS, VIVIAN ORLOWSKI AND KAREN CHRISTENSEN) – POWER POINT PRESENTATION TO REQUEST SELECTBOARD'S SUPPORT FOR 21ST CENTURY INITIATIVES INCLUDING STRATEGY, BUDGET AND COMMUNITY. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Ron Banks spoke about the issues that he feels need addressing. He spoke about the OPEB trust and what he feels is a large number for the town to undertake.

Mr. Banks also spoke about school concerns, stating as the school budget increases each year, the 'choice towns' don't participate in inflation, pension obligations etc. He said that a change is needed. He also suggested the option of school district consolidation.

Karen Christensen explained that GB21 was founded to fight the school renovation vote, but now have many focuses. She discussed some of the focuses. She stated that GB21 is looking for a more open government and more equitable school system. Ms. Christensen asked the Selectboard how a group such as GB21 can move forward and be helpful.

Deb Phillips responded that bringing ideas to the Selectboard and Town Manager is helpful. She added that citizen speak time is always a time for communication and discussion. Deb encouraged citizens to volunteer and get involved.

Karen Christensen said that GB21 is trying to have an integrated approach and strategic planning is their focus.

### B. FARMER'S MARKET PARKING PLAN. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Howard Lefenfeld, manager of the Great Barrington Farmers Market, distributed his parking plan for the market. The Farmers Market will be held on Saturdays, May 9 – October 31 from 9am-1pm on Church St. in Great Barrington. 28 local vendors will be present and SNAP/WIC will be accepted. Posters about the event and new location will be in stores.

Deb Phillips asked if there will be signage on Main St. pointing to where to turn to get to the location.

Mr. Lefenfeld replied that there will be signage.

Jennifer Tabakin said that there will be follow up and changes can be made along the way.

Steve Bannon said that he thinks that this will be a 'traffic nightmare.' He asked if anyone will be covering the Church parking lot so that no one parks there. He also asked if any police officers will be covering the event.

Mr. Lefenfeld said that he will post signs in the Church parking lot saying that the spots are reserved. He added that Police Chief Walsh suggested having a volunteer near the lot to deter parking.

Steve Bannon expressed his concern that this may discourage people from coming downtown.

Mr. Lefenfeld said the merchants are happy to have the market downtown.

Jennifer Tabakin said that Chief Walsh approved the plan. She added that it is not the police's responsibility to manage parking in a private lot.

Steve Bannon said that this plan came late and he does not feel that there is enough information to help the Selectboard determine if the plan is ok.

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to approve for the May 9<sup>th</sup> market and to be reviewed at the next Selectboard meeting.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

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

**Request from BIFF for banners**

**MOTION:** Sean Stanton to approve the request from BIFF for banners on the National Grid light poles.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

**8. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

Michael Wise presented information regarding taxes. Mr. Wise gave solutions to increasing taxes which included the possibility of a split rate or a residential exemption. This would make taxes more progressive. Ed Abrahams thanked Mr. Wise for the specific and well thought out document that he presented to the Selectboard.

Deb Philips suggested talking about this in August in anticipation of setting the tax rate.

Jennifer Tabakin said they would need to see how to actually implement these ideas with the most basic steps and see what needs to be done.

David Magadini reminded citizens to participate in Town Meeting.

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

**10. MEDIA TIME: None**

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Sean Stanton, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:40 P.M.

**Motion:** Steve Bannon to convene into Executive Session and Not to Return to public session as per MGL. re: the Town Manager's Contract Negotiations (M.G.L. c.30A, sec.21 #2)

**Second:** Sean Stanton

**Roll Call Vote:** ED ABRAHAMS - yes  
DANIEL BAILLY – yes  
STEPHEN BANNON - yes  
DEB PHILLIPS - yes  
SEAN STANTON – yes

**Motion Passed:** **VOTE:** 5-0

Dan Bailly stated that he will refrain from any vote on this matter due to a conflict of interest.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary