

SELECTBOARD'S MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

7:00 PM – REGULAR SESSION

TOWN HALL, 334 MAIN STREET

PRESENT:

Sean Stanton
Steve Bannon
Dan Bailly
Ed Abrahams
Bill Cooke

Jennifer Tabakin – Town Manager

7:00 PM - OPEN MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 31, 2017 Special Meeting.

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the July 31, 2017 meeting minutes

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

3. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. General Comments by the Board.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. Department Updates

- Housatonic Water Works meeting is Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 6:00PM. This meeting will be held at the Housatonic Community Center and Mr. Mercer will review the recent lead and copper results.
- Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at the Mason Library there will be a program offered titled "News Literacy, Who do I Believe." Steve Fox, a journalist will present this program and it will begin at 5:30pm.
- Friday, November 29, 2017 Simon's Rock students will be offering a story time for toddlers from 11:00am- 12:30PM. The students will also provide tech help at the library that afternoon from 1:00-3:30PM as part of their annual community service day.
- A reminder that property taxes are due on November 1, 2017.
- Congratulations to Bill Cooke who was nominated to be an alternate on the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- October 14, 2017 is Bulky Waste Collection Day at the Transfer Station.

B. Project Updates

- Municipal Aggregation

Nextera was selected as the best option as electrical supplier. Nextera is 100% wind power with a rate of .105990.

- Downtown Parking

The Town Manager reported that she met with several residents this past week that requested more downtown parking. The concern was raised that there is not enough parking for people that live downtown and what is there has a 4 hour time limit. Ms. Tabakin said that she will begin to research this demand and report back to the Board in a few weeks on what locations might be doable for long term or additional parking.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. To review and receive comments on the implementation of the FY14 CDBG CDF I 00763 Great Barrington Community Development Block Grant, including Front Street Drainage Improvements Construction Project and the Housing Rehabilitation Program. Residents and interested individuals from Great Barrington are encouraged to attend and participate.
- a. Discussion/Public Comments
Bill Compton, the Senior Planner and representative of the grant administrator reported to the Board on the recent developments of the Community Development Block Grants. The funds were used for a Great Barrington Housing Rehabilitation program that rehabilitated two owner occupied homes and the Front Street drainage project that provided updated drainage to the Monument Mills area in Housatonic Village.
Dan Bailly asked what the number of applicants was for the housing rehabilitation funding. Mr. Compton said that he did not have an exact number but the waiting list has close to 50 homeowners.
Bill Cooke said that the Great Barrington Housing Trust Committee has applied for CPA funding to continue this rehabilitation program. Dan Bailly asked if this grant will be available to Great Barrington in the future. Mr. Compton said that this particular grant has expired but the grant program is available to any community in Massachusetts.
- B. Familia Botanica, LLC d/b/a Botanica, Carla L. Blades, Manager for a new Common Victualler Restaurant All Alcoholic Liquor License with seasonal outdoor seating up to 8 seats at 34 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. (Discussion/Vote)
- a. Open Public Hearing
MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to open the public hearing.
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0
- b. Explanation of Project
Atty. Nick Arienti represented the owners of Familia Botanica, LLC. Owners are Carla Blades and Adam Medina. Botanica is intended to be a café serving breakfast, lunch, and eventually dinner with the approval of a future liquor license. Café Botanica will have a seating capacity of 55 seats with some seasonal outside seating.
Sean Stanton asked where the garbage is intended to go. Co-Owner Adam Medina said that all occupants of the building use the back alley way for garbage storage as provided by the owner of the building.
- c. Speak in Favor/Opposition
- d. Motion to Close Public Hearing
MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to close the public hearing
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0
- e. Motion re: Findings

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Completed application was submitted to the Selectboard on August 2, 2017.

Public Hearing was properly advertised in the Berkshire Record for two (2) consecutive weeks on September 15 and September 22, 2017.

Public Hearing is scheduled for September 25, 2017 @ 7:00 PM at Town Hall, 334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

No impediments were disclosed as to the approval or denial for a new Common Victualler All Alcoholic Restaurant Liquor License at 34 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Motion: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Findings of Fact on the application of Familia Botanica, LLC d/b/a Botanica, Carla L. Blades, Manager for a new Common Victualler All Alcoholic Restaurant Liquor License at 34 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230, and with the findings that the benefits of the proposal outweigh any possible detrimental impacts.

Second: Dan Bailly

Vote: 5-0

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

Motion: Steve Bannon motioned to approve Carla Blades as the Manager of the Common Victualler All Alcoholic Restaurant Liquor License located at 34 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Second: Dan Bailly

Vote: 5-0

C. Special Permit Application of Timeless Auto Sales, LLC, to permit a motor vehicle salesroom including used car lot at 109 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, in accordance with Sections 3.1.4 C (16) and 10.4 of the Zoning Bylaw. The Applicant seeks to operate on a portion of the premises, both utilizing office space in a portion of the existing building and parking cars for sale in 14 spaces of the existing parking lot. (Discussion/Vote)

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to open the public hearing.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

b. Explanation of Project

Atty. Laurie Robbins represented the applicant, Timeless Auto Sales, LLC. Atty. Robbins clarified the hours of operation will often oppose the operating hours of The Cove. Timeless Auto Sales will be open 9-5 and the bowling alley will be open in the evening. Ed Abrahams asked if there was parking in the back of the building. There is not an official parking lot in the back of the building but there is the potential for an additional parking lot behind the building. The cars that Timeless Auto will be selling are gently used, high-end European models such as Mercedes, Jaguars, etc. Ed Abrahams asked the owner if there would be the typical flood lighting you see used for dealerships. They said no, the parking lot lighting would not change.

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to continue the public hearing until October 2, 2017 at 6:00PM

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. George Laye/The Guthrie Center for three (3) One Day Beer and Wine Liquor Licenses for October 6, 7 and November 19, 2017 from 6:00 pm – 12:00 pm at the Guthrie Center, 2 VanDeusenville Road. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the three (3) One Day Beer and Wine Liquor Licenses.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. SB – To vote to enter into agreement with Mass Dept. of Fish and Game re: boat launch at Lake Mansfield. (Discussion/Vote)

Town Planner Chris Remold described the intention of the boat launch project. Mr. Remold said that the boat launch would essentially remain the same with some minor improvements to the parking area to prevent further erosion of the gravel into the lake. Mass Department of Fish and Game said that the first step in receiving the grant would be to sign a land management agreement. The land management agreement specifies that the Town cannot restrict use of boat launch for out of town residents and if fees were imposed to fairly charge out of town users in proportion to what local users are charged. The Lake Mansfield Task Force endorsed this agreement.

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to move forward with the Land Management Agreement.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- B. Open Meeting Law Complaint – Acknowledge receipt of August 29, 2017 complaint from Eileen Mooney questioning the legality of the Executive Session held on August 28, 2017 Selectboard's meeting did not comply with the Open Meeting Law. (Discussion/Vote)
Chair Stanton read into the record Town's Attorney response.

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to signify that the complaint is hereby resolved.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

8. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

9. SELECTBOARD'S TIME:

Dan Bailly asked to continue the wipes discussion at an upcoming meeting.

10. MEDIA TIME:

11. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Steve Bannon, seconded by Dan Bailly, and with a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Rebecca Jurczyk
Recording Secretary