

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 26, 2016
6:00 P.M. – REGULAR SESSION
7:00 P.M. – JOINT MEETING WITH THE PLANNING BOARD
TOWN HALL, 334 MAIN STREET**

PRESENT: ED ABRAHAMS
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
BILL COOKE
SEAN STANTON

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 27, 2016 Special Meeting.

Ed Abrahams abstained from the vote because he was not present for this meeting.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the July 27, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 4-0 (Mr. Abrahams abstained)

May 2, 2016 Executive Session.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the May 2, 2016 Executive Session Minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

August 8, 2016 Executive Session.

Ed Abrahams abstained from the vote because he was not present for this meeting.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the August 8, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 4-0 (Mr. Abrahams abstained)

August 22, 2016 Executive Session

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the August 22, 2016 Executive Session Minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

3. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. General Comments by the Board.

No comments were made.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Special thank you to the Fire Department for holding the public event last weekend.

5. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

- A. Michael Nugai/Berkshire SPAAMFAA for Temporary One Day Sunday Entertainment License for October 9, 2016 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Butternut Ski Area.
(Discussion/ Vote)

Mike Nugai noted that SPAAMFAA stands for “Society for the Preservation & Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America.”

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Temporary One Day Entertainment License.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- B.** L. Deborah Dauscher Bingham for a Driveway Permit at 32 East Street. (Discussion/ Vote).

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the permit subject to the DPW Superintendent’s conditions.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- C.** Dale Abrams/ Great Barrington Land Conservancy for permission to use town roads for Run for the Hills 5K/10K (Run & Walk) event on Sunday, October 2, 2016 from 9:00 AM with total time for the event running from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM starting at Bard College at Simon’s Rock then around Seekonk, Seekonk Cross and Round Hill Roads. (Discussion/Vote).

Dale Abrams spoke on behalf of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy. He informed the public that this event is open to both walkers and runners.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the event.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

7. OLD BUSINESS:

SB- Review of Lake Mansfield Comprehensive Improvement Plan. (Discussion/Vote)

Members of the Lake Mansfield Task Force presented on the immediacy of action needed to be taken on the design of the plan. The Task Force supports a one-lane road because it will enhance safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and all recreational users. The Conservation Commission Agent and Chair sent in a letter to the Selectboard describing the Conservation Commission’s reasons for support of the proposed plan.

Many attendees spoke in favor and opposition of the one lane road. Leigh Davis, Sumner Street Great Barrington summed up what most said in favor. “I am for the one way. I would be extremely inconvenienced if the road went to a one way, but I think there is a larger picture to keep in mind. I think the lake needs to be helped and this is one way we can help the lake. Emergency access is not limited by a one-way road. This is the most economically feasible way to improve the lake. As of right now it is unsafe to walk or bike on this road and my family has had a few close calls with traffic on the road. I think we should look at this as a compromise.” Nadine Foster, Haley Road, Great Barrington spoke in favor of keeping the road as a two way. She has facilitated a petition that has received 1,000 signatures in favor of keeping the road as is. She asked the Selectboard and the Lake Mansfield Task Force to keep in mind that there are many that are against a one-way road. Many that spoke in opposition of the one lane road expressed that it is still feasible to maintain the health of the lake and safety of recreational users while having traffic continue going both ways.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to have the Town Manager work with the Lake Mansfield Task Force to seek grant funding.

That the Lake Mansfield Task Force report back to the Selectboard prior to submission of the grant applications; at the completion of additional surveys and studies; at key milestones of the design phase for future decision making points and with the results of grant decisions.

That the Select Board recognize that the planning process started with the objective of addressing the environmental issues critical to preserving the health of the lake while providing safe access and recreational opportunities; that the study considered cost impacts; that the study considered the impacts on access and traffic; that the study was based on well researched options; that there were extensive opportunities to consider all comments seriously; and that the recommended preferred option is the best way to meet all of the public objectives.

That the Select Board recognizes that not addressing the disrepair of the road will present serious problems for the lake and impact access to the beach, and that simple repair of the existing road is not feasible given the structural instability of the current road and will not produce beneficial or sustainable long term results.

That the Selectboard recognizes that a narrower road option is critical to preservation of the water's edge and shore line, but the Selectboard hereby directs the Task Force to also study and/or test opportunities such as a two-way road shared by all users, a seasonal sharing of the road, or a plan to alternate the direction of the road.

SECOND: Ed Abrahams

VOTE: 5-0

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. "40R Smart Growth" Zoning. (Discussion)

7:00 PM – SELECT BOARD AND PLANNING BOARD – Joint Meeting.

PRESENT:

Brandee Nelson

Jonathan Hankin

Jeremy Higa

Pedro Pachano

BCRP's representatives Patricia Mullen and Mark Malloy we present for this joint meeting. Chris Rembold presented the Chapter 40R Smart Growth Zoning development plan. Several subzones for housing were outlined during the meeting as preliminary areas for discussion. The subzones include: the Housatonic Mills, Housatonic School, the Rising Mill, the parcel at Mahaiwe and Main Street, the VFW on South Main Street and the property on South Main and Brookside Road.

The joint meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Matthew O'Brien, of 33 Van Duesenville Rd., Great Barrington outlined several Housatonic community concerns such as the quality of the water, contaminants released by the solar farm construction zone, and the polluted sediment in the Housatonic River running through the community. He is worried that these environmental issues are depreciating the property value in Housatonic and the residents are the last to know about such issues.

The Selectboard assured Mr. O'Brien that Housatonic has not been left behind in dealing with these problems, many of the Board members are Housatonic residents themselves and are being affected as well. Chairman Stanton suggested that he contact the Conservation Commission for more information and in the meantime, the Board will look further into these issues.

10. SELECTBOARD'S TIME: Nothing to report.


11. MEDIA TIME:

The Berkshire Record inquired about Officer Bartini's suspension. Chairman Stanton told the Record that he did not have any information on the suspension and therefore could not discuss it. Eileen Mooney from The Newsletter inquired about potential lawsuits filed against the Police Department. Chairman Stanton said that he had not heard of any lawsuits against the Great Barrington Police Department.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Dan Bailly, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:10 P.M. Vote 5-0

Respectfully submitted



Rebecca Jurezyk
Recording Secretary