

**GREAT BARRINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL
SELECT BOARD'S MEETING ROOM
334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2016
6:30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

CLAUDIA RYAN, CHAIR
MICHAEL LANOUE, VICE CHAIR
PETER STANTON, MEMBER
JAYNE SMITH – HEALTH AGENT

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of August 3, 2016

MOTION: Michael Lanoue to approve the August 3, 2016 Minutes.

SECOND: Peter Stanton

VOTE: 3-0 (Claudia Stepped down as Chair) PASSED

3. FEE REDUCTION REQUEST

Berkshire grown has requested a set fee of \$200 to cover the labor to permit food vendors for the upcoming Harvest Supper, being held on Monday, September 19, 2016. In the past they have requested a reduction of \$100. This year they are asking for a \$200 reduction which is a 50% discount for them.

MOTION: Michael Lanoue to approve the \$200 permit fee for the Harvest Supper.

SECOND: Peter Stanton

VOTE: 3-0 (Claudia Stepped down as Chair) PASSED

4. SPECIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATION TO THE SELECTBOARD

A. Special Permit *858-16: Dante Realty, LLC, c/o Lynch Scrimo Attorneys, P.O. Box 1787, Lenox, MA 01240 to legalize the existing nonconforming eight-unit multifamily residential dwelling at 16 South Street, Great Barrington, MA, in accordance with Sections 3.1.4 A (3), 8.3 and 10.4 of the Great Barrington Zoning Bylaw. Jayne noted that they have been issued a Certificate of Inspection from the Building and Fire Departments. The property is on Town water and sewer.

MOTION: Michael Lanoue to pass on with no recommendation as there are no health issues.

SECOND: Peter Stanton

VOTE: 3-0 (Claudia Stepped down as Chair) PASSED

SPECIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATION TO THE PLANNING BOARD.

B. Special Permit #860-16: Marcia Stamell and Arthur Yanoff, to build a six foot high fence within the front yard setback at 624 South Egremont Road, Great Barrington, MA in accordance with Sections 4.2.9 and 10.4 of the Zoning Bylaw.

MOTION: Michael Lanoue to pass on with no recommendation as there are no health issues.

SECOND: Peter Stanton

VOTE: 3-0 (Claudia Stepped down as Chair) PASSED

5. **NEW BUSINESS** – None
6. **OLD BUSINESS:** - None
7. **CITIZEN SPEAK TIME** – None

8. **HEALTH AGENT REPORT**

Jayne noted that there have been a lot of random complaints. We had two people get sick after eating shrimp at two different restaurants. We are in the process of seeing if there are any similar suppliers between those two restaurants. Neither party was willing to fill out a complete report on what they ate so we don't know what else they ate. It could be coincidental and that they both ate shrimp.

People have been coming in to get test kits that are on Housatonic Water. We have water bottles and order forms at the Board of Health Office and there is a weekly pickup of the samples. They are in the process of testing the water out of the reservoir as well as retesting the sites that are approved by DEP. Those tests take between 2 and 3 weeks to come back. Jayne said she has had extensive conversations with DEP who has jurisdiction over water. Housatonic water has a very neutral PH of about 7.2 and it has a lot of minerals in the water so typically they would not expect to see a long term problem because the water is pretty much ideal for a water system as far as PH and Alkaline. We are just keeping a close watch on it and working with Jim Mercer as well as DEP. As we get information, it will be passed on to the board and public. If any of the tests come back high, Jayne said she is planning on going to the house to see if we can identify and problem solve.

We have had several restaurants that are shifting. We have Camp Fire that just opened by The Meat Market. ENA is still planning on going into the Cove. Fuel is going to the location of the former Gypsy Joynt. A Moroccan restaurant will go in to where Fuel was. It was noted that a lot of the infrastructure is old and this is a good opportunity to bring it up to code.

Jayne noted that we did get one more suspected rabid animal in that was on Main Street. Sheffield had an article noting "the worst outbreak in 20 years" in the paper. She spoke to the Department of Public Health and there haven't been any confirmed cases of rabies in Sheffield since April nor have there been any confirmed cases in Great Barrington. We only test animals that have been exposed to either people or animals. If you see an animal that is staggering around you can assume it has rabies. There could be other things like distemper and you wouldn't know unless the animal was tested. If the board would like, the next time we get a call we can test it to see if there is rabies. The state said they would be willing to do that to try and see what is going on. We euthanized three bats this month and they were all negative. To euthanize an animal, it costs \$50.00 and it a \$40.00 shipping fee. There is potential exposure in trying to trap a live animal. It would be a good time to put out public education about what to do if you see an animal acting strange. With bats, if there is no exposure to humans or animals, we don't need to kill it.

Jayne said she is continuing to monitor the Bernard Gibbons situation. The tenant in Unit #5 just called with a complaint of mold and an appointment has been set up for either Tuesday or Wednesday. That is one of the units where a dehumidifier was put in. There are outstanding issued on the \$6.00 or \$8.00 the Housing Authority is offering to pay towards the dehumidifiers. They are going to need to adjust it because it isn't the resident's fault that they need the dehumidifiers. An inspection was done last week and evidence of mold regrowth was not seen. There was some staining. They cleaned it again and painted or sealed it and we are going to see if it comes back. There is a test where you can take plastic and put it on the floor and duct tape it

on the floor, leave it for 24 hours and apparently that is a mechanism for telling if the moisture is coming up through. Unit #11 still has not allowed them to enter. She is afraid it is going to aerosol the mold even though there is not a lot of science behind that. It is a landlord/ tenant issue and the state has been very involved for months.

9. BOARD OF HEALTH SPEAK TIME

Peter asked about relocating the building and health offices – Jayne noted that Tom Borshoff had people looking at the building. As far as moving, there is nothing definite now.

Michael asked if there was any information on interim replacement of a board member. When we know, we will draft a letter and get that process started. A new person would go to the term of the member they replaced.

The next month's meeting is October 6, 2016.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary