



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 AT 6:30PM MEETING MINUTES

Remote Meeting via Zoom Video/ Telephone Conference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5546967562?pwd=d3pEY3N5dWs5SHlWGW1TINTeERmUT09>

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Great Barrington Board of Health will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on town's website, at www.townofgb.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: See instructions at the top of the agenda. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting:

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Meeting ID: 554 696 7562

Password: 497764

For Audio Only Call In: +1 929 205 6099

:5546967562# :1# : 497764# US (New York)

A. CALL TO ORDER: (Roll Call Vote)

Michael Lanoue called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:35PM

Michael Lanoue: **Yes**, Peter Stanton: **Yes**, Dr. Ruby Chang: **Yes**.

B. SPECIAL PERMIT REVIEW

1. **SP# 911-20:** Guido's Realty, Inc., 1020 South Street, Pittsfield, MA, Special Permit application for construction of a large scale commercial development and impervious surface in the water quality protection district. The proposal includes the expansion of the existing Guido's retail store at 760 Main Street, Great Barrington, as well as parking, stormwater, utilities, and site work. The application is filed per Sections 3.1.4 C(11), 7.9, 7.12, and 10.4 of the Zoning Bylaw. * Recommendation to the Selectboard * (Discussion/ vote)

Matthew Puntin of SK Design Group presented to the Board of Health about the proposed renovations at the Great Barrington Guido's grocery store. The Board of Health requested that the applicants submit final floor plans to the Health Department for review along with an application for kitchen construction. **MOTION:** Peter Stanton motioned to pass this special permit application on to the Selectboard.

SECOND: Dr. Ruby Chang

Roll Call Vote: Michael Lanoue: **Yes**, Peter Stanton: **Yes**, Dr. Ruby Chang: **Yes**.

2. **SP# 909-20:** Special permit application from Berkshire Aviation Enterprises, Inc. for an aviation field in an R4 Zone at 70 Egremont Plain Road, Great Barrington, per sections 3.1.4 E(1) and 10.4 of the Zoning Bylaw. * Recommendation to the Selectboard * (Discussion/ vote)

Engineer, Michael Valenti presented to the Board of Health. Mr. Valenti explained that Berkshire Aviation plans to install 6 new hangers to house current tenant airplanes.

Anne Fredericks, 77 Seekonk Cross Rd. Ms. Fredericks said the airport is in the Water Quality Overlay District and the BOH should be concerned about lead in the jet fuel and the Green River abutting the property is Great Barrington's secondary source of water.

Candance and Rick Bienicki, 634 South Egremont said that the proposed hangers are dangerously close to the Green River.

Michael Valenti said the fuel tank is a double walled tank and has an alarm system that would go off if there was a leak in the tank. Dr. Ruby Chang said that all children under the age of 6 are routinely tested for high blood lead levels.

The Board of Health agreed that this special permit application is non-jurisdictional but valid public health concerns have been raised.

MOTION: We would like Berkshire Aviation Enterprises, Inc. to be required to periodically conduct lead tests of the soil in various locations around the property, especially around the hangers and Green River – Peter Stanton.

SECOND: Dr. Ruby Chang

Roll Call Vote: Michael Lanoue: **Yes**, Peter Stanton: **Yes**, Dr. Ruby Chang: **Yes**.

3. **SP# 912-20:** Hillcrest Educational Centers, Inc., 788 South Street, Pittsfield, MA for a Group Residence at 6 Ramsdell Road, Great Barrington, filed per Sections 7.6 and 10.4 of the Zoning Bylaw. *Recommendation to the Selectboard * (Discussion/ vote)

Atty. Anthony Doyle provided some background information on the proposed project of renovating an existing house to a dormitory. After review the Board of Health agreed the special permit application was non-jurisdictional. **MOTION:** Peter Stanton motioned to pass this special permit application to the Selectboard without comment. **SECOND:** Dr. Ruby Chang. Roll Call Vote: Michael Lanoue: **Yes**, Peter Stanton: **Yes**, Dr. Ruby Chang: **Yes**.

C. **BUSINESS**

1. **Local Syringe Access Program:** Berkshire Opioid Addiction Prevention Collaborative and Healthy Steps. (Discussion/ vote)

Representatives from Tapestry Health and BHS Healthy Steps joined Jennifer Kimball from BOAPC in presenting to the Board of Health. Liz Wynott explained that a Syringe Access Program in Great Barrington could provide many important public health services like STI screening and overdose prevention. Michael Lanoue asked if there were any local conditions the community could stack onto this type of program. Ms. Wynott said that once the Board of Health submits an approval letter to the MA Department of Public Health, the State then awards a contract to the most qualified program. It would likely be either Tapestry Health or Healthy Steps since both organizations already have funding to provide these services and currently operate locally. The MA Dept. of Health will decide how much funding a particular Syringe Access Program receives and thus how many additional public health services are able to be provided.

MOTION: Peter Stanton voted to allow a qualified and appropriate organization to operate a Syringe Services Program in the Town of Great Barrington.

SECOND: Dr. Ruby Chang

Roll Call Vote: Michael Lanoue: **Yes**, Peter Stanton: **Yes**, Dr. Ruby Chang: **Yes**.

2. Concerns Related to Public Health and Housatonic Water Works. (Discussion)

The Health Agent relayed to the BOH that the Health Department has received many reports of brown water from residents of Housatonic serviced by the Housatonic Water Works company. Ms. Jurczyk explained that Local Boards of Health do not have enforcement authority over public water supplies, but there is an obligation to the community to ensure public health standards are achieved. "Over the last few years, we have heard from a number of Housatonic residents that they are unable to drink or bathe in the water serviced to their homes." – Health Agent.

The Selectboard has committed to keeping this as a topic of discussion on every agenda going forward and Ms. Jurczyk encouraged the Board of Health to do the same as the Town explores the different options for finding a solution to Housatonic's ongoing water issues.

3. Glyphosate Continued Discussion.

The Board agreed to schedule either a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission or to schedule a meeting with the Chairs of each Board to discuss a local approval/ disapproval process for application on public property.

D. COMMUNITY COVID-19

▪ Travel Restrictions effective August 1, 2020

All travelers coming into MA or residents returning must comply with the new travel order that went into effect last Saturday, August 1, 2020. The town put a notice out detailing the new quarantine and travel restrictions on FB and our website. A reminder was included about the Fairview Testing Tent and that this location is not a walk in clinic. Those requesting a test prior to travel will still need to make an appointment through the BHS hotline.

Lower Risk States include: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Hawaii. Effective tomorrow, August 7th Rhode Island will be moved to a High Risk State.

▪ School re-opening and Higher Ed.

SIMON'S ROCK FALL SEMESTER:

The Health Department approved a blended model for Contact Tracing- Model C. Our Public Health Nurse will be primarily responsible for case investigation and follow up. Simon's Rock will notify the Health Department as soon as they get a positive result from the lab. The school Health Services will assist the Public Health Nurse in identifying all close contacts, provide testing on campus, and make available isolation housing as needed.

Currently, Simon's Rock has a 15 bed capacity for isolation quarters and will try to send sick kids home if family is nearby.

**E. HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES:
Q & A:**

F. BOARD OF HEALTH SPEAK TIME:

G. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

H. MEDIA TIME:

I. ADJOURNMENT: (Roll Call Vote)

MOTION: Peter Stanton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM **SECOND:** Dr. Ruby Chang
Roll Call Vote: Michael Lanoue: **Yes**, Peter Stanton: **Yes**, Dr. Ruby Chang: **Yes**.

Respectfully submitted,


Rebecca Jurczyk

GB BOH Agent