

Mark Pruhenski  
Town Manager

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## TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

### OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Selectboard Meeting via Zoom and in person at 334 Main Street Great Barrington MA

Order of Agenda for Monday, October 2, 2023, at 6:00 PM

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84727797185?pwd=NDFRUjFITE12eDN3bE5LaTNBQ0RmZz09>

Webinar ID: 84727797185

Dial-in, audio-only: (929) 205 6099

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and Governor Healey's March 29, 2023 Revised Order extending remote participation by all members in any meeting of a public body, this meeting of the Selectboard will be conducted both in-person and 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](http://www.townofgb.org). For this meeting, members of the public and committee members may attend the meeting in person, or, for those who wish to do so remotely may by following the instructions at the top of this agenda. For those who are not in-person every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.

1. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - a. March 8, 2023 Selectboard-Finance Committee Joint Budget Meeting
  - b. March 14, 2023 Selectboard-Finance Committee Joint Budget Meeting
  - c. September 11, 2023
3. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS
  - a. 2023 Halloween Trick or Treat Hours - Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.
4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
5. LICENSES AND PERMITS
  - a. Jenna Crandall for Berkshire South Regional Community Center for a One Day All Alcoholic License on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM for a fundraising event at 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington.
  - b. Mark DeCelle for the Rotary Club for a Temporary Sunday Entertainment License on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM for Truck Day at Butternut Ski Area, 380 State Road, Great Barrington.

## 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Pole petition, work order number #30611209. Request to install 1 pole and relocate 2 poles on Seekonk Road beginning at a point approximately 10 feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Seekonk Road and Alford Road and continuing approximately 182 feet in a Southeast direction. Relocate P2 about 25' northeast closer to Alford Road. Relocate P3 about 48' northeast closer to Alford Road. Install push brace 3-89 on the Southwest side of P3. Install P3-15' anchor on the North side of pole 3-15. Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.
  - i. Open Public Hearing
  - ii. Explanation of the Project
  - iii. Public comments, speak in favor or opposition
  - iv. Questions from the Selectboard
  - v. Comments from other Boards
  - vi. Close Public Hearing
  - vii. Selectboard discussion
  - viii. Findings
  - ix. Motion to continue/deny/grant

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Selectboard vote to reappoint Eric Gabriel and Scott Shortt to the Housatonic Improvement Committee
- b. Selectboard vote to reappoint Leigh Davis (Selectboard Representative), Cindy Schoenfeld (At-Large) and Dale Abrams (At-Large) to the Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force.
- c. Special Town Meeting Warrant- Review and sign
- d. Hilda-Banks Shapiro Proclamation
- e. Great Barrington Housing Authority – confirm appointment for Maureen Meier.

## 8. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

*Citizen Speak Time is an opportunity for the Selectboard to listen to residents. Topics of particular concern or importance may be placed on a future agenda for discussion. This time is reserved for town residents only unless otherwise permitted by the chair, and speakers are limited to 3 minutes each.*

## 9. SELECTBOARD'S TIME

## 10. MEDIA TIME

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

### NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING

October 30, 2023

November 6, 2023

November 20, 2023

December 4, 2023

December 18, 2023



Mark Pruhenski, Town Manager

*Pursuant to MGL. 7c. 30A sec. 20 (f), after notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any such recordings. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the chair. The listings of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

Fee: \$25.00 (per day)



**APPLICATION FOR ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE**

TO THE LICENSING AUTHORITY:

The undersigned hereby applies for a License in accordance with the provisions relating thereto:

Applicant's Name: Jenna Crandall

Organization Name: Berkshire South Regional Community Center

Applicant's Address: 15 Crissey Rd. Great Barrington, MA 01230

Telephone Number: 413 528 2810

Type of License: **ONE DAY BEER & WINE**  
(Circle one)

**ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOLIC**

Event: Toasting + Tasting

Date: 10/14/2023 Start Time: 5 pm End Time: 9 pm

Event Address: 15 Crissey Rd. Great Barrington, MA 01230

Is the Event on Town property? **YES** **NO**

**PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPLICATION:**

1. TIPS or ServSafe Alcohol certification for anyone serving alcohol.
2. Certificate of Insurance showing proof of Liquor Liability coverage.  
(If the event is on Town property, the certificate must name the Town of Great Barrington as additional insured.)
3. If the event is not on applicant's property, a letter of permission from the owner is required.

**Liability:** The below individual agrees to take responsibility for the above-noted event and further agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and defend the Town of Great Barrington, its officers, employees and agents, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, penalties, forfeitures, suits, and the costs and expenses incident thereto, which may occur in connection with this event.

Jenna Crandall  
Signature of Applicant

9/15/2023  
Date

**FOR TOWN USE:**

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Postponed \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary Sunday Entertainment License Application  
(Local Approval ONLY-State Approval Required Separately)

☒ NO

Please circle: **INDOOR** or **OUTDOOR** Entertainment

Exact Location of Entertainment (include sketch): Butternut Ski Area

Date(s) of Entertainment: **Sunday**, 10/15/23

Start & End Times of Entertainment: 10am 3pm

**Does your event involve any of the following? (Check all that apply)**

- ☒ Food   ☐ Temporary Bathrooms   ☒ Tents   ☐ Stages   ☒ Temporary Signs  
☐ Electrical Permits   ☐ Building Permits   ☐ Police Traffic Details   ☐ Street Closures

**ALL entertainment licenses will be reviewed by the Design Review Team (DRT), which is comprised of several Town departments, for comments/concerns on this application.**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 62C, Sec. 49A, I certify under the penalties of perjury that I, to my best knowledge and belief, have filed all state tax returns and paid all state taxes required under law.

Mary DeCh  
Signature of Individual or  
Corporate Officer

9/6/23  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
SS# or FID#

**TOWN USE ONLY:**

DRT Review with Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

APPROVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LICENSE # \_\_\_\_\_

Questions contact Central Design - Adam Dion - 774-643-1826

**PETITION FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS**

To the Board of Selectmen  
Of Great Barrington, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Seekonk Road - National Grid to install 1 JO pole and relocate 2 JO poles on Seekonk Road beginning at a point approximately 10 feet Southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Seekonk Road and Alford Road and continuing approximately 182 feet in a Southeast direction. Relocate P2 ~ 25' NE closer to Alford Road. Relocate P3 ~ 48' NE closer to Alford Road. Install push brace 3-89 on the Southwest side of P3. Install P3-15 and 15' anchor on the North side of pole 3-15.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Seekonk Road - Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

**No.# 30611209**

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

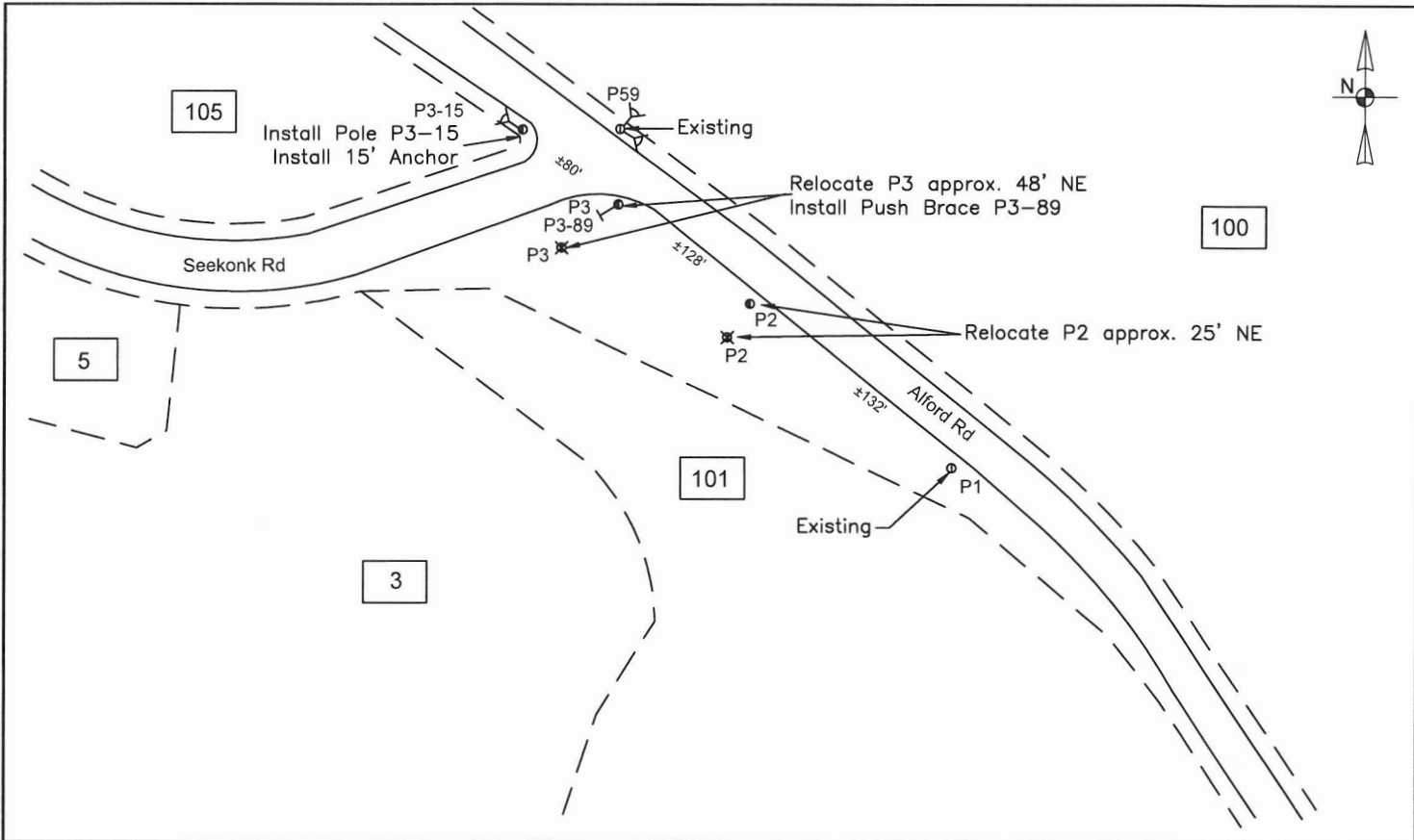
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a  
NATIONAL GRID *James Kehrer*

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering Department

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Manager / Right of Way





POLE PETITION				nationalgrid	
● Proposed NGRID Pole Locations	Ⓢ Existing J.O. Pole Locations				
○ Existing NGRID Pole Locations	Ⓣ Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations				Date: 07/18/2023 To Accompany Petition Dated:
Ⓢ Proposed J.O. Pole Locations	Ⓣ Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed				Plan Number: 30611209 To The: Town Of Great Barrington
Ⓢ J.O. Anchor Locations	Ⓢ Push Brace Location				For Proposed: JO Pole: N/A Location: Seekonk Rd
DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE				Date Of Original Grant:	

# Town of Great Barrington

2023 Special Town Meeting  
6:00 PM at Monument Mountain Regional High School

## WARRANT

Monday October 23, 2023



### SELECTBOARD

Stephen C. Bannon, Chair  
Leigh S. Davis  
Eric F. Gabriel  
Garfield C. Reed  
Benjamin P. Elliott

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Philip Orenstein, Chair  
Anne O'Dwyer  
Richard Geiler  
Milena Cerna  
Madonna Meagher

([www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org))



Special Town Meeting, October 23, 2023  
Index of Warrant Articles

1. Establishment of an eight town regional school district to be known as the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District.
2. Authorize Tax Increment Finance Agreement
3. Community Preservation Act Projects
4. Citizen Petition- Redesign of the Mason Public Library Grounds

**WARRANT**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING 2023**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BERKSHIRE, SS

To Paul E. Storti, Chief of Police of the Town of Great Barrington, in said Berkshire County,

**GREETINGS:**

You are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 6:00 P.M., then and there to act on the following:

**ARTICLE 1: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EIGHT TOWN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of sections sixteen to sixteen I, inclusive, of chapter seventy-one of the General Laws providing for the establishment of an eight town regional school district, together with the towns of [INSERT], to be known as the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District (the “New District”). The New District would be formed and governed in accordance with the proposed agreement filed by the Regional School District Planning Board with the Select Board (the “8 Town Regional Agreement”) (available for inspection at [town hall] and on the website 8towns.org).

Formation of the New District is subject to voter approval in each of the eight towns party to the 8 Town Regional Agreement. As provided in the 8 Town Regional Agreement, full operation of the New District and dissolution of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (the “SBRSD”) and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (the “BHRSD”) would be further subject to:

- (i) voter approval in accordance with applicable law and the terms of the 8 Town Regional Agreement of the debt required to construct a new high school for the New District on the Great Barrington campus of the current BHRSD; and
- (ii) enactment of special legislation permitting (a) the transfer of the buildings and other assets of each of the SBRSD and the BHRSD to the New District on the date the New District becomes fully operational (at the end of the transition period specified in the 8 Town Regional Agreement); and (b) the dissolution of the SBRSD and the BHRSD on that same date without further action by any public body.

A summary of the steps that would follow an affirmative vote on this warrant article by the voters of Great Barrington and the other seven towns party to the 8 Town Regional Agreement is attached for informational purposes to this Warrant.

## **ARTICLE 2: TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORIZATION**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement and Tax Increment Financing Plan with The Chamberlain Group, or its Nominee, pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 59, in connection with the redevelopment of the property at 6 Nolan Drive, Great Barrington; and to authorize the Selectboard to negotiate the final terms of and execute the TIF Agreement, and any documents relating thereto, and to take such other actions as are necessary or appropriate to implement the TIF Agreement and the TIF Plan pursuant to the provisions of MGL Ch. 40, § 59 or any other enabling authority, including submission of all necessary or required applications and documents to the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or to take any other action relative thereto.

## **ARTICLE 3: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECTS**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available Community Preservation Funds the following amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee with each item to be considered a separate appropriation; or to take any other action relative thereto.

	Project	Total Appropriation
	<i>AFFORDABLE HOUSING</i>	
1	Construct, Inc.: Emergency family housing	\$92,400
	<i>HISTORIC RESOURCES</i>	
2	Town, Ramsdell Library	\$50,000
	<i>OPEN SPACE &amp; RECREATION</i>	
3	Community Land Trust: River Run Farm	\$300,000
	TOTAL	\$442,400

*Recommended by the Community Preservation Committee*

## **ARTICLE 4:**

By Petition:

We are petitioning the town of Great Barrington to put to a VOTE whether the VOTERS want a redesign of the Mason Public library grounds.

**HEREOF FAIL NOT**, and of this Warrant and your doings thereon, make due return to the Clerk of said Town at or before the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands and the seal of the Town of Great Barrington, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen C. Bannon, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leigh S. Davis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric F. Gabriel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Garfield C. Reed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Benjamin P. Elliott

**Selectboard of the Town of Great Barrington**

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul E. Storti, Chief of Police  
Town of Great Barrington

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BERKSHIRE, SS.

I hereby certify that I have served the foregoing warrant by posting duly attested copies thereof in the following places in the Town of Great Barrington, namely:

The vestibule of the Town Hall Building and the Post Office in the Town of Great Barrington, the post office in the Village of Housatonic, Mason Library in the Town of Great Barrington, and the Ramsdell Library in the Village of Housatonic, Fourteen days, at least before the time of holding the within mentioned Town Meeting.

WITNESS my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul E. Storti, Chief of Police  
Town of Great Barrington

### **Summary of steps for formation and operation of the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District**

A new eight town regional school district, to be known as the Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District (the “New District”), would be formed upon an affirmative vote by the majority of voters in each of the towns of Great Barrington, Sheffield, New Marlborough, Stockbridge, Monterey, West Stockbridge, Egremont and Alford following approval of the proposed eight town regional agreement (the “8 Town Regional Agreement”) by the Commissioner of the Department of Education.

Following such approval, the eight towns would appoint members of an appointed transition committee in accordance with the terms of the 8 Town Regional Agreement. This appointed transition committee would be replaced by a district-wide elected transition committee (with residency requirements as provided in the 8 Town Regional Agreement) at the next biennial election to be held in November 2024.

The New District would not become fully operational, and the existing regional districts would not dissolve, until the following additional conditions are met, all as provided in the 8 Town Regional Agreement:

1. Voter approval in accordance with applicable law and the terms of the 8 Town Regional Agreement of the debt required to construct a new high school for the combined district on the Great Barrington campus of the current BHRSD; and
2. Passage of special legislation permitting (a) the transfer of the buildings and other assets (and liabilities) of each of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD) on the date the transition period ends and the new regional school district becomes operational; and (b) the dissolution of the SBRSD and the BHRSD on that same date without further action by any public body.

Should either of those conditions not be satisfied by the date specified in the 8 Town Regional Agreement, the 8 Town Regional Agreement would terminate, the New District would dissolve, and the BHRSD and the SBRSD would continue to operate separately.

Stephen C. Bannon, Chair  
Leigh Davis  
Eric Gabriel  
Garfield Reed  
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## TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

SELECTBOARD

### PROCLAMATION

#### Hilda Banks Shapiro Community Day

Town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts

Whereas Hilda Banks Shapiro dedicated over 50+ years serving Great Barrington, as well as many other Berkshire towns, in her capacities in volunteerism, local government positions, non-profit organizations, students and educational institutions, and

Whereas Hilda as a single mom, humble internationally acclaimed concert pianist, fervent activist, prolific writer/poet, selfless volunteer, ardent supporter of nature's preservation, and passionate leader of the arts, she remains an inspirational role model for all, and

Whereas her unwavering commitment to donate countless hours and resources towards the welfare of all people and our natural landscapes had impactful contributions which remain today, and

Whereas she aged gracefully, into her mid 90s and remained a strong, active voice for town, county and country inspiring artistic expression through action and deeds to "build community", and

Whereas her admirable ideals and actions are consistent with like minded men, W.E.B. DuBois and David Grover, who are permanently publicly honored by the town of Great Barrington, we the people of Berkshire County request that this extraordinary, exemplary woman be honored by a day in Autumn, her favorite season, on the second weekend of October.

Now, therefore, Berkshire County can be inspired to celebrate nature, creativity, volunteerism, activism, the arts, creative thinking, and world peace in the spirit of Hilda. The community encourages the Selectboard to acknowledge these contributions by approving this Proclamation to allow an annual no cost Hilda Banks Shapiro Community Day.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, We have hereunto set on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2023

Steve Bannon  
Leigh Davis  
Ben Elliott  
Eric Gabriel  
Garfield Reed

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**TITLE:** Great Barrington Housing Authority Appointment Confirmation

**BACKGROUND:** At your regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting on August 2, 2023, this board voted to recommend Maureen Meier for appointment to the Great Barrington Housing Authority as the Governor's representative on the board. That term is set to expire on August 26, 2026.

It was our understanding at that time, that her appointment would need to be confirmed by the Governor's office, however, M.G.L. 121B states that "If the department does not fill a vacancy in the position of that member within 120 days from the date that the vacancy is created, the board of selectmen shall appoint, in writing, a person by a majority vote to fill such a vacancy for the unexpired term". No further confirmation by the State is required.

**RECOMMENDATION:** In light of the above statute, I recommend that the Selectboard confirm the appointment of Maureen Meier to the Great Barrington Housing Authority for the term expiring on August 26, 2026.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:**



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Mark Pruhenski/Town Manager

**DATE:**

9/28/2023